

The Lecherous Professor: Sexual Harassment on Campus, by Billie Wright Dziech and Linda Weiner. Boston: Beacon Press, 1984. vii + 219 pp. \$16.95

MARY P. ROWE, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

The Lecherous Professor is a competent overview of the problem of sexual harassment of women by male professors. Dziech and Weiner spent many months sifting available surveys and studies and relevant fiction, interviewing around the country, and analyzing their data. Indeed, one of the strengths of the book is that the subject of sexual harassment is illuminated in depth by the different professional skills of the authors: Dziech is professor of literature, Weiner is vice provost for student affairs at the University of Cincinnati.

The book is far more serious than its unfortunate title. Chapter by chapter, it discusses the roles of the major actors: female students, male faculty, female faculty. There is a compelling and agonizing compendium of first person stories. The appendix includes a useful overview of relevant laws and examples of good university policy statements, and the bibliography is among the best in recent works on the subject. There is one first class feature among many good ones. The last chapter contains separate, thoughtful, balanced, compassionate, skillful lists of suggestions for students, parents of students, administrators, professors, deans, and department heads. The last chapter alone is worth the cost of the book to anyone in any of these groups (although it has an unfortunate subtitle: "Ebony or Ivory Tower?").

There is a wide number of subjects not covered: sexual harassment by women, harassment of men, harassment of women professors by male students, and other kinds of harassment (anti-Semitism, racism of all kinds, anti-gay harassment). Harassment of women professors is only touched, and harassment of women employees is not discussed. All of these problems could not be covered in depth in any one book. Yet the omissions are painful, some are theoretically problematic, and they pose some mild practical problems. Omitting discussion of the harassment of adult women in academe is especially painful because available evidence indicates that employees and faculty are harassed as often as students but have received far less attention. These omissions are theoretically problematic because they weaken understanding of sexual harassment as a systematic problem for all women and because the adult women (secretaries, staff, and faculty) in an educational institution are the role models (whether intentional or unintentional) for women students. Failing adequately to discuss the harassment of frequently very vulnerable women employees may contribute to the common college practice of failing to have adequate complaint mechanisms for women employees. Many institutions only have procedures covering students. What should women students learn from this about how important they themselves will be? Practically speaking, omitting a wider discussion of other kinds of harassment may weaken an institution's ability to deal with sexual harassment. There is some reason to believe, in the 1980s, that an institution may gain wider acceptance and understanding of its stance on harassment if there is also comparable attention paid to racism and other forms of human meanness as well.

