

the Gazette

Volume 125 Number 6

Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia

October 22, 1992

Anti-discrimination policy draft unveiled

By Ryan Stanley

After months of meetings, consultations and revisions, the latest draft of a proposed Policy on Discriminatory Harassment has been released on the Dalhousie campus, and students are being urged to find out about it.

The proposed policy is the work of the ad hoc Committee to Develop a Policy on Racism and Sexism, but its provisions attempt to address discrimination affecting a wide range of groups: those who have historically been "oppressed or marginalized on the basis of... sex, race, colour, age, disability, class or socio-economic condition, religion, sexual orientation, or national or ethnic origin". It aims "to ensure that members of such groups... are not discouraged from full participation in the university."

Nina Butlin, the DSU representative on the six-member drafting committee, feels it is important that students inform themselves about the proposal. "It will have a lot to say about what kind of place we all go to school and live in," she said.

A key component of the draft policy is the creation of a Committee on Discriminatory Harassment, which would deal with alleged violations of the policy involving members of the Dalhousie community and would oversee efforts to educate people on campus about the issues related to discriminatory harassment.

Butlin calls this committee "quite progressive", citing the heavy representation that is proposed for members of "underrepresented groups that are most affected" by discriminatory harassment. On the committee would be single members chosen by the Aboriginal Students' Association, the Black Canadian Students, the Dalhousie Women's Collective, the Women's Faculty Association, the Bisexual, Gay and Lesbian Association of Dalhousie (B-Glad!) and the International Students Association. Other members would represent faculty, staff, the DSU, graduate students and the university administration.

An earlier version of the policy was reviewed by the university Senate last April. "A fair amount of criticism was received" through the Senate review and from concerned groups on campus, said Eric McKee, Vice-President (Student Services) and chair of the drafting committee. "As a result the committee was asked to redraft the policy."

A major change between past versions and the present one is the considerably expanded membership which is proposed for the Committee on Discriminatory Harassment. "It is vital," says Peter Edwards, B-Glad! representative on DSU Council, "that the policy reflect the committee's recognition of the necessity of involving all these groups." While not expressing complete satisfaction,

Statement on Discriminatory Harassment (Proposed)

Freedom of inquiry and of expression are essential freedoms in a university and conflicting ideas are a vital feature of university life. These freedoms must not, however, be exercised in ways which simultaneously deny similar freedom to others or make their exercise more difficult by creating a hostile environment for work, study or participation in campus life. For the university to achieve its educational purposes, it is vital that all individuals feel free to express responsibly their views and opinions. It is especially important to ensure that members of groups that have historically been oppressed or marginalized on the basis of such characteristics as sex, race, colour, age, disability, class or socio-economic condition, religion, sexual orientation, or national or ethnic origin, are not discouraged from full participation in the university.

Dalhousie University as an institution recognizes its responsibility to contribute to the creation of a campus environment which is free from discrimination and harassment. Towards that end, we adopt a five part programme: an articulation of the rights and responsibilities of members of the University, a definition of discriminatory harassment and the limits of protected free expression, a commitment to an education programme, the establishment of an ongoing committee to oversee the implementation of this policy, and a procedure for handling alleged violations of the policy.

he said, "It's a better starting point than what was proposed last summer [in an earlier draft]."

Significant changes were also made in the recommended procedures for dealing with incidents of alleged harassment. McKee said that one of the main criticisms of the proposal in its earlier form was that the process was an informal one. The new document gives considerable detail on the proposed measures for

receiving complaints and acting on them, measures which range from informal mediation to formal investigation.

It also makes clear that the Committee on Discriminatory Harassment is not designed to supplant other processes for lodging complaints, such as the sexual harassment procedure, the academic appeals process and the Employment Equity Office.

The text of the proposed policy can be found in the October 21 issue of the *Dalhousie News*. As well, students can find out more and air their views at a public forum, to be held Wednesday, November 4 at 12:00 noon in the Green Room of the Student Union Building. The forum will feature presentations from groups affected by discriminatory harassment, a panel and general discussion.

Convocation: new and improved

by Nina Butlin

Four months of struggle by students and their representative body, the DSU, paid off on Saturday, October 17 when students being recognized at Convocation were able to receive their diplomas without harassment from anyone officiating at the ceremony. Some members of the Dalhousie Faculty Association had supported the students in their efforts to clean up graduation.

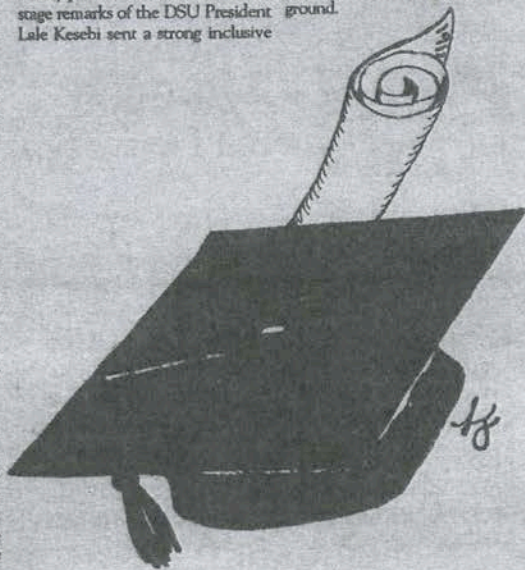
As reported in the *Gazette*, September 17, DSU had raised the issue of sexual harassment at Convocation in a motion passed in Council in June. This motion protested what were felt to be inappropriate and insulting comments made to students by the Chancellor of the University, H. Reuben Cohen, during the May 1992 Convocation.

The Chancellor, who had communicated to DSU that he would not be "muzzled" at Convocation, played a strictly ceremonial role at the October 17th event. He occupied a chair at centre stage throughout the ceremony, maintaining silence except for the brief utterance of the prescribed phrases which were

in keeping with his role of office.

In line with other DSU initiatives toward an harassment-free and diversity-positive Convocation, the on-stage remarks of the DSU President Lale Kesebi sent a strong inclusive

message to the Dalhousie community, an expression of pride at its diversity with regard to gender, sexual orientation, race and cultural background.



INSIDE

N
S
I
D
E

Leonard Peltier Featured
page 9

Zen and the Art of Constitutional Quandry
pages 10-11

Dal Theatre: Here there be lion's
page 13

Rowing Wrap Up
page 18

CROSSCANADA

Feds want "skills factories"

TORONTO(CUP)—The federal government released a \$19-million report last week calling for the Canadian education system to gear learning exclusively towards job training and market demands.

But some economists say the plan would turn universities into "skills factories" while doing little to achieve real economic improvements for students graduating into a recession.

The Action Plan for Prosperity—a government-funded initiative aims to "create new opportunities for Canadians for Canadians to prosper in a rapidly changing world."

The plan contains 17 education-related proposals including forging stronger links between the corporate sector and high schools and universities.

Arthur Krugar, director of the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education said that by the time students are trained, the needs of the market could shift dramatically. Krugar adds that "our ability to foresee the needs of the market are very poor. Any forecast about computers 40 years ago would have been completely wrong."

No answer, no marks

OTTAWA(CUP)—Some university students and officials believe that failing to participate in Maclean's magazine's annual university rankings will reflect badly on their schools.

Some universities refused to answer sections of the 12-page questionnaire sent out to Canadian universities last summer. Failing to answer different questions resulted in low rankings.

According to Ann Dowsett Johnston, editor in charge of the magazine's rankings, abstention by universities ultimately affected their rankings. For each categorical omission, a university was given the lowest score in that category.

Françoise Talbot, a spokesperson for the Université du Québec at Montreal questioned the survey's value. "We did not answer because we felt it was misleading on the methodological side. We find it questionable to globally rank universities in this way because they are so different," said Talbot.

The Université du Québec was not the only school that questioned the survey.

The University College of Cape Breton was one of the schools that refused to answer questions asked under the survey's "reputation" category. UCCB interim president Bill Gallivan stated that a university's reputation was invariably correlated with age. He said that penalized his institution, which is the youngest university in Canada. It received its charter in 1982.

Classes cancelled for vigil

TORONTO(CUP)—York University students won't have to skip classes Dec. 4 to attend a vigil in memory of 14 women killed at Montreal's L'École Polytechnique three years ago.

The university's senate decided recently to cancel classes from 12:30 to 1:30 that day so students, faculty and teaching assistants would be free to take part in annual Women's Remembrance Day events.

Although no one voted against the proposal, many faculty members complained there wasn't enough advance notice of the cancellation.

York registrar also spoke against the proposal. Spokesperson Gene Genzel said that he was concerned that cancelling classes would affect student's opportunity to learn.

But student council president Nikki Gershbin said women's safety is equally important. "If we can't guarantee the safety of the women who come here to learn, I'm not convinced we are committed to accessibility," she said.

Gershbin cited examples of threats to female students at universities including a September incident at York where a man shouted "Long live Marc Lépine," in front of a bookstore line up.

"An hour off so women can empower themselves, mourn and deal with reality is not a lot to ask," said Michele Chai, a student council vice-president.

York's Women's Centre and the student council introduced this year's proposal, which was supported by the Canadian Federation of Students as well as number of campus groups, officials and the senate's student caucus.

To commemorate the deaths of the 14 women, Queen's University in Kingston, has cancelled classes for the entire day.

news

Academic freedom a hot subject

New policy sparks debate

by Emily MacNaughton
& Ryan Stanley

Dalhousie's proposed Policy on Discriminatory Harassment provoked mixed response at a public forum held on Wednesday, November 4.

The forum was organized by the Committee to Develop a Policy on Racism and Sexism. Despite a small turnout, many of those in attendance were eager to congratulate the Committee's work, as well as to voice their concerns and doubts about the proposal.

The proposed policy, published in the October 21 issue of the *Dalhousie News*, is the latest version of a document that has been in the works since the fall of 1990. An earlier draft of the policy, which the Committee had hoped would be final, failed to secure the approval of the university Senate in meetings held in the spring of 1992. As a result, the Committee sought input from members of the campus community, and these consultations led to a substantial revision of the text. The forum was designed to stimulate interest and response on campus to this most recent proposal.

The forum opened with a series of

dramatic presentations, performed by students, depicting incidents of harassment which have occurred at Dalhousie. The forms of harassment and prejudice portrayed in social settings, in the classroom and in textbooks, to name a few of the many examples, underlined the reality that harassment takes place at all levels.

Sue Sherwin, Professor of Phi-

"Racism and sexism can't be legislated away"

losophy and member of the group which drafted the proposal, then presented the policy's objectives. The key element is the suggestion that Dalhousie establish a permanent Committee on Discriminatory Harassment. This body would be charged with educating the university community about issues related to discriminatory harassment, and with receiving complaints and serving as a formal or informal mediator as a means of resolving conflicts. The Committee could also recommend disciplinary actions.

The composition of the proposed Committee on Discriminatory Harassment drew comments from several people during the question-and-answer period. As it stands, the Committee would include members chosen by the Aboriginal Students' Association, the Black Canadian Students, the Dalhousie Women's Collective, the Women's Faculty Association, the Bisexual, Gay and Lesbian Association of Dalhousie (BGLAD!) and the International Students' Association. Other members would represent faculty, staff, the Dalhousie Students' Union, graduate students and the university administration. Some speakers asked why students with disabilities were not represented. Others indicated their fear that additions to the Committee might make it too cumbersome.

The issue which has sparked the most controversy is that of the implications of the proposed policy for academic freedom. One faculty member at the forum called for a clearer definition of academic freedom. He said he was concerned that bigotry "often masquerades under the title of 'academic freedom'", citing Philip

CONT'D ON PAGE 4

Dal number six: MacLean's

by Marie MacPherson

The second annual ranking of Canadian universities by *MacLean's* magazine finally hit the newstands November 5, following up last year's survey which resulted in outrage, controversy and the best-selling issue in *MacLean's* history.

Protest arose from the post-secondary education community concerning the 1991 evaluation of Canada's universities, large and small, well-endowed and otherwise, on a single scale.

The 1992 feature, titled "Measuring excellence", rates 45 universities distinguished by three categories and based on 22 criteria.

The three ranking categories are schools offering mainly undergraduate programs, schools offering a broad program range at the undergraduate and graduate levels, and schools with major doctoral programs and medical schools. The criteria on which the universities were rated included class size, average grade of entering students, percentage of faculty members holding PhDs, operating budgets, library holdings per student, and reputation.

The new changes mean for Dalhousie a ranking of number six under the medical and doctoral category, up from last year's ninth position. Dalhousie was the only Maritime university to be placed in this category and was preceded by McGill,

University of Toronto, Queen's, University of British Columbia and MacMaster.

Mausumi Banerjee, Vice-President Academic of the Dalhousie Student Union, said, "It's impressive that Dal ranked sixth, and we should be proud because the universities ahead of us are hard acts to follow."

Among the schools offering mainly undergraduate programs, five Maritime universities ranked in the top ten. Mount Allison placed first,

"Hopefully the university will strive toward a higher goal."

Acadia was awarded third place, and Saint Mary's, St. Francis Xavier and Mount Saint Vincent ranked sixth, seventh and eighth respectively.

In the category of comprehensive universities, Waterloo placed first, with University of New Brunswick ranking seventh and Memorial eighth.

Banerjee, despite being pleased with Dal's placing, expressed some concern about how the information for the ranking was gathered. *MacLean's* derives its statistics primarily from surveys filled out by university presidents, along with some

consultation with the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada and with institutional experts.

"This [Dal's ranking] is wonderful as long as Dalhousie is indeed giving to the community, its students and professors what it says it is giving," she said. "And if what is printed is not completely accurate, then hopefully the university will strive toward a higher goal."

Banerjee, while agreeing with Dal's number-one ranking on the criterion of class sizes at the third- and fourth-year levels, is worried about the implications this could have for program reductions currently being considered by the university Senate. "My concern also is that the Senate will cut programs that have low demand for them, and I hope that they will not start to cut advanced classes because there is a low enrolment in them," she said.

Dalhousie also achieved a number-one rating on scholarships and bursaries as a percentage of the university's budget. Banerjee said, "I find it [the top rating] surprising and hope that it is accurate and that efforts to maintain that position will result."

Dalhousie's Dean of Science, Warwick Kimmins, said, "For me, the ranking was a pleasant confirmation of Dalhousie as sixth among Canadian national universities. The

CONT'D ON PAGE 4

Head honchos should head out

by Dana MacKenzie

The President and Chancellor of Dalhousie should step down proposed a DSU council member last Sunday. In a motion tabled by the BGLAD! representative Anthony Roberts, both Reuben Cohen and Howard Clark's resignations were sought.

The motion states that the "abusing and harassing comments" made by Cohen "have jeopardized the very notion of academics at Dalhousie" and that Cohen's remarks reflect his "lack of humanity and inability to act in the position of Chancellor". It also cites Clark's lack of effort in preventing the harassment, and his refusal to publicly express opposition to the comments as "inappropriate and intolerable", as major violations of his position as President of the University.

Debate on the motion was abbreviated and confrontational. One council member complained the language of the "whereas" portion of the motion was excessive, although

Robert's Rules of Order state that "whereases" cannot be debated. The motion, however, was not carried in its complete form.

The "whereas" portions of the motion were accepted, and an amended motion retaining only the resolution to direct the DSU Exec-

"Clark's lack of effort was a major violation of his position as President"

utive to request a meeting of Dalhousie's Sexual Harassment Committee was passed.

According to the motion, the requested meeting will have as its objectives the informing of the Sexual

Harassment Committee of "this heinous act coupled with abusive neglect" and also to "request an investigation into Howard Clark's methods of enforcing the University's Sexual Harassment Policy."

The Council felt that no further action could be taken without first establishing that the Council's reaction to the Chancellor's remarks were in keeping with the guidelines set out by Dalhousie's Sexual Harassment Policy.

The rest of the motion was tabled until the Sexual Harassment Committee has had time to examine the issue and report back to Council. It is interesting to note, however, that the chair of the Sexual Harassment Committee, Barb Harris, works directly under Howard Clark and even holds office space in the President's office. The seconder of the original motion, Women's Collective co-representative Dana James, says, however, that she is confident Harris and the Sexual Harassment Committee will examine the issue without bias.

WHEREAS...

on Friday October 16th Reuben Cohen, who occupies the position of chancellor of Dalhousie University, and Howard Clark, who occupies the position of president of Dalhousie, met with the Executive of the Dalhousie Student Union to discuss further matters surrounding Cohen's obsessive sexual harassment during convocation ceremonies at Dalhousie; and

WHEREAS at this meeting Reuben Cohen defiled, debased, harassed, and vilified the Executive of the Student Council and the Student Union with particular attention to lesbians and gays; and WHEREAS immeasurable damage has been done through this action; and

WHEREAS these kinds of abusing and harassing comments have jeopardized the very notion of academics at Dalhousie; and WHEREAS this abuse was presented as a form of retribution for the DSU availing itself of the university's Sexual Harassment Policy; and

WHEREAS this point was made explicitly by Cohen's comment as to the damage the DSU has done to the university; and

WHEREAS reprisal in any form for any person or persons availing themselves of the sexual harassment policy constitutes sexual harassment and dealt with under the sexual harassment policy and procedures; and

WHEREAS the Dalhousie University Policy on Sexual Harassment clearly states that sexual harassment "is a form of conduct that is always intolerable", that it is a "negation" of the reciprocal respect necessary in the university community; and

WHEREAS the tolerance of sexual harassment directly contributes to a situation where sexual assault and other violent crimes are a reality; and

WHEREAS the university's policy on sexual harassment and the proposed revisions to the sexual harassment policy clearly states the responsibility of all individuals with regards to this policy and name in particular the position of president of Dalhousie as having special responsibilities attached to it with regards to the enforcement of this policy; and

WHEREAS Howard Clark made no effort to prevent this harassment from taking place; and

WHEREAS Howard Clark met with the Student Executive and Council on October 25th in support of Reuben Cohen's remarks made to the Executive during the October 16th meeting refusing to publicly denounce these views as inappropriate and intolerable; and

WHEREAS Howard Clark during this October 25th meeting questioned whether harassment actually occurred indicating his insensitivity and inability to recognize harassing, vilifying, debasing situations and remarks; and

WHEREAS throughout the negotiations carried out successfully by the Executive of the Dalhousie Student Union which culminated in harassment-free convocation ceremonies on October 17th, Howard Clark showed a disregard for the sensitivity and intelligent action required of him under the policy, going even so far as to send a message to the Council through an employee of the student union that councillors were not to discuss this matter with anyone; and

WHEREAS Howard Clark's disregard for his stated responsibility as an individual and as a head of this university can be perceived as leaving Dalhousie without an effective policy to

protect themselves from a form of behavior which is one of the greatest threats to every person's individual humanity and jeopardizes a person's very right to freedom, thought and expression; and

WHEREAS Reuben Cohen's remarks indicate his insensitivity, lack of humanity and inability to act in the position of chancellor of Dalhousie University;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Executive be directed to contact the DFA and DSA and other groups on campus to convey their disgust at this abuse and their serious misgivings as to Howard Clark's and Reuben Cohen's ability to carry out the responsibilities for which they are responsible

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Executive be directed to request a meeting of Dalhousie's Sexual Harassment Committee in order to apprise the Committee of this heinous act of hatred coupled with abusive neglect and to request an investigation into Howard's Clark's methods of enforcing the University's Sexual Harassment Policy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT motions be presented by representatives of the DSU before the Senate and the Board of Governors stating the concerns of the Council and demanding the removal of Howard Clark and Reuben Cohen from their positions of President and Chancellor, respectively.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Executive of Dalhousie Student Union write a letter to Howard Clark expressing their disgust with his glaring disregard of his responsibilities as laid out in the University's Sexual Harassment Policy and demanding his immediate resignation from the position of President of Dalhousie.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Executive of the Dalhousie Student Union write a letter to Reuben Cohen expressing their disgust with his obvious disregard for the rights, freedoms and desires of women, lesbians, gays and people of conscience and demanding his resignation from the position of Chancellor of Dalhousie.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Executive of the Dalhousie Student Union and its representatives on the Board of Governors and to the Senate take steps necessary to investigate motions and actions to ensure the establishment of a program of Lesbian and Gay Studies at Dalhousie University for the fall of 1993 in order to bring Dalhousie closer in step with other major North American Universities in order to improve education about the essential presence and contributions of bisexuals, lesbians and gays in our society and in particular academic environments as to ensure that heinous acts such as those taken place at the highest level of our university do not occur in the future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Executive of the Dalhousie Student Union take the necessary steps through its representatives in the Board of Governors and on the Senate and through communications with all persons concerned to ensure that a serious and intensive program of education surrounding homophobia is immediately begun through the Office of Instructional Development and Technology and through whatever other channels are available to reach all levels of the Dalhousie community.



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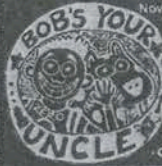
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Opening eyes and minds

John Stuart Mill's harm principle says one may restrict a person's freedom to act if the restriction is necessary in order to prevent harm to others. Our laws are founded upon this assertion. For society to function justly, there must be rules which stipulate we do not have the right to violate the rights of others.

A similar premise is the basis for Dalhousie's Policy on Discriminatory Harassment. Although freedom of inquiry and of expression are acknowledged as essential to university life in the proposed statement, it goes on to say "the freedoms must not, however, be exercised in ways which simultaneously deny freedom to others or make their exercise more difficult."

Last week, the official unveiling of the anti-discrimination policy was met with a mixed response. Though there were many positive remarks directed towards the committee which drafted the document, there were also a significant number of speakers expressing concern about limits on academic freedom the policy may entail. Some believe there should be no obstruction of freedom of speech whatsoever; others point to the controversy behind the definition of "hate propaganda".

It cannot, however, be argued that academic attitudes have progressed so far that the threat of discrimination is no longer pressing. For example, at the University of Cape Breton, a group of students have applied to form an Aryan Society. The Klan's literature has recently cropped up on local high school grounds. The threat of racism is very real and very close to home. Democratic freedom should not include freedom to hate.

On November 9th, three years ago, the Berlin Wall fell, the barrier marking a new-found liberty to East Germany. Sadly, a flux of racism was also freed. Ironically, this date is also the anniversary of *Kristallnacht*, one of the first systematic outbursts of violence against Jewish people in Germany before World War II.

Early this week, thousands of Germans gathered to commemorate this dark milestone in German history and show disapproval of recent demonstrations of neo-Nazi sentiment sparking throughout the country. "When all the foreigners leave then who will we hate?", read one placard. "Those who forget the lessons of the past are destined to relive it," said another.

If we are truly committed to fostering a harmonious, welcoming "diverse" Dalhousie community, we must understand that a policy officially asserting intolerance as unacceptable is necessary. This is not to mention the prejudicial bias inherent in our learning. Whether it be history, philosophy or biology, the vast majority of our studies still concentrate on works of dead, white European heterosexual men. Thus, there exists a multitude of perspectives which have been consistently overlooked by Western civilization. True academic freedom will only be achieved once all blinders and all barriers are removed from the academic setting.

Miriam Korn

Envisioning a brave new world

Emotions within words were spinning in the Green Room of the SUB on November 4 as students, faculty and administrators participated in the forum on discriminatory harassment. A committee has been working on a proposed statement on the subject for over a year. This proposal outlines the rights and responsibilities of members who will sit on the committee on discriminatory harassment, and procedures to be followed on receipt of a complaint. The purpose of the forum was to allow open discussion on the proposal and to cite example of situations which may be applicable to the statement.

Providing these examples was an important function of the forum as there have been concerns regarding the often grey line between academic freedom and harassment. The examples were certainly effective in presenting the difference. Three groups of students (the Women's Collective, the Bisexual, Gay and Lesbian Association of Dalhousie, and the Transition Year Students) presented scenarios of discriminatory harassment. The skits were jolting to the viewers and the performers alike. Even more disturbing was the realization that these scenes could happen on any campus, do happen everywhere and have happened at Dalhousie. The examples cited by the members of the committee also served to illustrate how harassment can anger and hurt.

Although the proposal will not become policy until it is approved by Senate, the need for such a statement was clearly demonstrated at the forum. The committee members should be applauded for their hard work on this clear and thoughtful policy which was well-received by the audience who, nonetheless, knew that it was not perfect. For example, it is difficult to achieve a balance between efficiency and representation in the composition of a commit-

One of the most ubiquitous and powerful forms of racism, sexism and homophobia is silence

tee on discriminatory harassment. While the proposed statement recommends that representatives be chosen from several groups at Dalhousie (such as the Black Canadian Students' Association), a number of unorganized groups (for example, students with disabilities) will not have automatic membership.

Stimulating points were raised during the discussion. One comment was that the policy will not stop, for example, B-GLAD! posters from being torn down - it will not stop racism, sexism, homophobia.

It will not. There is no possible mechanism, policy, law in the world that can erase these from human nature. Some of the most biting forms of discriminatory harassment are simply not measurable. In its definition of the term, intimidation, personal vilification, and derogatory speech, and expression are included, but one of the most ubiquitous and powerful forms of racism, sexism, and homophobia is silence. More often than not, it is the person that is "different" from everyone else (whether by colour, religion, sexual orientation) who pretends to look over notes at the start of class while the room about her/him is buzzing with chatter. Even if the individual is not entirely ignored in the academic or political setting, what happens after class? Society still has some way to go before diversity is accepted on a social and personal level.

However, maybe it is not something about which to be overly discouraged. In the past few years, society has progressed rapidly towards welcoming differences. No, this proposed policy will not abolish hate. It is not sufficient condition and yet it is a necessary condition. It is a start - it is something. One would hope that this laudable proposal, with some fine-tuning, will be approved and that the university will have the courage to implement it when necessary.

Mausumi Banerjee



LETTERS

The Dalhousie Gazette welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should not exceed 300 words in length and should be typed and double-spaced. The deadline for letters is Monday noon before publication. Letters may be submitted on Mac or IBM-compatible 3.5" disk.

Call for tolerance

To the editor:

If we are to evolve, we must learn to dispense with hate and think with clear yet compassionate logic. By focussing on past injustice we tie ourselves to the millstones of history, enabling us to do nothing but suck the weeds at the bottom of an intellectual ocean.

We refer, specifically, to the 'Blacks on Black' column as featured in the November fifth edition.

To begin, we do not wish to divulge our race (or races) or our gender or our sexual orientation, as, unlike many in these times, we do not find this to be the focus of our existence. We exist on the premise that the individual is per-

fectible, and, while not denying the effects of prejudice and hate believe that, in essence, life is what you make it: accept your limitations and they are yours.

To the article in question. Under the guise of a column on the movie treatment of Malcolm X, we are treated to a racist's creed. The advocacy of Islam extremism as a tool for "racial" liberation is no different, nor more excusable, than the use of Christianity for a similar purpose. To take a paragraph at random: "They (members of the Nation of Islam, including the author of the column in question) are politically, economically and religiously mature and established. They don't chase after women. They don't chase after men. They are kind, courteous, upright and clean." Now, please take this and changes "Nation of Islam" for "Ku Klux Klan". Like the

NOI, they claim to speak for a "race" and for God. The current leader of the NOI, Louis Farrakhan, believes that blacks are genetically superior to other races. He has said that Jews afflict the blacks. Yet, according to the author, the NOI are not racists, bigots, and anti-Semites, but are courteous, upright, etc. Yet we must compare this claim of tolerance with a contradiction earlier in the article: Adams states that Farrakhan believes that whites are devils - hardly the voice of tolerance or respect. One must question the credibility of Mr. Adams, especially when he claims to be speaking of and for his "race". There are other internal contradictions throughout which illustrate again and again the muddled way in which Mr. Adams seems to think. To whic

CONT'D ON PAGE 12

the Gazette

vol 125 no 9 November 12, 1992

CONTRIBUTORS

MIKE GRASHAM
MIKE GUSHUE
EMILY MACNAUGHTON
ANGEL FIGUEROA
ROB CURRIE
RYAN STANLEY
PAT GINN
ADAM NEWMAN

WOMEN'S ISSUES

JUDY REID
MARY JANE HAMILTON

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

BRIAN BUCHANAN

TECHNICAL ADVISOR

SHANNON MACALILAY

DISTRIBUTION MANAGER

LESLIE FURLONG

PRODUCTION MANAGER

MIKE ZELLE

EDITORS

JENNIFER BECK

MIRIAM KORN

NEWS EDITORS

CHANTAL SAYE

MARIE MACPHERSON

ARTS EDITORS

GEOFF INESON

BRUCE GILCHRIST

CUP EDITORS

PETER ANGIORE

LESLIE POURIER

KALENDAR EDITOR

STEVE MILLS

TYPESETTER

TAMMY ROGERS

AD/BUSINESS MANAGER

CONNIE CLARKE

494-6532 PHONE

494-1280 FAX

STUDENT UNION BUILDING, DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY
6136 UNIVERSITY AVE., HALIFAX, N.S., B3B 4J7

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opinions

academic freedom

On Wednesday, November 4th, Dalhousie's proposed Statement on Discriminatory Harassment was presented in a public forum in the Green Room. During the discussion which followed, the most debated point was that of the notion of academic freedom. Curiously, for some people the perception has been formed that this policy stands in opposition to it. Some fear that respect and protection of the rights of traditionally under-represented groups to play a full role in the university is irreconcilable with the freedom to think and discuss and study everything that a university community must. This perception is not only based upon a false opposition - protection of rights and academic freedoms are not mutually exclusive - it is also based on an ignorance of the fact that respect for all humans is a precursor to the very existence of academic freedom.

Interestingly, those led to fear this policy are also led to disregard the primacy which it accords to academic freedom. The Statement begins by declaring that "Freedom of inquiry and of expression are essential freedoms in a university and conflicting ideas are a vital feature of university life." If anything, this can only strengthen respect for our academic ideals.

The example of P. Rushton was tossed back and forth. Forgetting for a moment that academics everywhere seriously question the theoretical

framework and methodologies supporting Rushton's work - questioning even its "academic" nature - it remains to be seen to what degree the concept of freedom can be applied to his research. Even if an abstraction could be made of the psychological and social damage that this work does to huge groups of individuals, one has to ask in what context Rushton can be considered to be free. A human being has dedicated his life's work to studying other humans, and is somehow prevented from seeing them in their complete humanity. Something has blinkered him, blinding him to considerations that are the underpinnings of all scientific and humanistic research. This leaves the results of his work skewed and useless when applied to a real context.

The proposed Statement on Discriminatory Harassment is Dalhousie's effort to do something about the blindnesses we have internalized in our own social context, to keep them from self-replicating as all forms of abuse are observed to do. What would happen if Rushton were a professor at Dalhousie and complaints were made by individuals who felt his work discriminated against them and kept them from being empowered to express responsibly their own views and opinions? This policy would allow for a group of human beings with training in the matters of discrimination and human relation-

ships to sit down and hear both sides of the complaint. These people would then consider the best actions for the community to take in order to respond both to the exclusionary damage done to any person who feels they have been the victim of discriminatory harassment, and to protect academic freedom and quality in the analytic approaches we take to information. In the end, this only serves to strengthen our commitment to academic freedom for all, to academic excellence, and to leadership as an academic community.

Consideration of this proposed Statement must also take into account the provision for emphasis on "education as the basic element of a

non-discriminatory atmosphere." An active programme of community education on issues surrounding harassment and all the forms it takes will leave Dalhousie with people better educated about themselves, about their own culture, and about the people who form with them a community. In this way, many harassing situations will simply be avoided. In a university environment, it remains difficult to advance a serious argument in opposition to education.

freedom to think and discuss

In end analysis, confusion arises in the discussion of all of these issues because we actually see two different contexts coming together: one set of ideas developed around the concept of academic freedom, and a whole other complex of ideas around what constitutes harassment. The latter of these two also serves as touching stone for passage into all other contexts related to the human experi-

ence. This is unfortunate since the human mind - especially one trained in one-variable objectivity - has difficulty holding onto two contexts at once, let alone observing their dynamic interaction. Nonetheless, the matters being discussed simply do not occur in a vacuum. What is being discussed is people, and whether or not everyone is allowed and indeed encouraged to achieve complete academic expression and enlightenment. We can observe that there are aspects of our society and of our own Dalhousie community which tend to work against this, and we can try to do something about it.

The proposed Statement on Discriminatory Harassment provides a mechanism for a dynamic response to harassment and its dehumanizing effects. Yes, we may just see that a professor is not able to present uncritically work based on a perception of humans as objects, missing the point of the academic experience altogether. We might see theories claiming some form of supremacy analysed critically instead of presented as a kind of absolute academic truth. We might see the libraries increasing their holdings in areas of essential information about more than one culture, about more than one view of gender relations. We might end up having more respect for ourselves and each other as a community. We might indeed see a humanistic, cornucopian, even Rabbelesian approach to knowledge which, instead of reacting xenophobically to the unknown, seeks actively to understand it. It must of course be argued that this is the kind of approach needed for Dalhousie to remain contemporary and hopefully at the front of academic research done at this polyphonic end of the 20th century.

Peter Edwards

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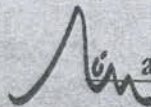


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ANTHONY ROBERTS

BGLAD!

news

Committee commits to community

by Gazette Staff

Developments continue around Dalhousie's proposed Statement on Discriminatory Harassment. The draft statement was presented at a public forum in the Green Room on November 4th, 1992 (*Gazette* October 22, November 12) and has since sparked a growing dialogue within the university community. Articles have appeared in the *Gazette*, in *Dalhousie News*, and the *DFA Dialogue*, and public discussions have included a meeting of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences in December, and a meeting of the Dalhousie Faculty Association on January 13th.

Eric McKee, Vice President (Student Services) and chair of the ad hoc Committee to Develop a Policy on Racism and Sexism, says that the version of the policy presented in November gave rise to a fair amount of comment and controversy. "The committee has received a lot of feedback and will be meeting this week to decide what to take back to Senate."

Response has centred in a large part around a perceived conflict between the importance of maintain-

ing academic freedom, and the need to address the damaging effects of sexism, racism, homophobia, and all forms of discriminatory harassment. The quantity and nature of feedback has apparently produced a slight hold-up in the committee's timeframe. The proposed Statement, originally slated for presentation before Senate in January, will not be presented before February, although "March is more likely", says McKee.

"The fact that there's been a lot of debate is basically a good thing", he continued. Given the importance of the issues it addresses, McKee feels that this kind of policy requires a great deal of public interest and input.

The policy has also drawn attention from outside the Dalhousie community. Nina Butlin, the DSU representative on the six-member drafting committee, points out that "Other universities are aware that this draft policy is pending and have requested copies of it. It stands to be very influential."

Butlin also pointed out the necessity for students to remain aware of developments. "Students may not be

aware of the amount of resistance which exists against even discussing matters of discrimination, let alone the establishment of a policy to provide education and community response to them." Underlining differing perceptions of this policy, Butlin further indicated that "Students might view it as an obvious, necessary and timely step in the university's evolution. They should know, however, that the passing of this policy is not a *fait accompli* and

dialogue reveals that it faces a certain amount of resistance, notably among faculty."

Butlin sees one important aspect of the policy lying in its provision through education for on-going discussion of the kind the draft statement has begun. "The policy creates a space for this dialogue, and develops a forum for working out these important issues in the university community."

Commenting on the evolution of

the policy, McKee remarked that he feels the work of the committee is "at a point where some decisions need to be taken at a community level." Foreseeing further developments, he stated that "The committee is committed to completing its task and bringing it to some kind of conclusion", with possible changes to be brought to the policy in the near future.

Chilly classroom continuum

by Gazette staff

The Dalhousie Faculty Association (DFA) Council of Representatives gathered for a lunch-time meeting open to all DFA members Weldon Library this Wednesday to talk about the Discriminatory Harassment Policy. Debate about the nature of DFA's response to the policy was rigorous.

Dr. Sue Sherwin, Chair of the ad hoc Committee to Develop a Policy

on Racism and Sexism was available to answer questions.

Concern was expressed when considering the committee's mandate to recommend action in situations whereby mediation has gone to formal investigation and the decision was made that the person was guilty of discrimination. Some felt the internal mechanism of dealing with this kind of complaints established by the policy was an important part of its function.

"Most agree that since we are a university, we have to protect academic interests," said Peter Edwards, a part-time instructor in the French department. "In a worst case scenario, I personally feel academic interests would be safer placed in the hands of a committee raised from within the university community than in the hands of a judicial panel struck under an outside mechanism such as the Human Rights Act."

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news

Confusion in terms?

by Arif Nizami

The link between political correctness and a new policy on discriminatory harassment has stirred up a lot of controversy lately. The Committee to Develop a Policy on Racism and Sexism at Dal have been met with criticism that their project evokes visions of thought police and censorship of expression.

The concept of political correctness is an over-simplified expression of what is at issue. The definition offered in the proposal includes: intimidation, either physical or psychological; personal slander on the basis of sex, colour, race, disability, age, socio-economic standing, religion, marital status or origin; and expression including written, speech, pictorial or symbolic that could reasonably be interpreted as derogatory that does not have a bona fide artistic or educational function.

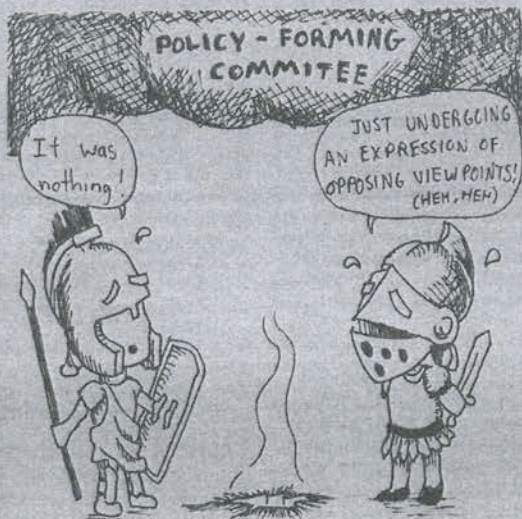
For the most part, this definition excludes classroom activity but assigns the task of deciding when the line between acceptable and unacceptable has been crossed. If the policy is passed, the Committee on Derogatory Harassment would consist of 12 members, each representing a different campus interest group, and one administrator, chosen by the President. There is also a provision to add members to the Committee to insure fair representation if the need should arise.

The policy aims to preserve courtesy and respect for all members of the university community and the freedom to express views in a responsible manner while respecting the rights of others thus creating an environment which is free from discrimination and harassment.

Its purpose is not to impose limitations on intellectual debate or free thought but to create a standard of conduct acceptable to everyone. Eric McKee, Chair of the Policy Developing Committee, relates how a banner flown at another university read "No means hit her again." This, according to McKee, is a clear example of negative connotation that is unacceptable and deserving of action.

In a recent forum on political correctness, Dr. Robert Martin argued that such a policy is simply making a "fuss" because on the whole, "university is the least homophobic, sexist and racist environment a student will ever encounter." He went on to argue this approach is not going to alter the cause of these problems since it deals with the symptoms only in its punishing the few offenders.

It has also been argued that this is an insensitive approach and could be harmful because the implementation of the policy does not trust people to form their own views. The Policy Development Committee said this is not the case because the policy wants to insure that all views are able to be voiced freely and made so as not to offend. People will retain their rights



to whomever they wish to be, so long as they do not hinder others from equally expressing their rights as well.

The Policy Development Committee maintains that the policy is not one of rigid enforcement but will be issue-specific because there are many university settings where "offensive" words and images are acceptable but others where they are not. The punishments will also be

issue-specific and will vary as necessary. One of the most pressing questions is who has the right to define what is sexist, racist or homophobic and that answer will have to come from the committee entrusted to do so.

The committee is working on the third draft of a policy on discriminatory harassment to be presented and possibly passed before the end of the year.

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editorial

Passing the mantle

There are enough elections going on right now to overload an issue-sensitive student. Not only is your favorite society electing its executive from president to water-carrier, not only is the Student's Union hiding its mosaic tile under reams of posters for DSU Pres and VP, not only is every position on various councils up for grabs, but even the *Dalhousie Gazette* is electing its next editor today.

To vote in the DSU election all you need is a Dal ID and a willingness to have a hole punched in it. The assumption is that every student at Dalhousie will be effected by the turnover in the DSU high command, and every student will be likewise effected by the referenda questions regarding the levies for the Women's Centre and Accessibility.

Therefore, every student recognizes his or her strength and responsibility as a franchisee on campus enough to educate him or her self about the issues and make (several) well-informed decisions regarding university life as he or she knows it! Right?

Wrong. Psychology studies say that whatever candidate is listed first on a given ballot has a quantifiable advantage over the others, simply because people who haven't really made up their minds will go for the first one. That actually works out to a considerable percentage. There are also plenty of students out there who have made up their minds on one issue, go to vote, and are handed ballots for every issue which are then filled out on the expediency of the moment. I even heard one person say she wasn't going to vote because she didn't want a hole in her card... something about the Dalplex machine misfiring when it read her bar code.

Of course, DSU elections are simplified this year in that every issue is yes/no. The only competition for Pres and VP is a lack thereof. What does this say about the campus? The one area where students do make the decisions, and no one wants the responsibility. The DSU is severely hampered by having to elect new heads each year. This means that each year's staff has to spend the first term warming up and learning the trade. It also means there is no rocking of the boat, as each team learns and then upholds the status quo, counting the days till it passes the mantle. The University Administration is the same unified opposition to be faced every year, with minor changes. Talk about dealing from a position of power.

To vote at the *Gazette*, you have to be a staff member. There were around forty people who fulfilled those requirements this year (making a significant contribution to three consecutive issues of the paper), and around ninety per cent voter turnout. Not bad.

Perhaps this says that in order to ensure a representative vote, with a significant majority of students turning out to make an informed decision, each and every student has to be involved from the first opening of the doors in September. With student apathy at a seeming all-time high, this requires effort on everyone's part: individual students and the institution alike. Just as no one is going to do it for you, you can't do it all on your own.

Good luck next year.

Jennifer Beck

the Gazette

vol 125 no 22 March 18, 1993

CONTRIBUTORS

MIKE GRAHAM
MIKE GUSHUE
GRAHAM SHAW
ROB CURRIE
ADAM NEWMAN
MIKE RILEY
JASON SILVER
KEN

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Beware of paranoiacs

I think this has gone on long enough. I promised myself that if I read one more closed-minded diatribe against Dalhousie's Policy on Discriminatory Harassment as Ruthlessly Imposed by the Storm Troopers of Political Correctness, I wouldn't flip my lid. But while I try to straighten out some misconceptions, please excuse me if a little steam escapes around the edges.

Rod MacLeod (*Gazette*, 11 March 1993, p. 13) doesn't like the policy. He calls it "politically correct". What does he mean? What does the term mean? In fact, the phrase "political correctness" has outlived its usefulness, and deserves to be tossed out (or mashed up and recycled, where possible) into the dumpster of history.

First, Mr. MacLeod should get his history straight. "Politically correct" originated as a term of derision, used by the left to criticize those who pay lip service to such basic things as, say, gender-neutral language, but who don't otherwise change their behaviour. Make no mistake: NOBODY thinks political correctness is a good thing. It means hypocrisy, insincerity. It was NEVER a movement or a fad.

Unfortunately, its meaning has been altered beyond hope. It is now used by people whose aim is to belit-

tle the work, actions and opinions of others who, as a conscious lifestyle choice, feel inclined to try to change the world for the better, by working to dismantle structures which oppress.

That's the other thing to get clear: it IS overcoming oppression that we're talking about here. It exists. It's bad. It won't go away unless we do something about it.

Nobody thinks political correctness is a good thing

Second, in defense of Anthony Roberts, to point out that it is mostly "white, upper class, heterosexual males" who would be required to watch their behaviour more closely under Dalhousie's new guidelines is not "maligning or derogatory". It is simply a fact. That this admittedly heterogeneous group is numerically a minority is irrelevant. Power comes

from many sources in our society, but historically, individuals from this group have held most of it.

Incidentally, the emphasis in the Discriminatory Harassment Policy is on flexible mediation mechanisms, not on punishment. Mr. MacLeod need not worry about a burly Political Correctness Bouncer immediately turning him out into a snowbank the next time he looks at a woman (or man) with both eyes simultaneously.

The anti-harassment policy has nothing to do with Communism. In the bad old days, when Communists didn't want to give an inch to someone who disagreed with them, they called that person a "Fascist" or a "reactionary". Similarly, it has become common practice for even moderate politicians to silence their critics on the left by denouncing them as "Communists".

Any person who brands another "politically correct" is pulling the same trick. It means, "I don't have the courage to discuss your opinion with you rationally, so I'll call you a nasty name and avoid the subject completely."

So let's discard the term altogether. Next time you feel like using it, stop: consider why you disagree with the

CONT'D ON PAGE 7

LETTERS

The *Dalhousie Gazette* welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should not exceed 300 words in length and should be typed and double-spaced. The deadline for letters is Monday noon before publication. Letters may be submitted on Mac or IBM-compatible 3.5" disk.

Racists suck

To the editor:

I'm writing to express disgust in your Sports editor's shameful slogging of a Dal coach (a wholly personal attack, ad hominem) and the slur against Ben Johnson: "You're a disgrace, go back to Jamaica". The Dal community doesn't need the violent voice of John Dancy echoing through its halls anymore than it needs another blatant racist.

Oh, he's sexist, too. Just so you know. No, John, racists suck, get your ass fired.

A Concerned Citizen

Union power

To the editor:

Your article on the discrimination faced by pregnant women at Dalhousie, and by Martine Jacquot in particular, highlights one of the most compelling reasons why TAs and sessionals at Dal should organize (Pregnancy no challenge - *Dal Gazette*; March 11). Time and again institutions like Dal pay lip service to the concerns of community members, but only those who can speak collectively with a strong

voice see any action. Without the backing of a union, incidents like this will continue to occur.

A union is a legally certified collective bargaining agent. As such, the employer is bound by law to negotiate the working conditions of the group represented by the union. The relationship between union and employer is one of equal parties. An employer that is interested in maintaining good morale and employee relations listens and responds to the concerns of its employees. It's a lot easier for this to happen if the employees can speak with a unified voice, through their elected leaders. The union is the organization that allows employees to speak collectively, and has the strength to act if bad situations don't improve.

The Educational Workers Organization Committee is working to create a new local of the Canadian Union of Educational Workers/Syndicat canadien des travailleuses et travailleurs en éducation. CUEW/Scite has always had a strong commitment to human rights, and its existing locals have been able to negotiate protection for their members in such areas as sexual and racial discrimination and harassment. Most CUEW/Scite contracts have provisions for maternity or parental leave, as well as sick leave, which meet the special needs of part-time academic staff.

It's important to note that organizing a union doesn't guarantee all of

these benefits; they must be negotiated. A union, however, can ensure that vital issues such as these are addressed. The university would have to justify (or not) its unconscionable treatment of Ms. Jacquot not only to her, but to the entire membership of the union. It's a lot easier to ignore one person than one thousand.

Jennifer Hoar

Prof wronged

To the editor:

I am writing in response to an article titled "Pregnancy no challenge - Dal" which appeared in the *Gazette* on March 11. I am deeply disappointed and disgusted with the treatment Martine Jacquot received at the hands of the Dalhousie administration. I find it hard to believe that they would refuse a pregnant woman's request for a parking space, and that the French Department would insist that she find her own replacement before she could go on leave. I had Martine Jacquot as an instructor last year, and found her to be extremely knowledgeable, competent and likeable. I have thought about this, and have come up with five reasons why the Chair of the Parking and Security Committee, the head of the

CONT'D ON PAGE 8

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opinions

Relishing rose-coloured spectacles

CONT'D FROM PAGE 6

action or statement or policy or whatever. Say so. Engage in constructive dialogue. Discussion of subjects such as these should never be emasculated — something which the *Gazette*, according to Mr. MacLeod, has quite remarkably done while at the same time publishing two of his contributions.

He should recognise that to "begin to look at all people based on their merit" is a fine ideal which few live up to, and that the victims of this failure have, at the very least, a right to recourse. That is what the Discriminatory Harassment Policy, with its admitted imperfections, is for.

This is not the viewpoint of a *Gazette* plot to stifle Mr. MacLeod's precious freedom of expression with a gag and duct tape. Nor does it represent a political correctness conspiracy to line all the Tory Youth guys up against a wall. It is one person's freely expressed opinion, subject always to modification through open discussion with the Anthony Roberts' and, yes, even the Rod MacLeods of this world.

Ryan Stanley

I have complacently sat back and read the myriad of articles and opinions that have been recycled through the factory of blaming, shaming, despising, chastising and other useless energies.

What I see is a lot of negativity out there and the bad effects it creates. Why is it that the easiest things for the human mind to do are often the most self-defeating? I see society as too often accusing, self-righteous, smug and "politically correct". This is leading to a greater disparity and a rift between to self-defined "groups".

As a light person and a woman, I am trapped on two sides of the fence. One group sees me as unjustly superior while others would see me as historically and unjustly inferior. I do not like labels. They are shackles that I wish to discard. I realize that being "for" positive things is a lot more effective than being "against" negative things. Keep your focus positive and that is what will expand for you in your life. Respond posi-

tively with love and understanding and that is what will come back to you. All too often this is not what we see in the world. We more often see people venting their frustrations in an "I'm right, you're wrong" fashion.

I now glaze over most of these articles which throw out their anger at me or people I know, by virtue of our assigned grouping. While I understand that it is the first stage in realizing change to take place. We must see that the changes need to be made inside of us first.

People, we are here together, therefore we must come together, not apart. Fighting against all these "isms" only creates schisms. It is an oxymoron and just as the profound bathroom wall says it is like "fucking for virginity". Yet it is still what we hear in so many sectors.

I wish that people could transcend their pettiness and truly learn to care. It may sound odd but love is the only way to great harmony and positive energy. When you hear people talk-

ing of afterlife experiences they always say that they saw as most important was their relationships with people and when given a second chance at life they chose to focus on and improve their connections to other mortals. But let's not wait till death to find this out. Let's do it now!

I have found that by expending a small amount of positive energy towards others such as smiling, or doing small favours, I have made a great return on my investment, such as strangers going out of their way to do nice things for me. Thank you for those little things, they meant a lot. It is worth it. You feel great and all of this positive energy flows back to you, when you truly give without concern of receiving. I am not religious, just one individual trying to make a difference on this planet that we share. If we all put out more positive energy rather than negative we will all reap the benefits.

Groupings are reference points but not judging points. There are many

grey areas. My life has been no better or worse by virtue of my traits. You can measure things in many different ways and find out that everyone comes out balanced with life's challenges. Those who wish to hold grudges or lash accusations are only putting obstacles in their path to true self-fulfilment and deep down they know it. We are all responsible for ourselves. We control our thoughts and thoughts control everything. How we presents ourselves, the feelings we send out to others, make all the difference. So why don't we act Positive and look for the Positive? Let's empower ourselves with Positivity; we all will gain. We are all right and we are all wrong. It doesn't matter. So smile at those people beside you and realize that they are just like you. Try it. What have you got to lose?

J. Carlyle

Horrorified

To the editors:

How can people think that our society is truly coming to terms with such issues as racism and prejudice? Just because we hear about it more and more (in passing), can we really say that we are closer to being capable of fully grasping the essence of these issues?

On Monday, I noticed on a very prominent bulletin board in the LSC a poster promoting an event of the Cultural Diversity Festival. The event, organized by the Atlantic Provinces Jewish Students Federation, is featuring Dr. Leon Bass, "a renowned Black Educator on Racism and the Holocaust... a WWII veteran who helped liberate the notorious death camp of Buchenwald".

I couldn't help but notice some statements that were scribbled on these posters: "Soaps for sale! Your soaps smell nice!" I was puzzled at first, until speaking with a friend who pointed out what they were referring to.

During the Holocaust, the Nazis used the fat of their victims to make soap.

I was horrified. How do such blatantly hateful sentiments exist today? Is this a reflection of our society's tendency to superficially deal with racism and prejudice at one level, and ignore what is really going on?

Lilli Ju



Philippines Environment and Resource Management Project (ERMP)
School for Resource & Environmental Studies

3 internships are available to Dalhousie University graduate students for work in the Philippines between May-August 1993. These are considered career oriented, as opportunities to gain experience in a developing country or an environmental project. The three positions available in the Philippines are:

Resource Conflicts: A Mining Study - Cordillera
Solving the Garbage Dilemma - Los Banos
Gender & Community Coastal Management Research
-Bais Bay, Negros Oriental

For a detailed description and information on how to apply, please see the bulletin boards in the SUB, Grad House, Dal Student Employment Centre, or your academic department, or call Jennifer Leith at 494-2499.

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS MARCH 31, 1993

NOTICE

The University Bookstore will be closed Thursday, April 1, and Friday, April 2, for year-end inventory. Regular hours resume Monday, April 5. We are sorry for any inconvenience.



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Profs at odds over harassment policy

by Tamara Dnelle

The discussion of "freedom of speech" versus "political correctness" has become a volatile issue on many university campuses in recent years. Professor Martin Yaqzan's article on date rape, published in the student newspaper at the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton last fall, has stirred much debate over the fine line between his "academic freedoms" and whether his opinions cross the boundaries of "respectful exchanges." Should a university be a place where anything and everything goes, or should there be regulations regarding "respectful conduct and speech?"

Dalhousie has been grappling with this problem for some time. A Proposed Policy on Discriminatory Harassment will be presented to the university Senate on Monday, February 14. The document is the work of the Committee to Develop a Policy on Sexism and Racism, appointed by Dalhousie President Howard Clark in November 1990.

The committee was set up to draft a policy to deal with discriminatory harassment of all kinds within the university, so that "groups that are typically marginalized can fully participate in university life." An initial draft of the policy was presented to Senate in April 1992, and was sent back for revision. After open forums and discussions, the committee

drafted a second and third proposal. The latter will be presented to Senate on Monday.

Already professors are arguing over its implications.

Members of the committee have come out strongly in favour of the product of three years of their work.

Sue Sherwin, a Philosophy professor on the committee, feels the policy will be "setting standards for the realm of respectful exchanges and encourage respect for diversity."

Nina Butlin, a PhD student in French who is the only student on the committee, said the policy is extremely important for students and staff. "It provides a place for guidelines to be developed," which she said Dalhousie needs badly. "The alternative to this is nothing."

As it stands now there is no policy which regulates or monitors incidents of racism or other discriminatory behaviour at the university, although there is a sexual harassment policy in effect.

However, there is also another side of the issue which has been debated just as vehemently. A recent issue of the *Dalhousie News* featured an opinion article by Dr. Robert Martin, a professor of philosophy, who feels that if the policy is passed it will "infringe on academic rights and freedoms," and that problems cannot be solved by "restricting speech."

His article stresses what he describes as the ambiguity of the pro-

Stated aims of the Proposed Policy on Discriminatory Harassment

- an articulation of the rights and responsibilities of members of the university
- a definition of discriminatory harassment and the limits of protected free expression
- a commitment to an education program
- the establishment of an ongoing committee to oversee the implementation of this policy
- a procedure for mediating alleged violations of the policy and a means of referring unresolved issues to the appropriate bodies for disciplinary action

posed policy which "does not clearly define its rules," and will lead to "behavioural policing."

Sherwin disagrees. Since the first draft of the policy was presented to Senate in 1992, it has been watered down. The main difference between previous versions and the draft to be presented to Senate on Monday is the lack of any punitive aspect to the policy.

"The policy as drafted will have very little prohibitive power, and will instead encourage mediation," said Sherwin. She feels that the pro-

posal has "no power to police," and that it will work "in favour of freedom of speech for those who are now silenced by discriminatory harassment."

Martin feels that other universities which have adopted similar policies have had bad experiences as a result, and that Dal should beware of making the same mistake.

"Wherever this policy is in effect it has done more harm than good. It is too open to abuse," he said.

Both Butlin and Sherwin disagree, and said that if anything the university can learn from these ex-

periences. Furthermore, Sherwin stresses the lack of any punitive action within the policy. "Our goal is not zero tolerance but zero occurrence."

The committee also included Robert Berard, a professor of education, Mayann Francis of the Employment Equity Office, President's Advisor on Women Barbara Harris, and Eric McKee, Vice President Student Services.

If passed the policy will be up for review in three years.

Modern cupid works in mysterious ways

by Lana Lander

Valentine's Day is the year's most romantic day. February 14 is sacred to lovers.

The history of Valentine's Day may have begun in an unromantic way, with two Christian saints named Valentine who suffered martyrdom in the second half of the third century.

In ancient Rome, young men drew names of young women from a box every February 14, to choose a partner for the feast. Christian clergy objected and substituted the names of saints for young women.

In rural Europe in the Middle Ages people believed that birds began to mate on February 14.

In England in the 1400s, folklore held that the first person of the opposite sex whom one met on Valentine's Day would be one's true love.

By the 17th century sending Valentine cards to one's favourite began,

on the second floor of the SUB with a group of friends was Stephen Sinclair, a major in physics. Stephen was not embarrassed to admit what he is getting for his Valentine. "I'm going to buy her some hair dye," he said. He went on to say, "Valentine's Day is not a big deal, not like Christmas."



Rachel Weigers

Over in a crowded corner in the smoking section upstairs sat Rachel Weigers, a first-year student. Rachel said, "No, I don't have a Valentine, but I would like someone who's very honest, a wonderful partner, natural and a free thinker." When asked if she hoped to get a Valentine she replied, "Yes, yes, yes." She called Valentine's Day "great, if people don't restrict it to couples. You should be friendly to everyone, show your feelings, tell them how much you love them."

At the Grawood, Tyri Chapman, a major in sociology, was sitting watching television with a friend. "I



Tyri Chapman



Praveen Goel

have a Valentine and I love you Marcee," she said. "It's a sad day for people who don't have a mate. Society puts pressure on the lovenest. But if you do have a Valentine it's a beautiful day to celebrate."

Wandering into the Games Room, Praveen Goel, sporting a Braves hat said, "No, I don't have a Valentine, but my choice would be Claudia Schiffer." When asked what his most memorable Valentine's Day was, he replied, "Two years ago in '91, a lustful day and evening..."



Mike R. Cowie

Out through the SUB entrance, snow settling on everything, over to the Grad House. Mike R. Cowie, a major in theatre, sits with a friend. "I don't have a Valentine. I'm busy with my schedule from hell from 8:00 am to 10:00 pm." Mike wanted a Valentine who "would be happy getting good sex and still being my best friend." He felt, "Valentines Day is all right. Everybody needs to vent their cheesy feelings and it challenges people to be inventive."

At a table by the window, the sun pouring in, sat Lindsay Cook, a major in anthropology. "I don't have a Valentine, and if I could choose anyone I would probably pick someone from a different culture to show



Lindsay Cook

them how we celebrate. I will be giving out Jurassic Park cards to my friends, like the grade two cards I used to give out." Her most memorable Valentine's was "in grade eight, when my first boyfriend gave me a huge Hershey kiss and his dog ate it."

Shannon Webb didn't have a Valentine but if she could pick anyone, she said, "I would pick David Gahn, the lead singer from Depeche Mode." Her opinion on Valentines Day? "I usually hate it because I never had a boyfriend on Valentine's Day."

In the cafeteria, bustling with students gobbling their lunches, was Margaret Broderick, a part-time student. "I don't have a Valentine, but if I could choose anyone, I would pick Kevin Costner." She added, "I don't imagine I'll have a Valentine in the future. I have a husband and have been married for 28 years."

Valentine's Day remains, as ever, a day to express love.



Stephen Sinclair

Valentine's Day sure has changed. A week before the big day, lounging

the Gazette

Volume 126 Number 22

Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia

March 17, 1994

'Speech code' dies

by Ryan Stanley

Dal, unbutton those lips.

Freedom of speech was the rallying cry Tuesday night as the Board of Governors voted to kill a proposed university-wide policy on discriminatory harassment.

Supporters of the policy were deeply disappointed by the Board's decision.

"I think we're clearly further away from an effective policy," said a frustrated Sue Sherwin, professor of philosophy. "It was a clear indication from the Board that they don't want one."

Sherwin was one of six people who has been working to develop the policy since 1990, through a committee appointed by Dal President Howard Clark to come up with a policy for dealing with incidents of racism and sexism on campus.

The premise of the committee's work has been that even at a university, there must be limits on free speech to protect women and minorities from abusive attacks.

But it was a legal argument that swayed the Board members, most of whom are community figures and business people not employed by Dalhousie.

"It was jeopardizing freedom of speech," said George MacDonald, a Halifax lawyer. "I don't think there should be a different policy on the Dalhousie campus from that which exists off it" in Canadian law.

He also took issue with the Committee on Discriminatory Harassment which the policy proposed to set up to hear complaints. According to the policy, the committee would

be made up of six people "chosen on the basis of their credibility with the various constituencies affected... and their sensitivity to the issues."

"I envisaged a committee predominantly composed of minorities," said MacDonald. "I don't have a problem with that, but they would have a predisposition to a particular point of view. I don't think they should be judging whether something I say is abusive or not."

Peter Bryson, another lawyer on the Board, agreed. "That doesn't seem to me to be a method by which you ensure objectivity," he said.

But Sherwin says this misses the point. "It isn't a jury, or a disciplinary body. It's a committee to provide guidance and mediation. That's all the power it has."

Sherwin says Board members haven't taken the time to study the policy carefully. "If there's a gulf of communication," she said, "it's their deliberate lack of interest." She says none of them attended a meeting of the Senate February 14, when the policy was debated and approved by a large majority.

She said she fears Dal won't be prepared to handle incidents of abusive behaviour. "I expect that there will continue to be complaints, but there will be no mechanism for hearing them," she said.

Vice-President Student Services Eric McKee, the chair of the committee, said unless he gets instructions otherwise, "I don't think the committee has a mandate to do anything more. Our job was not to decide, but to propose. A decision's been made."

Atwell going places

by Judy Reid

Boxes line the shelves of Lynn Atwell's office. It wouldn't be an unusual sight considering that Lynn is getting ready to move, except that the boxes have been packed and ready to go for more than five months.

Lynn Atwell is Dalhousie's international student advisor and advisor to students with disabilities. When asked if it's true that the centre is to be moved to the Student Union Building, she laughs.

"Ever since I took this job I wanted to be in the Student Union Building," Lynn wants to move from her office on Edward Street to be in a more central location and to be closer to other student services.

"But there was a real necessity for the move when I took on this job of providing services for students with disabilities," she says. "It just made more sense to have it somewhere more accessible with quick exits."

The international student advisor position began in the early '80s. Lynn has had the job since 1989, and only a year later, she also took on the newly-created position of advisor to students with disabilities.

Accessibility is a very good rea-

son for the move to the first floor of the SUB. Although the present location is cozy and well decorated with maps, magazines and figurines from all over the world, the eight steps leading to the front door to the centre make it less than welcoming for some.

There are approximately 500 international students attending Dalhousie, and at least 40 students with disabilities.

"It depends on the time of year," answers Lynn when asked if one aspect of her job takes more time than the other. "I work on a needs basis. If it needs to be done, I'll get it done."

August to October is a very busy time with the reception and orientation of international students. Throughout the year Lynn also advises students on immigration and financial matters, as well as problems that they may have with their landlord or professor.

Lynn sums up her role as "making the adjustment of new students easier."

Most of Lynn Atwell's time working as an advisor to students with disabilities is spent gathering information, on topics such as what services should be offered.



Packed labs leave science students short on elbow room.

PHOTO: LEX WAMBOLDT

Overcrowded classrooms big pains in the behind

by Garth Sweet

The floor is a hard place to learn. Overcrowded classrooms have been a sore point with Dal students for years. If you arrive late and all the desks have been taken, you're forced to either sit on the floor, stand, or just leave. Dal has a number of very large classrooms, but none are big enough to contain the monster classes often scheduled for them.

The resulting problems are familiar. As classes grow, so does the student-teacher ratio. Chances to ask questions decrease, and the pace of the course suffers as professors deal with the constant distractions and interruptions inevitable from so many students.

The problem touches most faculties and schools.

The education program is one students often gripe about. "It was about the worst class for me," said one student who claimed unless she arrived early she found herself without a desk. She also said the packed class was hot, making concentration harder.

First-year English students are often among those left deskless, despite the program being divided into over 20 sections. The arts departments may lose professors and see the problem get worse, thanks to budget cuts, according to Don Miller, the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences administrator.

In the science departments, the problem may be worse than elsewhere. Students are crammed into small classrooms, then crammed into even smaller labs to do experiments and assignments. Professors try to avoid the cramped labs by splitting the classes into two, three or even four lab groups, all using the labs at different times of the week. Even with these measures in place, students are still having to double and triple up on equipment.

Meanwhile, enrolment in the sciences is up, departments are having to deal with shrinking budgets, and aging equipment. Many professors are retiring or going to bigger universities faster than new ones are being hired, forcing some class sections to be merged.

First-year students often get it worst. "If you're late, you have to sit on the steps near the front," complains one first-year psychology student.

Among the science faculties, biology, chemistry, physics and psychology have the worst overcrowding.

Bio 1000 fills the entire Dunn 117 lecture hall to bursting, with students sitting on the steps, between desks or on chairs, writing on their laps. "You feel half-reluctant to go," said first-year biology student Nathan Magarvey. "Especially in the first few weeks of class when you are a few minutes late and you know you won't get a seat."

First-year physics classes also crowd Dunn 117 to capacity and beyond. But for them the labs are worse. The class is broken into many smaller lab groups, but even then students have to share equipment among as many as three of them.

Chemistry students also complain of oversized classes, but again it's the lack of laboratory equipment and supplies that plagues them the most. By second year, however, lab and class size problems are fewer.

"The Chemistry Department seems to be making the best of a bad situation," said one fourth-year student.

Psychology students aren't so lucky. While student numbers are lower, the classroom sizes are often disproportionately smaller again, making the number of students without seats even higher than other faculties.

Psych students also complained that the crowding problem was more chronic, with even third- and fourth-year courses being overcrowded.

"It's pretty discouraging when you get there and there's no seat for you," complained fourth-year math and psych major Heather Mac Lean. Another fourth-year math major, Christina Juurlink, said, "We usually try to show up to class 45 minutes or so early so we can get a seat."

With faculty budgets being reduced, these problems seem likely to get worse before they get better.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Diversity, awareness keys for Atwell

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

word 'racism,' she says. "I just used the word 'discrimination'."

Lynn now uses the term after hearing about incidents of racism from some of the students she advises.

"I never want our international students to go away with a bad taste of Canada or Dalhousie."

Lynn is not a big fan of Dalhousie's proposed discriminatory harassment policy.

"I look at it as a necessary evil," she says.

She hopes the policy will encourage people who prejudice other cultures or groups to think before they speak.

"I have been sensitized just because I am from a different culture," Lynn explains. Her mother is from Scotland and her father from Egypt. Lynn spent time in both places, but grew up mostly in Egypt.

Lynn says she can relate to students who have experienced racism.

"I have been discriminated against, hurt, followed in stores because people think that I am going to take something, had nasty comments made to me."

"Actually," she says after a brief pause, "I like overt racism better than bigotry." Her explanation is that with overt racism, a person at least knows what he or she is up against, but with bigotry, people will sugar-coat their insults.

"And that's just worse than overt racism."

Although Lynn says it's unfortu-

nate that the discriminatory harassment policy will also effect those people who have no intention to offend, it is necessary.

"There has been at least one professor who has hurt a student very badly," she says, "because of a judgement on his part about the culture of this student."

Lynn doesn't like the policy, but says there may be a need for it, at least for a few years.

Asked what she would do with an unlimited budget, Lynn takes some time before answering. She'd like to see scanners and enlargers in every library on campus, equipment to help students with a visual impairment or a learning disability use Novanet, the computer system used for locating books in the library, and to make all the doors on campus accessible.

"Sometimes even money is not the only solution," Lynn says and then adds with a grin, "But it sure helps."

If she had a million dollars, she'd also make residences and the so-called 'accessible' washrooms accessible to a severely mobility-impaired student.

"But the biggest thing is awareness," insists Lynn. "If we could just look at each individual as an equal".

In Lynn's opinion, Dalhousie will be in danger of losing its international students with the \$1,000 increase that the Board of Governors agreed all new foreign students should pay.

"I knew there was going to be an increase," she said, "but I was really surprised by the \$1,000."

Lynn concedes that international



International Students Advisor & Advisor to Students with Disabilities, Lynn Atwell. DALPHOTO: MIRE DEVORPOTT

students use more services and it may take more time to process their paper work, but argues, "I'm sure the international students don't cost the university that much."

To make things worse, the Budget Advisory Committee has recommended a further \$1,000 increase.

"I think it's wrong," Lynn says, "not just unfair."

"We will have less international students coming. We're losing out because we don't have the cultural

diversity here."

Lynn is getting more than a little impatient waiting to move her office into the SUB.

"Sometimes I wonder what the hell is going on."

Lynn says they're just waiting for some piece of paper to be signed and there is no sense in blaming anyone.

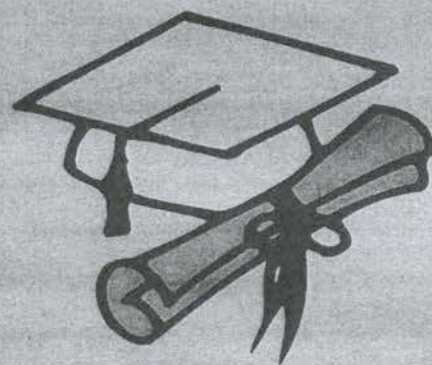
"I don't know what's holding it up and I don't know who is responsible. I just know that everyone working on it has good intentions."

What Lynn Atwell loves most about her work is working with students.

"I just love the students," Lynn continues, saying how they keep her on her toes and that no two years have been the same. Lynn's smile grows as she says changes may be slow but they're happening nonetheless. Finally, Lynn describes the satisfaction she gets after helping a student and the thanks, smile or hug she sometimes receives.

"That's worth the world."

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the Gazette

Volume 126 Number 24

Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia

March 31, 1994

Campus guerillas challenge BoG



Who - or what - is under all that fur?

DALPHOTO: MIKE DEVONPORT

by Judy Reid

"How many Board of Governors does it take to change a lightbulb?" asks a poster in bold print. The answer? According to the Guerilla Orrls Against the Gag (GGAG), the Board of Governors doesn't change anything.

The Guerilla Orrls are made up of more than thirty women and a handful of men who are trying to revive Dalhousie's proposed anti-hate policy.

Gorilla-masked, the Orrls have been ambushing public meetings, students on the street and bathroom stalls with pamphlets and posters challenging the Board's right to reject the discriminatory harassment policy.

"The BoG is not representative of the Dalhousie community," said Godzilla, a spokesperson for the Orrls. "Not that they're necessarily bad people, but I don't know what the heck they have to do with our university."

The Orrls made their first "consciousness-raising ambush" last Friday at Dalhousie's Student Appreciation Night. Students didn't appear shocked to have six women in gorilla masks interrupt the awards ceremony, and the Orrls didn't stick around long enough to gauge students' reactions.

"I don't think they ruined the evening," said Godzilla Guerilla.

The original policy set out guidelines to mediate conflicts dealing with racism and sexism. The controversial policy was condemned by many as a politically-correct tactic that threatened students' and professors' freedom of speech.

"It's not about white-male bashing or eating the rich," said Godzilla. "Nobody's going to get punished. No books are going to get burned."

The Guerilla Orrls are angry that the Board of Governors gagged the Senate by rejecting the policy after Senate had passed it. According to

"The BoG is not representative of the Dal community."

Godzilla, the Senate is more representative of the Dalhousie community than the Board of Governors.

"The BoG has set a really bad precedent," she said. "It's made the Senate a useless body with no real power."

Although there are close to three dozen Guerilla Orrls, there's a reason why the public only sees six at a time:

Money. "We don't want to be an expensive terrorist movement," explained Godzilla. The gorilla costumes are rented by the week, so the Orrls must take turns dressing for their ambushes.

One of the reasons why the Orrls

are masked is that they fear repercussions such as getting low marks or not receiving a promotion. The other motive is publicity.

"It is a calculated media stunt," admitted Godzilla. "I don't know if people really care who we are."

The Guerilla Orrls attended a Senate meeting on Monday, March 28 and plastered posters across campus the same day. There's no word as to who or what the next ambush will involve or when it'll take place.

"All the mystery and fun is that one never knows when we'll strike again," said Godzilla.

One of Godzilla's biggest gripes about reaction to the proposed policy is the number of people who have condemned it without even reading it.

"Information is your best tool," she said. "And a lot of people are misinformed."

According to Godzilla, one piece of misinformation was that the committee which was proposed to hear complaints of harassment would have the power to punish offenders. Godzilla stressed that the committee's role was to mediate conflict.

"It's not eight angry people waiting to fry whoever comes through," said Godzilla. "And even if they wanted to, they couldn't."

The Guerilla Orrls' goal is to have the discriminatory harassment policy referred back to the Senate. Godzilla doesn't know when or if that will happen, but said the Orrls will still have accomplished something.

"We have at least raised awareness that there is another side to the issue — and we made some people laugh."

CFS referendum cancelled

by Robert Drinkwater

With less than 24 hours before polls were scheduled to open, the DSU got the willies and cancelled its referendum on membership in the Canadian Federation of Students.

Until Sunday afternoon, all systems were go for the vote on whether Dalhousie students would continue to be members of CFS, a 12-year-old student lobby group representing about seventy student unions. But things changed when CFS's lawyers faxed the DSU with a warning the national organization would refuse to accept the results of the referendum. Many on council feared this could open the DSU up to a court challenge from CFS.

Council met in a closed session on Sunday afternoon to discuss whether it should proceed with the referendum, scheduled to start at 9:00 Monday morning. After more than an hour of debate, the vote was 17-16 to cancel.

CFS began to cry foul last month over how the DSU informed them the vote was taking place. According to the CFS constitution, notice of a referendum on membership must be sent by registered mail six months in advance of the vote. CFS was upset that the DSU gave its six months' notice back in September by fax, and then sent further details three weeks later by Purolator Courier.

Many councillors feared the DSU could face a lawsuit from CFS if it

pulled out based on the results of an 'unrecognised' referendum. The fact that Dalhousie students have been members of CFS and have paid fees to the organization for over 10 years, they argued, might constitute a legally binding contract. This could bind the DSU to follow CFS rules.

But not all on council wanted to stop the referendum. DSU president Jefferson Rappell says CFS is screwing Dal students around. He says CFS waited until February, over four months after the DSU gave notice of the referendum, before voicing any objections. He suspects CFS probably changed its mind when national chair Carl Gillis flew down for the campaign and saw the extent of anti-CFS feeling on the Dalhousie campus.

"When they started realizing 'Hey, we're in hot water here,' they said 'let's go to our lawyers and try to rope them in and try to make them be a member for longer than they want to be,'" Rappell said.

But Carl Gillis, the national Chair of CFS, tells a different story. He says he had been trying to get the official documentation for the referendum from Rappell and DSU VP External Lisa Lachance since last fall.

"We've explained to them from the beginning that there were problems with the referendum in terms of notice. In our opinion, there was never a proper referendum called," Gillis said.

"I talked to both Jefferson and

Lisa last term asking for verification that the question was sent, because I hadn't received it, and they indicated to me that they were quite certain that all the rules were followed. But they never were, and I brought it up several times in the fall. I brought it up again when I was on campus and I chaired their council meeting in January. And I brought it up again to Jefferson at that time, and then again to Lisa, and they assured me they would send it," he added.

But Lisa Lachance says she heard nothing from Gillis about the referendum until Gillis paid a visit to Halifax back in January.

"At that time he had some concerns that they couldn't find the receipt that said what date the Purolator package had arrived, so I showed him the receipt that we had from when the package arrived," she says.

"Jefferson Rappell also showed him the letter that had been sent at the time," she added, "and according to him [Gillis], everything was fine. He had started to make plans to come down and help us with our referendum."

Even though Lachance campaigned for the "CFS-Yes" side in the referendum, she says she resents the way some people in the organization have treated the DSU. But she still believes CFS is valuable to Dalhousie.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Students pay more

by Gazette staff

In choosing to cancel the CFS membership referendum, the DSU Council left itself in a financial lurch.

Dal students pay four dollars to the Canadian Federation of Students, and a key issue for the 'No' campaign was CFS' request for a fee hike to six dollars. If Dal students had voted 'Yes' to stay in the organization, they would have been accepting the fee increase.

CFS rules say that if a school does not vote for the increase, the organization may decide to impose the higher fee anyway, if two thirds of the schools accept it.

Many DSU councillors expected CFS to impose the increase at its May meeting. If that happened, the DSU could be struck with a bill for about \$20,000 — two extra dollars for every student at Dal.

After bitter and emotional debate on Sunday, the council voted to increase student union fees by two dollars to make up the expected shortfall.

Some thought this a betrayal of Dal students, who didn't get a chance to vote on it.

"I'm not pleased with it," said Jeff Rappell, the DSU President. "I'm

always upset when Dalhousie students don't get their say."

Lisa Lachance agreed. "We have a \$2.5 million budget," she said. "Twenty thousand is not that much to come out of our budget."

But Rod MacLeod, the incoming DSU President, said hiking fees is better than leaving the union in a precarious financial position.

In speaking in favour of the increase at the meeting, MacLeod said, "While it's true and nice to talk about how we shouldn't increase the fee without asking students, we're responsible for the finances of the Dalhousie Student Union."

Fraser Matte, the DSU Treasurer, argued if the fee was increased, the money would end up coming out of students' pockets anyway, in the form of decreased DSU services.

Josef Tratik, the representative of the Biseuxals, Gays and Lesbians at Dalhousie (BGLAD), agreed. He said CFS had left the DSU with no choice.

"CFS has decided to stick it to the students," he said, "so let's let them stick it to the students." He said when the DSU holds a referendum in the fall, students can vote on whether the extra two dollars fee is acceptable.

CKDU slapped for 'explicit' material

by Gazette staff

Dal's campus radio station has been slapped with broadcasting restrictions under a ruling from a federal regulatory body.

CKDU staff are keeping tight-lipped about the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) decision which was released March 24.

In response to a total of 23 complaints since 1991, the CRTC called for a public hearing to discuss CKDU's application for license renewal and programming guidelines. The

hearing was held last December 7, in Fredericton, New Brunswick.

According to a report accompanying last week's ruling, the majority of complaints dealt with sexually explicit material and obscene and offensive language. In making its decision, the CRTC focused on two incidents that occurred in the summer of 1993.

On June 25, 1993, CKDU broadcast an 'All Day, All Gay' program, to celebrate gay and lesbian pride. A complaint from Halifax resident Wayne S. Harvey was lodged soon afterwards, citing "coarse lan-

guage" and the "reference to gay sexual preferences" broadcast during the early afternoon.

At the hearing, CKDU defended its programming, arguing the special program had been publicized well beforehand and that it was important to broadcast the material during prime time, since it was aimed at a specific under-represented target audience.

In another complaint lodged later that summer, Gene Keyes complained about the broadcast of a song at 1:20 am which he claimed dealt with suicide and necrophilia. In re-

sponse to this complaint, the DJ responsible for playing the song in question was taken 'off the air' by CKDU.

At the hearing, the CRTC said CKDU's current programming guidelines do not restrict the hours in which sexually explicit material may be broadcast and do not define what material can be considered sexually explicit.

CKDU maintained its right to broadcast whatever is appropriate during special programs that are intended for specialized audiences, including material that could be considered sexually explicit or objec-

tionable.

In the decision, the CRTC ordered the following provisions included in CKDU's programming guidelines:

1) warning messages must be aired one week and two hours before, and every hour on the hour during, a 'special program' that contains sexually explicit material;

2) sexually explicit material can't be broadcast between 9 pm and 6 am;

3) "when an occasion arises where material to be aired may conflict with generally accepted audience values regarding such matters as vulgarity, profanity or sexual behaviour, the material shall only be broadcast if it is in the proper context, is integral to the theme of the program, and has worthwhile educational value."

Sources at CKDU, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said many of the station's programmers are not pleased with the CRTC ruling. Some say CRTC's conditions are not well-defined, leaving them vulnerable to misinterpretation.

"What is defined as 'sexually explicit'?" asked one volunteer. "One person complained about the usage of the word 'thigh' in a poetry reading!"

"The terms are not defined. The listening audience is not defined. And what exactly is considered to have 'worthwhile educational value'?"

Station officials said a press release will be issued next week with a formal response from the station.



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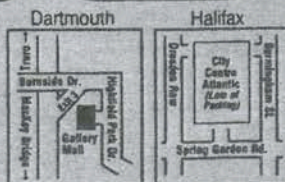
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Dalhousie Student Union By-Election Results

March 28 & 29

Vice-President
 Community Affairs

Lewis Jacobson 349

Jason Lecoure 43

Justin Levy 336

Faculty of Health Professions Senator
 Chris Gray Yes 44
 No 20

Advice from a pro

Isn't it funny how you only find what you've been looking for when you need it the least? Take this editorial for example. What I'm really looking for is twenty-five hundred words to fill eight to ten pages, and instead I've found the five hundred to fill an editorial.

Ahhhh. Procrastination.

I know I'm not alone. Stumbling to class I see that dazed look in people's eyes which poets mistake for lusty spring fever, and students recognize as "I've-Got-A-Paper-Due-Yesterday" anxiety. And chances are, if you're reading this, you too are putting off writing a term paper.

To ensure that reading the year's last issue of the Gazette is informative as well as entertaining, I've come up with some suggestions of what to do when your paper is due yesterday and you're too stressed to write.

1. Ask for an extension.

The key here is to be aggressive. So what if the paper is already late and you've had eight months to do it? You're a busy person. Start the bid off at mid June, just to show your professor how very busy you really are. In the unlikely event that your prof believes assigning a paper in September 1993 should give you ample time to rearrange your schedule, see option #2.

2. Ask for an extension and lie.

The death of a loved one is always a good excuse, but make sure it's appropriate. Moms and Dads are poor choices. Besides having to fake mourning a good three to eighteen months, it might be hard to explain the presence of your dearly departed at your May convocation. The death of a great aunt or a cousin more than twice removed does not usually warrant an extension. Grandparents are probably your best bet.

3. Fake it.

Don't hand in your paper. When you receive an F, confront your professor and demand an explanation.

"Of course I passed in my paper! Would I really be brazen or stupid enough not to pass it in and then stand here asking for an A?"

There are several variations to this technique such as leaving only the title page in your professor's mail box. Or if you if you're really on the ball, maybe the first two or three. By the time your professor apologizes for losing most of your paper, you should have it finished.

4. Hire a professional.

The professional would not be responsible for writing your paper, just printing it off. By adjusting the margins, font size, line and word spacing, five hundred words could fill eight type written pages. Ensure your professional doesn't go overboard. Anything less than six lines per page might make your prof suspicious.

5. Write the damn thing, hand it in and hope for the best.

By far, this is probably the best advice I can give you. Not that the other suggestions aren't good, it's just that most professors were once students too. It's unlikely that you could pull off a scam that they hadn't pulled off themselves.

There is an up side of having a prof who was once a student. Most of them know what it's like to be punctually challenged.

In the event that you do get an F, don't worry. If a university degree can't get you a job, why would an A?

Cheers.

Judy Reid



"CRUCIFY ME? HA HA! GOOD ONE! APRIL FOOL'S, INDEED..."



LETTERS

The Dalhousie Gazette welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should not exceed 500 words in length and should be typed and double-spaced. The deadline for letters is Monday 4 pm before publication. Letters may be e-mailed or submitted on Macintosh or IBM-compatible 3.5" disk.

Best and worst

community living could be achieved without social climbing and posturing provided more useful lessons than any pizza crust could.

Laurie Kinsman

having an opinion without being told what I should be thinking.

Christian Rose

To the editor:

I recently read Steve Tonner's article on the joys of residence life. I remember many good times I spent and great friends I met in my three years of residence in Howe Hall. Residence life truly is convenient, conducive to building long-lasting friendships and a character-building experience I would recommend for anyone's kid.

But now that I've been 'on the outside' for six years, I sympathize less and less with Mr. Tonner's sighs of 'those were the days' and more with the fact that residence life was never exempt from the bastardizations of the real world that we have all come to despise. The same attributes that made residence a complete community unto itself also tended to magnify its detracting to the point that it became suffocating.

Obviously, when you put 500 people in close quarters for eight months you can expect some aberrations. But in a *Land of the Flies* way, Howe Hall brought out the best in most and the worst in some.

While the somehow necessary, but sadly hollow, positions of government and security drew the interest of (and were awarded to) many competent students, there also seemed to be a recurring tendency to reward those with unwarranted influence, a facade of popularity, and most importantly, the innate ability to kiss ass. Sound familiar? Of course, hindsight is always 20/20 so I would be the first to admit I had onlooker apathy.

Applause and admiration is really overdue for the students who made (and make) honest efforts to better the residence community whether through a job, elected position or on their own time. The examples these people set are the memories that last.

While society doesn't always reward honest efforts, the students that proved

community living could be achieved without social climbing and posturing provided more useful lessons than any pizza crust could.

Laurie Kinsman

Thank BoG!

To the editor:

Now here is a sentence I never thought I would write. Thank goodness for the Dalhousie Board of Governors. It is about time that someone stood up to the thought police of the political correctness movement. For too long these people have told us how to think, where to think, and who we can think about. I for one reject this notion as an unreasonable restriction on my intellectual freedom.

The BoG has voted down a policy that was far too vague. Is an English professor who reads "The Rape of the Lock" in class guilty of harassing the female students? When you extol the virtues of Israel are you harassing Palestinian students? Or conversely if you publicly support an independent Palestinian state are you harassing Jewish students? The policy was so imprecise it could have been interpreted in these ways depending on who does the interpreting.

Now don't misunderstand. I am not saying that no harassment policy is acceptable. However it is not the place of a university administration to decide what is harassment and what is not. The lawmakers of this country are those who should make such a decision.

I should address the possibility that the Gazette will now receive letters admonishing me as a racist or sexist or any other label you might choose. I assure the readers of the Gazette that I am none of these things and despite how the harassment policy could have been interpreted I am not harassing anyone. The one thing I am guilty of is

Gazette sexist

To the editor:

I was shocked and dismayed to read the title assigned to my letter in the February 18 issue -- "Naked lunch". What was an attempt to raise people's awareness to the fact that breast-feeding is a natural an acceptable activity turned into a reaffirmation that society (including a reportedly non-sexist paper such as the Gazette) thinks that breast-feeding involved being naked. This was certainly a title laden with sexual connotations, which has offended breast-feeding women and other students.

It is my experience that breast-feeding women do not remove all of their clothes in order to feed. You may be surprised to know that often, the breast is not even visible to others. There are many discreet ways to breast-feed including nursing clothes with flaps and nursing blankets draped over the shoulder.

The more important point that needs to be made is that, contrary to the Gazette's belief, the breast is not a sex object. They are not designed for sexual activity but for infant feeding. When are people going to stop associating a woman's body with sex?

I guess the reason that breast-feeding on campus is seen as a controversial issue is that many people are still unable to face the fact that it is the natural function of the breast and does not fit within the context of the sexual hype apparent on campus.

I think it's time for breast-feeding women and students in general to take a stand on the more subtle sexism we face day to day.

Cynthia Peppard
4th year nursing

the Gazette

Vol 126 No 24

March 31, 1994

contributors

Mike Graham
Angel Figueroa
Mike Devonport
Robert Currie
Tara Gibson
Jason Blakey
Colin MacDonald
Garth Sweet
Sam McCaig
Kenneth Kam
Jen Horsey
Tom Conen
Robert Drinkwater
Jason Silver
Danielle Boudreau
Mary Deveau
Mark Farmer
Ken Goldenberg
Firdaus Bhatena
Carmen Tam
Joe O'Connor

editors (elect)

Judy Reid (managing)
Lilli Ju (copy)

editor

Ryan Stanley

a&e editor

Leslie Furlong

copy editor

Richard Lim

CUP editors

Judy Reid

Geoff Ineson

news editor

Crystal Levy

science editor

Steve Tonner

sports editor

Frank MacEachern

calendar

Lilli Ju

photo editor

Lisa Wamboldt

production manager

Shannon MacAulay

typesetter

Tammy Rogers

ad/business manager

Connie Clarke

494-6532 phone

494-1280 fax

Student Union Building, Dalhousie University
6136 University Ave., Halifax, N.S., B3H 4J2
(902) 494-2507/fax GAZETTE@ac.dal.ca

Founded in 1869 at Dalhousie College, the Gazette is Canada's oldest student newspaper. With a circulation of 10,000, the Gazette is published weekly through the Dalhousie Student Union by the Dalhousie Gazette Publishing Society, of which all Dalhousie University students are members. • The Gazette exercises full editorial autonomy and reserves the right to refuse or edit any material submitted. Editorial decisions are made by staff collectively. Individuals who contribute to three issues consecutively become voting staff members. • Deadline for commentary, letters to the editor, and announcements is 4:00 pm on Monday before publication (Thursday of each week). Commentary should not exceed 800 words. Letters should not exceed 500 words. No unsigned material will be accepted, but anonymity may be granted upon request. Submissions may be left at the SUB Enquiry Desk c/o the Gazette. • Advertising copy deadline is noon on Monday before publication. • The Gazette offices are located on the third floor of the SUB, Room 312. • The views expressed in the Gazette are not necessarily those of the Dalhousie Student Union, the editors or the collective staff.

the Gazette

Volume 127 Number 3

Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia

September 15, 1994

Injured frat brother top priority

by Joanna Mersky

Saturday night, September 10, was supposed to be Phi Kappa Pi fraternity's kickoff party to end Fresh Week and begin the school year. This year's rush drive was one of the best in years, with fraternity brothers participating on the orientation committee and as leaders. The party was packed, with money collected going to muscular dystrophy. However, the events that followed, resulting in the hospitalization of Darren Watts, 20, have been the focus of much attention recently. His condition is believed to be critical—his family has requested that daily reports on his condition not be released.

According to a press release from Phi Kappa Pi, three members went to help a young woman being assaulted on the street outside the frat house. While trying to stop the assault they were attacked by a group of approximately fifteen young men. All three fraternity brothers were seriously injured, including Darren Watts. The case is under criminal investigation and police are not commenting.

The few days since the incident have been like a roller coaster ride for Darren's family and fraternity brothers who have had to deal with a demanding press, their own grief and feelings of guilt as they begin the new school year.

"All we were doing was going to aid a woman who was being assaulted. We're not angels, but that [assaulting a woman] is just completely unacceptable," says Tom Wilson, active president of the fraternity.

One of the most difficult things for the young men to deal with is the constant onslaught of media demands and the conflicting and inaccurate rumors that have been flying around the city.

Asked why the fraternity and the

family did not release a statement right away, Wilson says his friend is the fraternity's top priority.

"Darren is a good friend of ours, our fraternity brother, and at Phi Kapp that means more than just being a member of our 'club'. I wanted to make sure that the family was taken care of. They didn't want a [media] circus, and we respected that," says Wilson.

Wilson and Eric Davis, alumni president, describe the "bad rap" the fraternity has received by the uninformed through word of mouth. Right after the assault, inaccurate media reports stated that fraternity brothers assaulted a man at their own frat party. Davis takes issue with that.

"A couple of days later, one of our brothers was walking down the street and approximately six people approached him and said, 'You're not so tough when there isn't fifteen of you, are you?'" Davis says.

According to Wilson and Davis, the group responsible for the violence outside the house is not associated with the fraternity in any way. Local newspaper reports state some of the attackers are believed to be high school students.

Students, faculty and many members of the community are supporting Watts by wearing yellow ribbons in the hope he will soon be home.

As Wilson describes him, Watts "is always doing something for somebody." As an active supporter of many charities, and well-known for his involvement in various organizations around Halifax, Watts has recently been the focus of prayers and encouragement from the many people who know him. Over a hundred supporters attended a prayer service at the King's College Chapel on Tuesday, overflowing the small building and continuing a silent vigil down the steps onto the lawn. The Phi Kappa Pi fraternity brothers were all wearing their fraternity letters as they were giving out ribbons.



Photo: Mike Devanport

Finally, made it to the cash register!

The back of the line might have been as close as some people thought they would get to the bookstore on Tuesday. A wait of up to two hours greeted students on Wednesday as well.

Parizeau takes power

Change or separation?

by Milton Howe

The Parti Québécois was swept into power with a widely predicted majority government on Monday night, but the details seem to show that Quebecers are sending a mixed message to both the Assemblée Nationale and the rest of Canada. Despite winning an overwhelming majority of seats, the P.Q. only garnered 44.8% of the votes, a mere 0.6% above the Liberal's 44.2%.

In Québec City, P.Q. Leader Jacques Parizeau and federal Bloc Québécois leader Lucien Bouchard addressed a rather dismal crowd of supporters, most of whom were kept at home due to inclement weather.

"The third period starts tomorrow morning," Parizeau said about the inevitable sovereignty referen-

dum, referring to a hockey metaphor he has used since the federal election which sent the separatist Bloc Québécois to Ottawa as Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition.

"We must become a normal people in a normal country," Lucien Bouchard shouted to much applause at the La Capitale music hall just outside the historic St. John's Gate in old Québec City.

Despite the apparent jubilation in the Péquiste camp, most political analysts are calling this somewhat of a victory for the PLQ (Liberal Party of Québec). It was widely believed before the ballots were counted that any more than 40 seats for the Liberals would be a strong show of support for the newly-elected leader Daniel Johnson and his ability to strengthen the federalist side in the referendum.

When the final totals were in, the Liberals counted 47 seats to the P.Q.'s 77, with one seat going to Mario Dumont, the 24-year old leader of the newly-created Parti Action Démocratique.

Federalist voices across the country were united in the opinion that this represented merely the desire of Quebecers for a change in government after nine years of Liberal rule and not a mandate for sovereignty. Prime Minister Jean Chrétien—who stayed remarkably silent throughout the campaign—spoke optimistically about the coming referendum. His tone was almost unanimously repeated among the other big players in the Canadian melodrama including Nova Scotia Premier John Savage.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

New national student organization threatens CFS

by David Chokroun

TORONTO (CUP)—Canada's only national student political group, the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), is going to have some competition.

The federation, which represents 70 universities and colleges, has been heavily criticized by student council leaders from Dalhousie, Western, the University of British Columbia, the University of Ottawa, McGill and Bishop's. Student leaders are charging the 13-year old organization is inefficient and fails to represent student interests.

The dissident student councils are in the planning stages of forming their own national student group, the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA), said Rod Macleod, president of the Dalhousie Student Union and chair of the alli-

ance.

One of the new group's main criticisms of CFS concerns its involvement in social issues, ranging from the environment, abortion rights, and the economic involvement of Pepsi Cola in Myanmar (Burma), where the government has oppressed pro-democracy activists, many of them students.

A CASA document states that CFS "chooses to focus on boycotting Pepsi instead of running an effective advertising campaign on education ... If education is to be saved, this must change."

But according to Mike Mancianelli, CFS deputy chair, the depth of the federation's involvement in social issues has been overestimated by its critics.

"You have to remember that these types of policies come from the members and are voted on and passed by

the members," Mancianelli said.

"We don't spend money lobbying for a boycott, and it costs maybe a few cents to add that motion to our policy manual. If schools want to

"You can't ignore what the majority of students want."

take up these issues, how can you ignore that? You can't ignore what the majority of students want."

Members of the new group also

criticize the system of voting representation at CFS. Although the membership fees of CFS schools are calculated according to their student population, all members receive one vote in plenary meetings.

"A school like York University pays more into the system, but has the same voting power as the University of Prince Edward Island," Macleod said.

Macleod said the new group is considering two alternatives. The first is a system where all institutions would still have one vote, regardless of size, but would all pay the same fee.

The alternative is a weighted voting system, where member schools would receive one vote per 5,000 students, with a maximum of three votes. In this case, larger schools would also pay higher fees for greater voting power.

Gareth Spanglett, president of the University of Toronto's main student council, said he doubts that the new group will provide a viable alternative to CFS.

"I don't think they're trying to create anything different from CFS. The way they're trying to set it up, they're doing the things CFS originally did and is doing now," Spanglett said.

In Nova Scotia, seven universities are members of CFS, including Dalhousie. Two years ago, St. Francis Xavier University at Antigonish withdrew from the organization. Among the remaining members, Dalhousie, Acadia, Mount Saint Vincent, and University College of Cape Breton (UCCB) are facing membership referenda this year, where students will decide whether or not to continue membership in CFS.