

sort of transforming from within. Feminist law, for example, can influence those whom might otherwise dismiss the feminist movement as too radical for them to pay serious attention. But this would be most effective if feminist courses were mandatory in all disciplines, and not just there for those of us who are interested enough to choose women's studies. The dangers of feminist academia are many—elitism, classism, white racism, ableism. So academia in general (and not just in women's studies or feminist courses) needs to seek a more inclusive outlook to those who can't, won't, or don't approximate the white, able, straight, wealthy western European male archetype.

TA: Women's studies classes were the first safe spaces in which I encountered women who were proud to call themselves feminists. Educational institutions can be valuable resources for activists, which is ultimately the most productive role I see them playing in the women's movement. Unfortunately, one cannot even begin to envision this until issues of access are addressed. How can we even talk about the good that academia could bring to the women's movement, when the majority of women cannot afford to attend post-secondary education? Furthermore, many of the underpaid jobs done on university campuses are done by women of colour and immigrant women.

Furthermore, one need only examine the case of Dr. Chun at the University of Toronto to see the hypocrisy of an educational institution that claims to teach from an anti-oppressive framework, while simultaneously attempting to maintain a white power structure at all costs. I can remember taking countless English classes in which I was told to examine the work from a "literary" point of view, meaning to look at it apolitically. To ask a person of colour to read nineteenth century English literature in which your people are

being called less than human without referring to politics, is putting you at a disadvantage for not being able to see the world through a white lens. If tuition continues to be unaffordable and universities continue to engage in unfair, racist labour practices and canon formation the gap between the women's movement and the academy will be huge.

### Conclusion

Our answers reflect our views at the moment of writing. Our views are constantly shaped by our lives, our families, communities, outside political projects, our jobs, friends, our learning process, our mood of the moment, an article we may have read in the mainstream press, a heated debate during a high holiday meal, or a fucked-up subway ad that caught our eye.

*If you want to hear more about Wench Radio and less about us tune into CIUT 89.5FM every Sunday, 1:00 - 2:00pm. Many thanks to the committee that compiled and edited this article.*

## KRISTY MCKAY

i.  
this blood-pink towel  
hanging magnified  
becomes  
living  
sponge a tongue

ii.  
in your absence i  
remember licking  
dry your body  
kissing pearls of  
perspiration

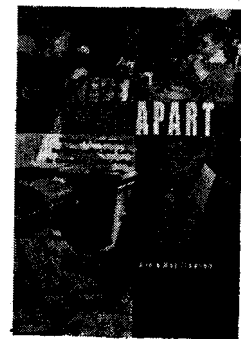
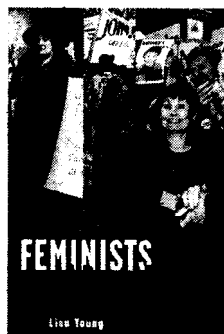
*Kristy McKay's poetry appears earlier in this volume.*

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