

Yaqzan calls it quits American feminist defends UNB prof

by G. Bruce Rolston

TORONTO (CUP) — Matin Yaqzan, the professor whose published views on campus date rape led to his suspension from the University of New Brunswick faculty last November, has quietly retired from his teaching position.

An assistant professor of mathematics at UNB, Yaqzan retired effective Jan. 1. In a prepared statement, the UNB teachers' association and administration said Yaqzan had "exercised an early retirement option available to him."

The professor had been suspended for two months, but was recently reinstated. He had been expected to resume teaching when UNB classes resumed on Jan. 10. Administration spokesperson Susan Montague said new instructors had been found to teach Yaqzan's math classes. She declined to comment further on the settlement.

"The matter is dead. Professor Yaqzan is now a retired member of the faculty."

Montague said no further action by the UNB administration was anticipated.

"No further investigation of any kind is contemplated."

The severance package may include a period of retirement with full pay as well as a pension. Teachers' association president Jack Vanderlinde said professors with Yaqzan's 27 years of service would be eligible for a full pension worth just over half of their current salary. Yaqzan's salary in his final year of teaching was roughly \$60,000.

Vanderlinde stressed that Yaqzan was not pushed into retirement.

"It was an option that was available to him. It was his choice."

Yaqzan received international attention for an opinion piece he wrote for the UNB student newspaper, *The Brunswickan*.

In the article, Yaqzan said college women as well as men bore blame if they were sexually assaulted by acquaintances.

"When a boy invites a girl to his bedroom, especially after meeting her for the first time, she should consider it as an invitation for sexual intercourse," he wrote.

Following the article, the student council demanded Yaqzan's resignation. University vice-president Tom Traves suspended Yaqzan from teaching when the furor over the article first erupted last November, but was forced to backpedal a week later when university lawyers concluded UNB did not have the legal authority to arbitrarily suspend a professor.

Despite being opposed to the ruling, Yaqzan agreed not to resume teaching for the remainder of the term.

Yaqzan, who has declined to comment on the incident from the beginning, continues his silence.

by Karen Burgess

FREDERICTON (CUP)—Feminist critic and controversial author Camille Paglia has condemned the University of New Brunswick for suspending assistant professor Matin Yaqzan.

Paglia, whose most recent book *Sex, Art and American Culture* includes essays on date rape and other issues of sex and sexuality, called the university's move "fascist" and accused the administration of infringing on Yaqzan's civil liberties.

"It seems to me that in a democracy, free speech must be our paramount principle. It must supersede all questions of ideology," she said in an interview with *The Brunswickan*. "I believe the more offensive the speech, the more it's in the best interests of a democracy."

Yaqzan, an assistant math professor, received a suspension after arguing in a Nov. 5 opinion piece that date rape is the fault of the woman, not the man, and should not be considered a crime. The suspension was later revoked but he was forbidden to teach for the rest of the year. Yaqzan has since retired from teaching.

Paglia called for UNB President Robin Armstrong to be removed from office. "He's a totalitarian and has no business running a university which should be about free inquiry," she said.

"But he's consistent," she continued. "His behavior is consistent with this whole master class of administrators that rose up after World War II. It is a problem that afflicts North American education. These administrators in this post-war era are servile to the parents and their cheque

books. They think of the faculty as merely their pawns."

Since Yaqzan was not on probation with the university, and had not previously been warned not to openly express his views, "then this is a clear case of fascism," she said.

"It's like the Salem witch trials, where a scapegoat is being made just so the college administration can appear to take a pious position," she said.

"It's absolutely outrageous. All students should be outraged by this, because this is the kind of thing that in another climate would lead to a gay professor getting penalized for expressing opinions about gay rights."

Many of the views expressed in Yaqzan's article are similar to those espoused by Paglia. She said she is familiar with the criticisms of Yaqzan's opinions, as the same arguments have been used in the past to refute her views.

"I have been called pro-rape because of my positions. Pro-rape! This is how mad everything is. It just seems to me that we need more articles like Yaqzan's at this point."

She said she sees nothing wrong with Yaqzan signing the piece as an employee of the university.

"Whenever a professor speaks his personal views he is allowed to put his post, his position within the university, at the bottom," she said. "Everyone does that."

According to Paglia, opinions like Yaqzan's should be widely disseminated.

"It seems to me that one should have a million articles like this, not just one, because it's only when we get the stuff on paper that we force these issues, and most of what he says in that article is completely true."

Banner finds new home

by Jen Horsey

The show must go on for staff and students in Dal's threatened fine arts programs.

On Friday January 7 a press conference was held in the Green Room of the Student Union Building to announce the remounting of the 20 x 30 foot sign bearing the "Dalhousie HeARTless Imagine" slogan — this time, on the wall of the Dalhousie SUB.

The conference attracted the attention of many members of the local media, and about 150 students and staff of the Theatre Department were present to show their opposition to the proposed cuts.

In September Dalhousie President Howard Clark called for the closure of the theatre, music and costume studies programs as a way to save the university money.

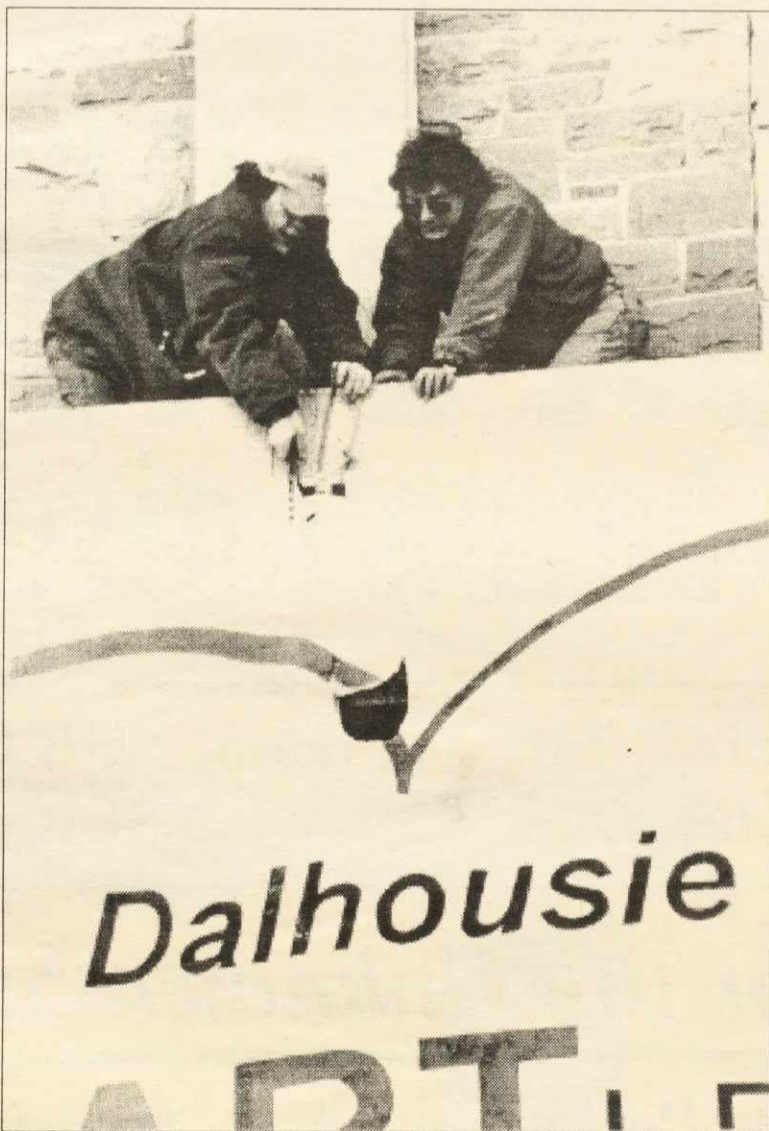
On October 27 Theatre Department staff hung the sign on the wall of the Arts Centre, in a spot normally used to advertise departmental activities, shows and events. However, it was removed on November 7 on the orders of Bryan Mason, Vice-President (Finance and Administration). The Theatre Department was never consulted.

The department took the matter to the Dalhousie Faculty Association and launched a formal grievance against the university, arguing that this was an infringement of academic freedom. The department failed to resolve the matter informally with Deborah Hobson, the university's Vice-President (Academic and Research).

Students say they hope the sign will stand as a reminder that the decision has not yet been made, and that they are still fighting.

"No decision has yet been reached...and undoubtedly discussion about the future of our department will continue at various administrative levels for several additional months," said Lynn Sorge, the Chair of the Theatre Department.

The heARTless sign is intended to remain on the Student Union Building until the grievance is resolved, and the sign can be replaced on the Arts Centre. "The Student Union Building is basically our building," said DSU President



A sign of the times.

PHOTO: LISA WAMBOLDT

Jefferson Rappell.

"There would be an awful fight if [the administration] wanted to tell us what to do."

Ryan Rogerson, a third-year acting student, is pleased that the sign is back up. "The SUB is a very visible building. People are going to start seeing us again...[and] if people forget about us, we're not going to achieve anything."

It is not only students in the threatened departments who object to the proposed cuts. "To date, 9,000 signatures protesting the [Dalhousie] president's recommendations have been collected on petitions which were circulated all across Canada," said Sorge.

Sorge said she is concerned about the effects of the controversy on enrolment. "It is difficult to assess

whether the president's announcement will have a significant effect on next year's enrolment," said Sorge, adding that national and provincial recruitment campaigns are underway.

"Students who enroll here will be able to finish," she said.

Once the group moved outside to look at the newly mounted sign, several passers-by joined the group in a show of their support. Joanne Merriam, a third-year math major, said, "It's appalling that they're trying to close down the fine arts."

Staff and students in the threatened departments are still waiting anxiously for a conclusion to the controversy that surrounds them, but are, as first-year student Matt Kennedy says, "trying to fight our damndest to keep ourselves alive."

Student federation hopes Dal won't go away

by Robert Drinkwater

The chair of the Canadian Federation of Students says his organization plans to campaign in Dalhousie's upcoming referendum on whether to remain in CFS.

Carl Gillis says CFS usually tries to step up awareness of the organization whenever there's a membership referendum on a campus.

"It's like an election," Gillis explained, and said there would be people putting up posters around campus. He said they would probably be coordinated by Nova Scotia's representative on CFS's national executive, and that the CFS fieldworker for Nova Scotia and Newfoundland would also be involved.

Gillis made the remarks after speaking to Dalhousie Student Union councillors about the importance of CFS. He pointed out that the

national federation operates a variety of services, such as Travel Cuts, the Student Work Abroad Program (SWAP), and a national health program. He said it also lobbies government on behalf of students.

Currently, all Dalhousie students are members of CFS, and pay a \$4 membership fee collected along with their regular student union fee. However, CFS came under fire on campus last fall when it proposed increasing its per-student fee from four to six dollars. Some DSU councillors said the CFS political wing was wasting time and money fighting NAFTA and cuts to the CBC rather than focusing on issues of more direct concern to students.

The DSU voted in October to ask students in a referendum whether or not they wanted to remain members of CFS. The referendum is slated to take place from March 29 to 31, 1994.

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