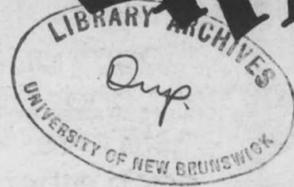


# The Brunswickian



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## Gender committee unveils proposal

by Marc Mercier

UNB's faculty of law has joined other Canadian law schools in an effort to address gender imbalances in legal education.

The law school's Committee on Gender-Related Policy unveiled this week its plans for the implementation of a gender-related policy aimed at redressing gender imbalances at the faculty. The Committee's Chairperson, Professor Myron Gochnauer, said they are considering a number of ways to promote gender equality at the school.

Topping the list of issues being considered by the Committee are: the recommended adoption of a new hiring policy for faculty whereby female applicants would, with few exceptions, be hired exclusively until they represent 40% of staff; the implementation of "attractive separation opportunities" to free up positions for female staff; and that adjustments be made to the curriculum to effectively accommodate the feminist perspective in the classroom.

With approximately 100 students, faculty and staff in attendance, the audience heard from committee members Gochnauer, law faculty members David Bell and David Townsend, Wendy Robbins of the Department of English, and Ann Wheeler of the National Association of Women and the Law respecting the proposal. Prof. Townsend set the tone of the information session by stating, "the law school must take a pro-active approach to effectively and adequately address these gender-related imbalances."

The percentage of women enrolled in UNB'S law programme fell in 1989 to 30%, representing more than a 10% decline over 1988 figures. The faculty of law is presently comprised of 11% women teachers. Ms. Robbins, the only member of the Committee not directly affiliated with the law school,

said these figures are "tremendously disproportionate against women."

The Committee's proposal comes forward at a time when feminist issues appear to be moving to the forefront of discussions at law schools across Canada, as well as other departments and faculties:

At York University's Osgoode Hall, the Dean of Law, James McPherson, was forced to tackle the issue head on in December. Dean McPherson issued a public statement in support of the feminist perspective in legal education after law student Michael Reilly wrote a letter in York's student newspaper in November denouncing the amount of feminist content in one of his courses.

Following the killing of 14 women at the University of Montreal by an anti-feminist gunman in December, the worst mass shooting in Canadian history, a Queen's University law student startled many campus onlookers by dodging imaginary bullets. As one Globe & Mail article recently noted, the incident at Queen's comes at a time when their faculty of law is experiencing their own internal problems with allegations of sexual harassment being levied against a few male professors.

A University of Ottawa professor was recently attacked for his use of a poster advertising a controversial court decision which held that sexual harassment "did not constitute serious bodily harm."

In another incident at Osgoode Hall, two managers of a campus bar resigned following a Women's Caucus demand that no males be on duty during a party they had organized.

The University of Western Ontario's faculty of law is still dealing with its own problems following last spring's allegation by 20 anonymous law students accusing several of their professors of sexual harassment. More recently, the traditionally conservative and

right-wing University made the news again when law professor Constance Backhouse made public her findings that sexual discrimination against women faculty members was rampant on that campus. Backhouse's findings served to only further entrench dissension among faculty staff at that law school.

The former associate dean of law at Western, Craig Brown, was fired in mid-December for his alleged outspoken support of women's rights in the law school.

Brown has since sued the university for wrongful dismissal. The dean of Western's law school, Peter Mercer, continues to argue that Brown's dismissal was due to a breach of confidentiality.

In early January, the faculty of the Ontario College of Art in Toronto implemented an employment equity scheme which will have a 100% female hiring policy for the next 10 years.

James Gill, Student Union Vice-President responsible for

University Affairs, responded favourably to the proposal. He said, "the fact the issue is getting serious concern to the point of definite proposals is very encouraging." He further added he "finds the idea of such an affirmative action programme in faculty recruitment to be an extremely good one, especially in the law faculty."

See Committee on page 7.



The "piggy bank" sculpture which was entered into the snow sculpture contest at UNB. The sculpture is in front of Singer Hall.

## Winter Carnival '90

### Press Release

Winter Carnival 1990 is here at UNB and is "a definite go", according to the Student Union.

This week a hypnotist was at UNB. Mike Mandel gave a free show for an audience of about one hundred people.

The audience enjoyed 2 hours of solid laughs as they watched friends perform various acts induced by hypnosis.

During the week the

Student Union and other organizations on campus have been working on their snow sculptures. Judging has been rescheduled for Friday with cash prizes for the best effort.

Other activities include a ski expedition at Crabbe Mountain, Chalk Circle performing in the SUB cafeteria Friday night, Varsity Mania hockey on Saturday night with the band Ujamaa following the event in the ballroom.

Movies for the week are

the second attempt at showing The Rocky Horror Picture Show and Dead Poets Society.

**SPORTS**  
**Red Devils**  
**Defeat**  
**#2 Moncton**  
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