

## Misogyny Misogyny Misogyny

By SAMANTHA BRENNAN

**MISOGYNY** - (mis oje ne) n. hatred of women (from Greek *misogynia* from *misein* to hate *gyne* women) Misogynist n., Misogynous adj.

It seems odd to have to define this word to a university audience, but it seems like some people in the student union have yet to learn what it means. Witness the Unicorn Café last Sunday evening.

An otherwise enjoyable evening was ruined on Sunday by a few performers who thought the best way to get laughs was to make jokes about women.

You know the kind, "I knew a girl who was so ugly that ...."

One male singer in particular began his routine with a joke about the Incredible Hulk making an attempt to fuck Wonderwoman only to find the Invisible Man already there. You probably know this joke as well. Today we have a more accurate word for trying to fuck a woman without her consent. It's called rape and it's not funny.

This same person continued to sing songs like, "My Dingaling" suggesting "Why don't the girls sing my and the boys sing ding a ling?"

The worst point in the show came when he sang something called "I'd like to see old Dolly Par-

ton's tits" with great lines like "I put my hands in pockets when I see old Dolly's rockets."

During this act, myself and another woman got up to ask Rusty James (he's the Vice-President of our student union) to do something. We interrupted his clapping and singing along to **Dolly Parton's Tits** verse two. He said there was nothing he could do despite the fact he was MC-ing the show.

Are the sizes of women's breasts that funny? Women are human beings (sounds pretty basic doesn't it?) and not objects of ridicule.

I was somewhat cheered to know that I wasn't alone in my disgust. I saw other women looking nervously at their companions unsure whether to laugh. Still other women spoke up and heckled the performers.

Later in the evening a regular performer of the coffeehouse circuit complained about the heckling and the article in the *Gazette* that was sure to follow. Here it is.

It's time we make it clear that these sorts of attitudes are not welcome on our campus. Perhaps representatives from the arts society should speak to performers before the coffeehouse and explain that sexism isn't welcome.

We talk a lot at university. In our political science and philosophy classes we talk a lot about equality, justice and liberty. Talk is cheap.

## Lounge lizards mourn

Working on the *Gazette* can be—to be honest—a bit of a trying experience sometimes. Just about anything can go wrong, and it often does: the typesetting may be late, a key story may not show, an important interview may be cancelled—the kind of stuff that often has editors and production people pulling out their hair and swearing in various ethnic languages. In the past we've always been able to console ourselves with a quick wee drink (o two) in the Grawood lounge, nicely situated next to our bustling abode on the third floor of the SUB.

But alas, in our early afternoon

hours of need, the Grawood has suddenly become dry in order to provide extra cafeteria space for those crowded out of the Garden and subsequently too young to imbibe in the spirits normally available there.

Although the dry spell only lasts until 3 p.m., when the lounge lizards make their way back to the watering hole, we nonetheless mourn the passing of our early afternoon facility.

We are in solidarity with those too young to drink and without proper eating facilities for lunch, and will do our best to cope with the ravenous thirst.

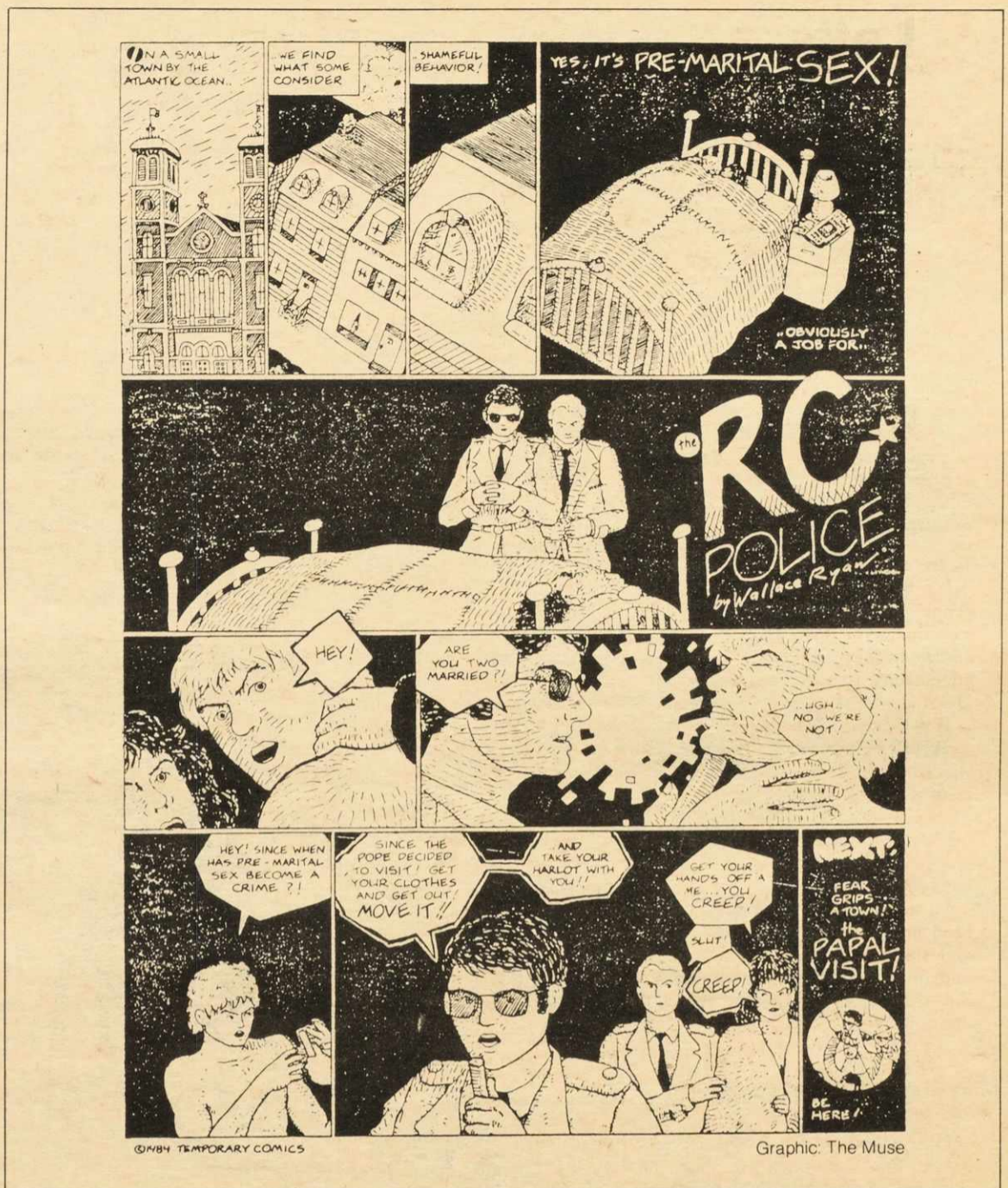
## Dont pin hopes on Pope

The Pope's Canadian tour—touching down in Halifax today and tomorrow—is more than just a spiritual rally for the country's Roman Catholics.

The Pope brings with him a suitcase full of positions on a wide variety of political and social issues which may have some impact not only on Canadian political life, but on the local clergy that has recently become more liberal in philosophy.

Although the Pope has spoken out against human rights violations internationally and has worked for world peace, he nonetheless is a very conservative leader in other matters.

The Pope has taken an unshakable stance against ordaining women in the church, homosexuality, birth control, choice on abortion and is fervently against "liberation theology"—a blend of Marxism and Catholicism popular



## Faulkner clarifies DFA position

To the editors,

The Dalhousie Faculty Association appreciates the front-page attention that you gave to the contract negotiations now going on between the DFA and the Board of Governors. Students have a clear interest in knowing what is happening there, and the DFA is glad to

provide all the information that it can.

But there are some corrections and clarifications that I would like to make. **First**, there is no chance that professors will be on strike next month. Instead there is a chance that the DFA Executive will ask DFA members to take a strike vote in October or November. This will happen only if negotiations are going so badly that such a step seems necessary. Once a strike vote is taken, several other steps must follow—including mediation by the provincial government—before any strike action can occur. My guess is that the earliest time for actual strike action is January.

**Second**, your article might be read to mean that the DFA is thinking only of asking its members to stop teaching for an indefinite period of time. On the other hand you quote Mr. Alex Gigeroff, DSU President, as suggesting a range of less severe alternatives. In fact those alternatives were originally proposed by the DFA. What is true is that we are actively consulting the Student Union Executive in an effort to develop a range of actions that leave students unaffected while bringing pressure to bear on the Board of Governors to reach a reasonable settlement.

**Third**, your article implies that the Board's most recent salary offer is much more generous than it actually is. The salary package is complicated, but you would be reasonably close to the facts if you

thought of the Board's offer as being about one-third of the increases recently granted to other faculty associations at Nova Scotia universities. By contrast the DFA's salary proposal merely asks that DFA members be given an increase that would bring their salaries by easy stages back up to their 1978 levels by 1989, five years from now.

Thank you for opening this issue up for general discussion on campus. I particularly want to thank you for making the point in your first report that no DFA member really wants to take strike action.

Yours sincerely,  
Tom Sinclair-Faulkner  
DFA Secretary

Special Delivery Express

## Letters

Deadline for letters to the editor is noon, Monday before publication. Letters must be typed double-spaced and be less than 300 words. Letters can be dropped at the SUB enquiry desk or brought up to *The Gazette* offices, third floor, SUB.