

New administrator, new name

Dal acquires VP Research

BY SHELLEY ROBINSON

Dalhousie is adding a new vice-president to its roster of administrators in an attempt to show it's a serious school needing serious money.

The new position, vice-president research, will start July

1, 2000.

The vice-president will help professors and departments find public and private funding for their research.

The new position combines the work of the current associate vice-president research and the research portion of the vice-president academic and research.

Sam Scully, current vice-president academic and research, says it's mostly a name change.

"The basic purpose is symbolic," he said. "Dalhousie is a research-intensive institution and we wanted to signal and confirm that fact."

Scully says most universities with significant graduate

programs have vice-presidents of research and that Dal's current associate vice-president research is more in line with schools that focus on undergraduate degrees.

And that's not the image Dal is trying to portray.

Scully also says the new position is more than a cash grab, though he admits there is always

room for more money.

"I think we always have to try to do more," he said. "We're having to work harder and harder to get the same research funding."

When the new position takes effect Scully will become vice-president academic and provost — provost signifying the position's seniority.

Gay-bashings common

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the last few months. It's not uncommon, it's just not publicized as the one in Fredericton."

Greenaway says most people don't know about Halifax's incidents because they're reported as assaults and not gay-bashings. Since the bashings aren't properly documented, "it's hard to keep stats," she said.

Caitlyn Hancey, a member of Dalhousie's HUMANS Against Homophobia (HAH), agrees. She says many incidents are reported as regular assaults because "the victims don't want it publicized."

She says many victims are afraid of retaliation.

But Hancey says homophobia in our society is a bigger issue than most people realize and it needs to be addressed. While she knows of cases of gay-bashing that involved a gay person being physically assaulted, she also sees gay-bashing going on everyday, most of which involves verbal bashing.

Her group, HAH, a working group of Nova Scotia Public Interest Research Group (NSPIRG)

is planning a display and a publication which allows people of any sexual orientation to communicate their stories of homophobia — dislike of homosexuals — and heterosexism — the assumption everyone is straight.

The project was well underway before the Fredericton gay-bashing incidents. Hancey says it's a sad coincidence.

Members of BGLAD are also planning on releasing a small publication of their own providing information about gay-bashing.

"I know that bashings are happening, but I don't know the numbers. [They're] not really well known [because] it's not properly documented," she said.

Greenaway believes the public needs to know that Fredericton wasn't an isolated case. Homophobia and gay-bashing are everywhere.

"I'm not downplaying the Fredericton [incident] at all," she said. "I think it was pretty serious and pretty upsetting."

Greenaway insists it's not the only case.

Police charge man in the attack of a UNB student

BY DAN MALONE AND JOSEPH W.J. FITZPATRICK III

FREDERICTON (CUP) — A 23-year-old man has been charged with assault causing bodily harm in connection with the beating of a University of New Brunswick law student.

The break in the case came just one day after Fredericton City Police announced they had a more detailed description of the person who attacked Robbie Peterson.

The person — whose name was not released — was described by police as a male in his 20s, weighing 160 lbs, standing 5'8" tall and wearing bright designer clothing. Crime Stoppers offered a \$2,000 reward for information leading to the arrest of the suspect.

According to news reports, police picked up the man walking on the street late Wednesday, November 17.

The Fredericton Police Force's Major Crime Unit is handling the investigation and will not release the name of the individual until he appears in court for arraignment.

An arraignment date has not been set yet.

Peterson, who is gay, was attacked early on the morning of November 6 on his way home from a downtown bar. He was beaten while his attacker hurled insults regarding Peterson's sexual orientation.

Peterson was struck in the face but managed to get a glimpse of his attacker.

The attacker left Robbie yelling "faggot, what's wrong with you?" The attack happened during a busy time of night with many people going to and from the local hotspots. Cars drove past and people passed as the attack happened. After the attack Peterson made his way to a phone and called for help.

The attack outraged the local community.

Friday, November 12, was no ordinary night in downtown

Fredericton, as a crowd of more than 200 braved freezing temperatures to protest Peterson's beating.

It was the largest gay rights rally in Fredericton in recent memory, eclipsing even protests against former Fredericton mayor Brad Woodside's refusal to proclaim Gay Pride Day.

Peterson, demonstrators claim, was the victim of a hate crime.

Organizers of the rally were primarily students of the Faculty of Law at UNB.

James Whitehead, a UNB postdoctoral fellow and long-time gay rights activist, said the rally was designed to focus the public spotlight on hate crimes. He also expressed concern that police do not record assaults targeted on the basis of race, creed, colour,

religion or sexual orientation as hate crimes.

"We can't expect the police to protect us, they may want to, but they can't be there all the time with their meagre resources," said Whitehead.

Moments before 10 p.m. on the day of the rally, as protesters huddled to stay warm, Peterson arrived. Speaking to the media he expressed his gratitude for the support of his friends and the community as a whole and said he was physically recovering.

Peterson grew up in a large city on the American West Coast where, he said, diversity was appreciated. He picked up on his story and wants to get the word out because he is "terrified that it could happen to someone else."



Robbie Peterson, a law student at the University of New Brunswick was brutally assaulted on November 6, in an apparent case of gay-bashing. A 23-year-old man has been arrested.

Nurse shortage

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graduating nursing students want to remain in Nova Scotia to pursue their career, the shortage makes other areas more appealing.

Although the Conservative government focused on the shortage as part of their summer election campaign, the NSNU says little has been done to rectify the situation.

The NSNU estimates that 650 new full-time nurses will be needed.

Health Minister Jamie Muir stated that the government is working on the problem, but they still need to assess the number of nurses required.

"There have been about 130 new nurses hired or converted [from] casual to full time," said Muir. He also stated that the government made a commitment to increase the number of positions in the Dalhousie and St. Francis Xavier Universities' Schools of Nursing by 75 seats, as well as advertising for nursing positions in the paper.

20 years ago this week

Somebody peed in the pool

Just a month after its official opening, Dalplex was not open to the general public. Rumors were circulating around campus about why exactly Dalplex couldn't be used by the student population. Some of the rumors included polluted water in the pool to leaks in the air system.

The women's swim team was able to use the pool and due to an irrevocable commitment, the Atlantic tennis Tournament was held at Dalplex.

Benefits of oppression

Marxist-Leninists prepared for a conference called Who Benefits from National Oppression. There was a voluntary fee of \$1,

the conference was part of the organization's sixth anniversary.

Power Mongers at the DSU

Student senate members Board of Governors members were given voting privileges in Dalhousie's student council. Senate rep Gord Owen who brought the motion forward was surprised to see it passed so unanimously as it had been shot down several times before. Fellow rep Andras Vamos Goldman stated the reason for the changes was because the council was less pretentious than in previous years, and less power hungry.

Star Trek more important than homework

Things all began going downhill when the Dean of the Chemistry department found himself in the middle of a fight with a bunch of trekkies playing Star Trek in the computer terminal and monopolizing use of these computers. Students and faculty complained of an increase of abuse of Dal computer labs by individuals playing computer games on computers which were reserved for work. What made this so upsetting was that none of the players ever got past level two...

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