

Lawyer blames Reagan for discrimination increase

A Boston law professor lashed out against increasing discrimination of blacks and women Tuesday night during the Women's Symposium.

Denise Carty-Bennia, an instructor at Boston's Northeastern School of Law and keynote speaker for the symposium, attributed the large turnout in the EMU Forum to the audience "feeling the effects of Reagan-omics."

"We are back, literally, to square zero" because of the Reagan administration's women's and civil rights policies, she said.

Carty-Bennia said the administration has simply given the question of dealing with these issues back to the people, but the "ultimate failure of the left to deal with racism, sexism and elitism" gave the right-wing conservatives the upper hand concerning minorities' and women's rights.

The women's movement has "clearly made a pact with white male America" and the civil rights movement has become impotent, Carty-Bennia said.

As a result, these movements have "played right into the hands of heartland America," she said.

"You're living in the middle of a fascist, totalitarian state and you haven't yet realized it," Carty-Bennia said.

"The doctrine of white supremacy in this country is alive and well and growing."

Carty-Bennia pointed an accusing finger to the media for fostering these attitudes with biased and fickle news reports.



Denise Carty-Bennia

College students ignore racial and women's issues because of an increase in apathy and a decline in a desire to learn, she said.

She said the University, which she called a "lily white bastion of power," is a good place to discuss racial issues because "it's almost as if the civil rights movement never occurred here."

Only when these injustices hit home to students, such as when financial aid cuts prevent students from attending classes this fall, will they be prompted to action, Carty-Bennia said.

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