

## CROSS CANADA

### Law school to use wife assault research

TORONTO (CUP) — A University of Toronto law professor is developing course material on wife assault that could be used in Ontario law schools.

Janet Mosher, a professor in the law and social work faculties, is heading a project to develop materials for law professors in first year courses, and for an upper-year seminar.

The objectives of the upper-year seminar are to educate students on causal theories, legal responses in civil and family law, and to work on representing battered women in court, Mosher said.

She said the program will better prepare lawyers for wife assault cases.

"A large number of lawyers will encounter wife assault in one form or another in their work," she added. "Their ability to deal with the issue well is affected by exposure to feminist and causal theory. A general knowledge helps."

### Penis pulled at Acadia

WOLFVILLE, N.S. (CUP) — Acadia University's student newspaper was denied of some copy last week by its printer.

The Mar. 12 edition of the *Athenaeum* included a graphic of an erect penis with a caption that read, "Sexism rears its unprotected head. Men: Use Condoms or Beat it. AIDS kills women." The graphic accompanied an article on safer sex.

*Athenaeum* business manager Dave Matthews said a Kentville Publishing employee told him the company removed the graphic because it contradicted their corporate standards and ethics.

Matthews said the paper couldn't use another printer.

"The option of going to another printer didn't really exist because it would have meant going to Halifax, which neither time nor money would have allowed," he said.

The graphic has been widely distributed by the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power, and has been reprinted in other student newspapers, such as the *McGill Daily*.

Matthews said the paper substituted another graphic, although he said the decision was unfair and reduced the impact of the safer sex message.

Acadia University sociology professor Gary Kinsman agreed.

"It is my sense that heterosexual men on campus are poorly educated (about AIDS) and don't see that they could be putting women at risk," he said.

"The graphic had a clear context, and, by removing it, Kentville Publishing diluted the message of safer sex."

Kinsman said sometimes it is necessary to offend in order to communicate a message effectively.

Caroll Daniels, lawyer for Acadia University, said the publisher was within its rights to yank the graphic in order to avoid an obscenity charge by police.

"Free speech is not absolute," she said.

But Brian Iler, an attorney for Canadian University Press, said charges were unlikely because the graphic was not "an undue exploitation of sex" as defined by the Canadian Criminal Code.

Controversy swept university campuses last spring after student newspapers reprinted a guide for safer sex for gay men, originally run in the paper at Memorial University in Newfoundland. The *Muse* was threatened with criminal charges, and papers across the country published the article in a show of solidarity.

### York spies on its student workers

TORONTO (CUP) — A union executive says York University's practice of hiring investigators to spy on student parking lot attendants is the worst he's ever seen.

"I don't know of any place ever, not in this country, where they do this to this degree," said Walter Gosley, president of local 1962 of the United Plant Guard Workers of America, which represents York's parking lot staff.

Two students and one full-time employee have been fired this year in connection with undercover investigations. In 1991, three students were fired due to evidence gathered during surveillance, but they were reinstated after filing a union grievance.

According to Gosley, the investigators often pose as parking customers and try to talk attendants out of charging them. Employees are also monitored by people who watch them through binoculars from nearby buildings.

Pam MacDonald, executive director of York University, said the practice is part of annual auditing procedures done "to make sure cash handling procedures are followed."

## NEWS

# Computer cow cuts costs

BY SCOTT MCCROSSIN

"Sacred cow."

That's how a lot of people have been describing Dalhousie's Department of Physical Plant and Planning in recent months. During the tuition fee debate, students levelled complaints the "cow" is bloated, and valuable tuition dollars are being wasted supporting it.

But Bill Lord, Director of the plant, says these charges are unfounded. He says his department is a big operation, with a long list of responsibilities. That list includes over 90 buildings, parking lots, classroom scheduling, heating, and security. What's more, Lord says, is that his department has been dealing with the same cutbacks as the others, despite the fact the "we tend to get beat over the head a lot" with criticism.

Lord, along with Dal's Manager of Engineering Services Peter Howitt, was only too anxious to conduct a tour of their department's compound. Along the way, some of the methods Lord's department has used to deal with its cutbacks were revealed to be very interesting, for budget-makers and environmentalists alike.

Lord's department is cutting costs

by investing money on energy conservation projects. In this budget year alone, \$150 000 was allocated for such undertakings. While that may seem like a lot of money, Lord says "if anything, it's not enough."

Four years ago the university spent \$300 000 on a computer to control its boilers which heat the buildings. Previously a manually controlled series of water, air, and fuel valves, the computerized system has increased Dal's fuel efficiency by approximately three per cent.

Dalhousie burns approximately 11 million litres of oil every year, which adds up to about \$1.5 million. A three per cent savings is therefore a substantial amount, over \$50 000. At that rate, the system will pay for itself in five to six years (referred to as the "pay-back period"). After that, it's on to even greater savings for both Dalhousie and the environment.

As well, improved steam-trap and ventilation systems installed in recent years cost the university \$150 000 each, but both have an expected pay-back period of three years. New lights installed on Studley Field use one-third the energy of their predecessors, another example of how it pays for the university to be

environmentally conscious.

Lord says the university generally looks for changes with a pay-back period of three to five years, apparently favouring a quick return on their investments. Some of the tradespeople who work for Physical Plant had rumblings about that, saying a long-term savings makes just as much sense.

But Lord says there isn't enough money available to do every project they would like to. And he says with the way technology continues to improve, it is impossible to stay completely on top of things anyway.

There are many areas on campus where both money and energy can be saved. Lord praised CEAG, the Campus Environmental Action Group, for some of their recommendations. CEAG recently estimated Dalhousie could save thousands of dollars per school year by turning off lights when classrooms are not in use. Lord says suggestions like this are always welcome.

Lord also expects the criticism of the Physical Plant will continue into the future. Perhaps it is deserved, perhaps it is not. Bill Lord says either way, he's prepared to handle it.

# Kids come to classrooms

BY LYNN MACMICHAEL

Kids and school don't always mix.

A group of 25 student parents gathered in the SUB Lobby last week to shed light on the growing problems faced by student parents today.

"I need affordable child care. My major concern is the cost of child care and long waiting lists for a space," said Mark Warburton. Warburton's two children are waiting to get into the University Children's Centre at Dalhousie. "In the last three months we have moved only three spaces."

Warburton's family does not qualify for government assistance. But as Warburton commented, "My wife and I make too much money for a subsidized space, but considering we will have to pay \$200 a week, how can we afford this?" On the average, it costs \$18.25 a day per child for child care.

On Child Care Awareness Day, some students brought their children to class. The inclusion of their children at classroom sessions served to show students that there is a growing problem with child care. Warburton brought his two children, Emma and Madeline, to class with him.

Warburton said, "Other students commented on how well-behaved my children were, but that was because I was keeping my children occupied." Warburton found it difficult concentrating on the lecture because he was trying to keep his children quiet so they would not disrupt his classmates. "It is difficult taking your children to class. We

need a space where we can drop our children off during class hours."

Most of the students in Warburton's class were empathetic towards the situation. Warburton felt his classmates "...were quite receptive, but it stops there. They don't have children, so they can't relate."

Child Care Awareness Day was organized by Students' Union of Nova Scotia (SUNS) and their member schools. "Child care for students has long been overlooked, but it is

certainly a major problem. We must continue to put a greater emphasis towards an accessible child care system," said Scott McCrossin, Chairperson for SUNS.

He liked Child Care Awareness Day "...because it publicized the child care problems students with children are faced with if they want to attend a post-secondary institution." Other post-secondary institutions in Nova Scotia participated such as Acadia, St.-F.X., and Saint Mary's.

# Halt lemmings

BY BRUCE D. GILCHRIST

In a tightly contested race, first year student Todd Scott has become the president of the Dalhousie Association of Biology Students (DABS) and his primary concern is to "stop the lemming effect within the Biology Department."

The embittered Biology Department has seen the consistent loss of its best professors and constant class reductions. DABS offers students an opportunity to voice their anger and frustration at the "dismantling of a wonderful department," says Scott.

It was the biggest voter turnout in DABS history as 65 ballots were cast. The election was a tight race and featured a confrontational all-candidates meeting, which resulted in an unexpected splitting of the election teams.

Todd Scott beat out opponent

Blaine Kent for the position of president by nine votes, but Scott's running mate John Yip lost out in the Vice-Presidential race to Kent's running mate Aran Doiron. Doiron, who won on the strength of his aggressive approach, beat out Yip by a slim margin of only four votes.

The testiness of the election campaign and the confrontational candidates' meeting mirror the divisiveness that presently exists within the Biology department. Students have endured overcrowded, poorly run classes and massive reductions in staff. Scott says that "Complement reduction is no compliment. It's a slap in the face of Biology. The influx of communication at all levels from the students up to the top administration and the Dean of Science is needed. My role is to listen, to take the concerns presented and organize them,

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