

# Dalhousie gets full-time prof Minority hiring up?

by Sandra Bit

On January 1, 1990, a woman from a visible minority was appointed an assistant professor at the Maritime School of Social Work. Professor Wanda Thomas-Bernard, a black Nova Scotian from Preston, now enjoys the distinction of being that school's first visible minority full-time faculty member.

Professor Thomas-Bernard has been teaching on a sessional basis at the school since 1981, and is working towards her doctorate. She teaches Advanced Social Work Practice, and Cross-Cultural Issues and Social Work Practice.

Thomas-Bernard's appointment was described as "sort of a natural evolution" by the school's director, Dr. Daniel O'Brien.

Thomas-Bernard will help to further the school's long-standing policy of reaching out to minorities, particularly at the admissions level, since she will act as a consultant to the school on minority issues. The Maritime School of Social Work is one of

the leaders on campus in terms of furthering the advancement of minorities through the post-secondary education system.

O'Brien pointed out that the school has had a Committee on Racial and Ethnic Affairs in place for the past twelve years, its aim being to reach out to students from a wide variety of minorities, and encourage them to further their education in the field of social work.

While very recent programs, such as the Dalhousie Law School's newly-formed minority commission to reach out to minority students, have received much favourable attention, the MSSW's program has been in effect for well over a decade, added O'Brien.

One of the results of the school's efforts to have minority groups gain more access to education has been the development of a special program for the province's Micmac social workers.

When asked why it took so long for a member of a visible minority to be hired, O'Brien said that due to low turnover, new positions at

the school arise very rarely, usually only as a result of the retirement of a faculty member or by voluntary separation. The position Thomas-Bernard now occupies was the first one available at the school in the past seven years. Despite this, emphasis will continue to be placed on the hiring of minorities whenever possible.

Dalhousie has created a special position — the Employment Equity Officer — to address the matter of increasing the number of ethnic minorities hired on both an academic and non-academic level at the university.

The president's office is currently searching for someone from a minority group to work closely with the president in the planning and implementation of affirmative action hiring programs in all Dalhousie departments.

The hope is that by addressing the lack of minorities at the university by actively hiring them, the racial disparity inherent in the university system can eventually be overcome and eradicated.

## Editor ousted

continued from page 1

French said since the council is responsible for how *The Campus's* money is spent, it has the authority to impeach the editor.

Although he admitted impeachment is a drastic measure, French said that he saw nothing wrong with the way the decision was made.

"I would see the impeachment as a problem if it was a couple of rednecks who made the decision, but here you have intelligent (student representatives) seeing it as a solution," French said.

French said that although there is support at the university for an independent *Campus*, most students support the council's decision to fire Soifer.

Soifer said his impeachment illustrates the need for independence for *The Campus*.

"We are going to go for complete autonomy now," he said. "We don't want to get stepped on again. We want editorial and financial control, with a board ensuring proper financial management."

"A newspaper has to be independent if it is to fulfill its role in society. With no newspaper — or a newspaper run by the council — students will be ill-informed."

### GAZETTE ADVERTISING 424-6532

This week's Monday Movie

## THE GREAT GATSBY

Monday, February 5 8:00 pm McInnes Rm.

Admission: \$3 with CFS Studentsaver Card \$3.50 University Students  
\$4 General Admission



1333 South Park St. (in the Park Victoria)  
(Pssst...don't miss the Great Flambee Getaway,  
Win a trip for two to Paris & other great prizes).

## CUP Briefs

### Sit-in at SFU ends

VANCOUVER (CUP) — About 35 Simon Fraser students left the university administration building last Thursday after occupying it for two nights to protest a six per cent tuition hike.

The students decided to leave after B.C. higher education minister Bruce Strachan agreed to meet with student leaders. Strachan later agreed to "fund a study" into higher education in the province.

The occupation highlighted a week of student protest in B.C. There were also rallies in Victoria and Vancouver, organized by the Pacific region of Canada's student federation.

About 150 students showed up to a Jan. 23 Simon Fraser board of governors meeting to demand a tuition fee freeze and a royal commission on accessibility to post-secondary education.

But when the board approved the fee increase, many of the students decided to stay.

The students disrupted the meeting with chants of "Freeze our fees," and moved to the centre of the boardroom. The meeting broke up, and the board members left.

At least 70 students decided to continue the sit-in. About 2000 students came out to support them on the 24th, marching past the administration building, closed to all but security, the media and building staff.

Numbers dwindled, but the students stayed until Jan. 25.

About 1500 students marched in Victoria Jan 23 to call for a tuition freeze as part of the Canadian Federation of Students - Pacific region week of action on tuition fees.

University of Victoria student council executive Elizabeth Loughran said the commission was "common sense."

"Really, what we are saying is 'We dare you to strike a royal commission to see what's happening with our education system'," she added.

There were no further protests this week, but 70 students met on Monday to discuss further action.

### MUN tuition freeze

ST. JOHN'S (CUP) — Memorial University's student council president says a tuition freeze would only cost the province one per cent extra.

Robin Russell proposed a one per cent increase in next year's operating grant, which she said would allow the administration to continue at normal operating expenses, and keep tuition at this year's level of \$1280 per year.

"Just as students no longer should suffer, nor should any department within this university suffer," Russell said.

Russell said if the province was unwilling to put more money into the university to keep tuition down, it could put more money into student aid.

She said tuition at Memorial had increased five per cent every year for the last five years.

"Mr. Wells said that education was one of the most important things the government is concerned with," Russell said. "I want to know where [students] stand. Don't put us on the back burner."

Russell said half of Memorial's students receive financial aid.

### No means no

HALIFAX (CUP) — Anti-date rape posters were defaced with sexist remarks at University of King's College just days after they went up.

The posters, part of the Canadian Federation of Students' awareness campaign on date rape, featured the slogans "No Means No" and "Say No! Hear No!"

But when they were posted in King's residences, they were defaced with phrases such as "No Means Harder," and "Date Rape is Fun."

"When I saw one of the posters, I ripped it down," said Tonya Lary, a first year student at the college. "King's is not immune at all to the problems of date rape and sexist behaviour."

Last semester, Queen's University students wrote similar messages on banners which they displayed in their residence windows.

"The defacing was sickening," said first year student Duncan McCue. "More than anything it was a parody of what happened at Queen's."

"Everyone in our residence saw the poster that was defaced," said McCue. "When I saw it I ripped off the bottom part, which had the second No scratched out, and replaced with Harder in blue marker."

A recent survey of 120 King's students, conducted by the student paper, the Watch, showed 38 per cent of women felt they had been pushed too far on a date. Sixty-nine per cent did not think their campus was safe.