

Dal men organize against sexism

By MARY ELLEN JONES

HALF A DOZEN MEN HAVE formed a Dalhousie support group for men concerned about sexism.

Avery Kempton, the new group's founder, says Men and Sexism will be a bridge for men who are unknowledgable and scared about the implications of sexism in society, and will make them more aware of, and sensitive to the issues surrounding sexism.

Men and Sexism is to be an informative apparatus which will be helpful to men who are struggling with sexism, says Kempton.

Although the group wants to be informative and active, it does not see its role as an educator.

"The group was not started to change the world around," but to give support for a concerned group of men, says Barney Savage, vice-president external

for the Dalhousie Student union, and a member of the group.

"I think Men and Sexism is necessary because there are some men who have honest difficulty in finding their place in feminism and wondering if they have a place at all," says Savage. "Right now we are just a group of five men who have gotten together to discuss issues of gender and sexuality," he says.

One man who wanted to sit on the DSU women's committee has decided Men and Sexism is more of what he is looking for in joining the women's committee.

"The group probably offers more than a women's committee," says Sean Sweeny, a DSU councillor. Sweeny had said he wanted to sit on the women's committee to learn more about women's problems and how men can help.

The group will be meeting regularly but will not have close affiliation with the Dalhousie

Student Union, says Kempton.

Kempton says he has had discussions with women's society co-founder Nancy Cameron regarding occasionally combining his group and hers.

"It is necessary to come together once in a while," says Kempton, "just to find out what is being discussed in each group, but this is a long way off."

Cameron agrees with Kempton. "The two groups should come together but it will depend on the group's own objectives," says Cameron.

"I think it is more terrifying for men to realize the implications of the patriarchal system than women," says Cameron.

Kempton says men and women should be apart for periods of time to discuss what is happening in today's changing world. "If we are ever going to be whole human beings we must break away from each other for awhile," says Kempton.

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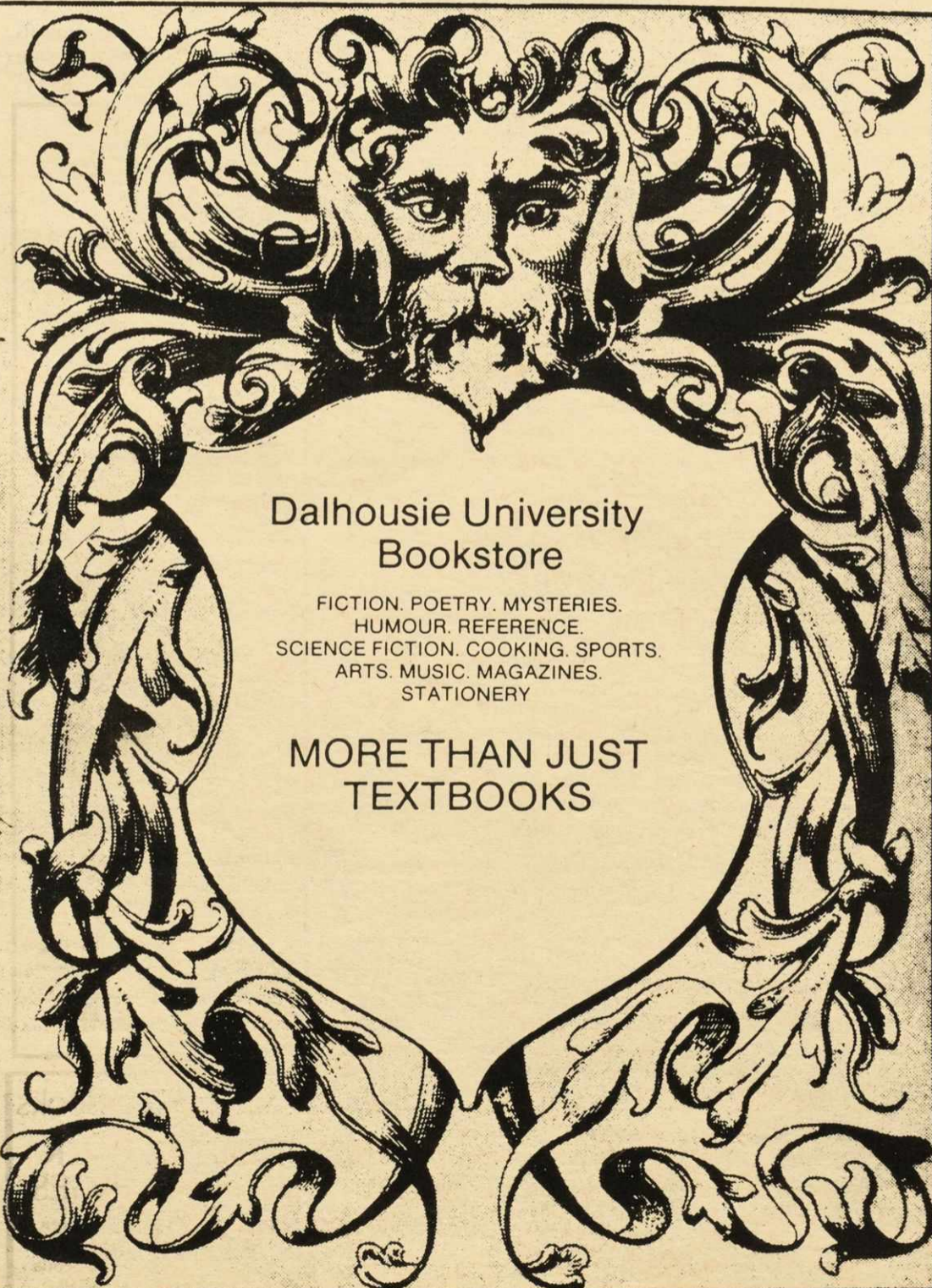
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