

Academic Freedom: Sword or Shield?



Naomi Levine, who joined the University in 1992 as our sexual harassment officer, will discuss the rights and responsibilities that come with academic freedom.

On Wed., March 6, University of Winnipeg sexual harassment officer Naomi Levine will present "Academic Freedom: Sword or Shield?" in Eckhardt-Gramatté Hall from 12:30-1:20 p.m. A question period will follow the presentation.

Levine will discuss the rights and responsibilities of educators and students where academic freedom is concerned. She will also describe a number of legal cases in Canada and the United States in which academic freedom has been used as a defence.

Academic freedom, according to a policy statement by the Canadian Association of University Teachers, allows faculty to conduct research, publish, teach, and to be critical of the university or the faculty association without fear of penalty or censorship by their academic institution. "The common good of society depends upon the search for knowledge and its free exposition," states the policy.

"But academic freedom is not a right that is guaranteed by any government legislation or case law," notes Levine, who has practiced law since 1975. "It seems that it falls by the wayside of the Criminal Code, the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and the Law of Defamation."

However, Levine says carefully-crafted legislation that defines academic

Should a professor of physiology be permitted to use slides depicting sexual functions in graphic detail? Should a student in a world religions course be able to criticize the precepts of another religion on the basis of his/her own beliefs? Should Shakespeare's plays be studied in English courses, even if they support a patriarchal view?

Questions like these regarding academic freedom present a growing dilemma for many educational institutions as, increasingly, they are asked to confront ethical and human rights issues. Many are grappling to define what professors (and students) should be permitted to say and do, and what, if anything, should be considered unacceptable.

Canada's Childcare Crisis Examined

Childcare in this country is "a national disgrace and scandal," says Susan Prentice, Margaret Laurence Chair in Women's Studies. "When we consider the number of mothers who are out in the work force and what they have to pay for childcare, it's clearly a sign of a society with peculiar priorities."

Prentice will talk about "Canada's National Childcare Crisis" as part of the Skywalk Concert and Lecture Series on Wed., March 6 from 12:15-12:45 p.m. in Centennial Library's second floor Auditorium.

Prentice will discuss the need to establish an adequate universal childcare system in Canada, with expenses cost-shared between the federal and provincial governments.

"We recognize in Canada that everyone has the right to receive public education and health care. However, it is not yet recognized that all children have the right to appropriate childcare."

This lecture is offered in honour of International Women's Day, March 8. International Women's Day, which dates back to 1910, is a tradition that originated with working class women in Europe. Initially a way to attract women to socialism, the day quickly became focused on drawing attention to women's problems.

freedom and its limitations would not censor or impede style; instead, it would encourage professors and teachers to present material in an appropriate way.

Levine's talk is co-sponsored by the President's Advisory Committee on Sexual Harassment, the Margaret Laurence Chair in Women's Studies, the Centre for Academic Writing, and the Departments of Political Science, Sociology, and Women's Studies, as well as Red River Community College.

COMINGEVENTS

"Coming Events" is compiled by University Relations. Planning a campus event? Please let us know. Send written information to Lois Cherney, University Relations, ten days in advance of the event. Basic details are required: what, when, where, sponsor, price of admission (if any) and the name of a contact person.

CONTINUING THROUGH SAT., MARCH 23

• **More RAM: Oil Paintings** by Tim Schouten in Gallery 1C03 is an investigation of the power and elegance of computer technology in an increasingly information-obsessed culture. Hours are Mon.-Fri., 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Sat., 1-4 p.m.

FRI., MARCH 1

• **Religion and Life Week**—Susan Palmer, teacher in the Religion Department at Dawson College in Montreal, will present "Women in Utopia: Past and Present" at 12:30 p.m. in Room 3C01.

MON., MARCH 4

• **Religion and Life Week**—Susan Palmer, teacher in the Religion Department at Dawson College in Montreal, will

explore "The Feminization of the Millennium" at noon in Room 3C01.

• **Music at Noon** offers The Licorice Commission. Bask in the sheer sound of eight clarinets of different size and sound by one colour—licorice. Eckhardt-Gramatté Hall from 12:30-1:20 p.m.

TUES., MARCH 5

• **Religion & Life Week**—Susan Palmer, teacher in the Religion Department at Dawson College in Montreal, will lecture on "Millennium, Messiahs and Mayhem" at 12:30 p.m. in Room 3C01.

WED., MARCH 6

• **Skywalk Series**—Susan Prentice, Women's Studies Department, presents **Canada's National Childcare Crisis** (in recognition of In-

ternational Women's Day, March 8).

• **Anthropology Lunchbag Lecture Series**—Persis Clarkson offers "Environmental Perception of Archaeological Landscapes" at 12:30 p.m. in Room 4M46.

• **Physics lecture** Eugen Merzbacher, distinguished professor of physics at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, will lecture on **Symmetry in the World of Physics** at 7 p.m. in Eckhardt-Gramatté Hall. The lecture will explore the significance of symmetry in quantum mechanics, with examples drawn from atomic, nuclear and particle physics. Merzbacher's visit to the University is sponsored by the Visiting Science Program in Physics (VSPP).
• Naomi Levine presents **Academic Freedom: Sword or Shield** in Eckhardt-Gramatté Hall from 12:30-1:20 p.m. A question period will follow the presentation. All are welcome to attend.

THURS., MARCH 7

• **Skywalk Series** presents **Clarinet Express!** Pat Daniels, clarinet, and Alex Adaman, cello, play three centuries of style—from classic to klezmer, from baroque to blues.

SAT., MARCH 9

• **Virtuosi Concerts** presents pianist Anton Kuerti, "one of the truly great pianists of this century" (*London, UK*), "an intellect of the highest technical and spiritual order" (*Berlin*), in Eckhardt-Gramatté Hall at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$18 for adults, \$16 for students/seniors and \$10 for children, and are available by calling the Virtuosi Hotline: 786-9000. Seating is limited. Co-sponsored by the University and CBC Stereo.

MON., MARCH 11

• **Music at Noon**—Fourth-year performance student at Brandon University Chris Darazsi, clarinet, will perform one day after presenting his major, full-length recital at Brandon. Accompaniment by Donna Loe, piano. Program includes works by Brahms, Stravinsky and Arnold Caravan. Eckhardt-Gramatté Hall from 12:30-1:20 p.m.

Skywalk Series

The Skywalk Concert & Lecture Series warms up the noon hour. Bring your lunch and enjoy intriguing lectures on Wednesdays and invigorating concerts on Thursdays from 12:15-12:45 p.m. at Centennial Library's second floor auditorium, off the Skywalk.

Employee Changes

Appointments

Robyn Tully
Admin. Assistant 1
Continuing Education

Position Changes

Barbara Latocki
From: Office Assistant 6, Purchasing
To: Office Assistant 4, Student Records

Mike Reed
From: Marketing/Facility Manager,
Recreation and Athletics
To: Manager, Printing Services

Name Change

From: Leslie Payne
To: Leslie Uhryniuk
Printing Services

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Comments, suggestions and submissions are welcome. (All material is subject to editing.)

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