



Progress Photo by Jim Carpenter

JEANNE MARTINET'S UNIQUE PLACARD HAS YOUNG MAN IN STITCHES
Wanted People To Know Women Haven't Lost Their Sense of Humor

Women's Demonstration 'Very Positive Experience'

By DOUG KAMHOLZ
of The Progress Staff

In the beginning there was some jeering. In the end there was some hugging. Later, in the bar, organizers adjudged the University of Virginia's first rally for women's concerns a great success.

"Hey— Did You See the Big Brains on that Chick?" read one of the signs in the doughnut-shaped crowd of more than 250. The placard was painted by Jeanne Martinet. She said she wanted people to know women haven't lost their sense of humor.

The largest sign, a banner, read "Stamp Out Sexism." The loudest complaints during five speeches were about male attitudes and sexual harassment at the University.

Some men who drifted away, and some who stayed, laughed off the rally. Critics said the women's complaints could not be proved and neither could their conclusions.

But some who came jeering, stayed quietly in the fresh grass and sunshine under the still-budding tall trees.

"What they got was a first-rate education in sexism at UVa," commented Elisabeth Scheffee, one of the four female speakers, as the crowd dispersed. "The silence is broken. It was a very positive experience."

"It's a very lonely thing to try to make change . . . especially in an institution," said Associate Dean of Students Sybil Todd as she moved—pointing and smiling—around the inside ring of Wednesday's crowd. She urged supporters to form mutual support groups to aid efforts to improve the school.

"Don't misunderstand me, gentlemen," she added, "every time it gets better for women, it gets better for you."

The first speaker was Linda Wilson, a secretary at the University. Representing the Na-

tional Organization for Women, she gave the crowd definitions of sexism and some of its more subtle appearances. Later she said listeners were most interested in what she said about sex discrimination in the workplace. The biggest group joining NOW, she added, are women who have spent a couple years working after the more comfortable life as a college student.

Jill Rinehart told of the many years the University's doors were closed to her solely because of gender.

But it was Ms. Scheffee who gained the organizers nod for greatest effect. She carries an undeniable legitimacy at the University as a member of the student council and chairperson of its women's concerns committee.

From the volume of information she has collected on the status of women at the University, she selected last year's alleged "bottle rape" of a woman visiting the Phi Kappa Sigma fraternity and other accounts of sexual assault to tell the crowd.

Ms. Scheffee said she was contacted earlier Wednesday after her public assertion that at least one professor still excludes females from his classroom and that claim is now an official complaint.

"As men, wake up," graduate student David Birdsell advised those gathered.

"There's something to deal with here," he said. Birdsell later said he considers himself in a minority of men at the University who would call themselves feminists but thinks many would agree with his attitude if they would think about their own.

Louise Law, one of the rally's chief organizers, said some women she called about coming to the event declined, offering sympathy but fearing adverse response from colleagues.

Today

British Visitors

Two British school administrators are spending a week in Charlottesville observing the activities of Albemarle schools. See Lifestyles, Page B1.

Tack Shop Attractions

Local tack shops, which have long patronized horse people, are attracting a "non-horsey" clientele. See Lifestyles, Page B1.

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