

THE GAZETTE

SO LONG AND THANKS FOR ALL THE FISH

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The new Board of Governor's meeting room, part of the \$1.2 million renovations to the MacDonald Science building. If the motion before the BoG passes, they will use this space four times per year.

DAL PHOTO: BRIAN BUCHANAN

Conference calls for clarity

BY LISA LACHANCE

A university campus is a scary place.

One in six Canadian women will be sexually assaulted during their university career. Of these assaults, eighty-five percent are by someone the woman knows. Only a small percentage of sexual assaults are reported, according to many studies.

On Friday and Saturday, March 27 - 28 Dalhousie hosted the First Atlantic Canadian Conference on Sexual Assault on Campus. The conference was co-sponsored by Dal's Department of Housing and Conference Services and the Atlantic Association of College and University

Student Services (AACUSS). People who deal with this issue on campuses across the Maritimes attended, including students, residence personnel and administrators.

University President Dr. Howard Clark opened the conference, stating that universities needed a "clear statement... and an environment which expresses that sexism, sexual abuse and sexual assault are not acceptable." Similar cries were echoed by most who attended the conference.

Patti Melanson, a representative of Service for Sexual Assault Victims (SSAV), provided an introduction to sexual assault and dealing with victims. She pointed out that many

Canadian women had their university career limited by fear for their safety on campus.

She called for clear and well publicised university policies. Melanson also emphasized the importance of victims having "an advocate... support person, someone to understand and empathize."

Donna Hardy from Memorial University presented A Two-Year Process to Address Sexual Assault and Campus Safety, which is considered an impressive example of how to handle these issues. She encouraged administrators not to dismiss rumours of problems on campus.

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Presidential Perks

BY JERRY WEST

When searching for a new President most universities still continue the archaic practise of interviewing the candidates' spouses. Dalhousie takes this one step farther by actually hiring the spouse.

In 1986 when Howard Clark was hired as president of the university his wife Joy was also hired. Her title is "Associate with the President."

"I've never seen a job description for her," said a source inside the President's office, "she performs some kind of hostessing function."

The position not only has no job description but has never been listed in the directory of university employees. Indeed the President's office won't release any information on Mrs. Clark.

In a telephone interview Mrs. Clark said publicity for her position is "not appropriate," since she is employed by the university as a concession to her husband.

The Board of Governors meeting at which the Clarks were hired was *in camera* so none of the records are available. The hiring of non-senior administrative employees is handled by committee though, so it is unlikely that Mrs. Clark's appointment ever came before the full board.

For the first two years of her employment Mrs. Clark had to be flown in for parties as she was completing her Ph.D. in biochemistry at the University of Western Ontario. In the past year her salary was raised from \$12 000 to \$15 000. The current wage freeze agreement allows for pay increases in cases of "good performance."

The Board of Governors has recently come under criticism from students for their motion to limit meetings. If the motion is passed the executive of the board will deal with all of the "day to day" business of the university while the full board will meet only four times per year.

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