

Stop sulking, producer tells women at debate

by Reem Meshal

Addressing the issue of women in the media, Ron Crocker, Executive Producer at CBC, urged women to "stop sulking" and use what power they have gained to advance their own causes.

The debate held at Henson College featured a panel of four

prominent members of the media. The panel, consisting of two males (Crocker and Doug MacKay, editor of the Daily News) and two females (Sharon Fraser, editor of *Atlantic Insight*, and Judy Steed, features writer for the *Globe and Mail*), was predictably divided along lines of gender.

Stereotyping and role-casting of women in the media are rampant, said Steed and Fraser. Citing the case of a young woman murdered in Ontario, Fraser expressed indignation that the story gave undue emphasis to the girl's attire, a pink angora sweater and tight jeans. In reply to Fraser, one producer said the

story had "sex appeal"

In a tasteless and grotesque fashion spread in the *Globe and Mail*, a woman was depicted lying dead in a tub wearing a red silk dress as a man washed blood off his hands nearby. Steed said the spread glamorized violence against women, not sex appeal.

In addition to questioning equal opportunity in the workplace, Fraser and Steed reiterated the lack of responsible media coverage of women's issues. Their complaints centred on the exclusion of women in the chronicling of day-to-day news.

Lacking space or time, major dailies are quick to cut women's issues — equal pay, child support, sexual harassment, rape, domestic violence, stereotyping in the media. Issues relevant to women should be pushed forth by other women, said Fraser, because men won't push them. She said male co-workers said she was covering "too much women's stuff".

On the *Globe and Mail*, Steed said, there are no female foreign correspondents stationed outside North America, despite repeated requests for such posts by women. She did concede that the proportion of men to women

is equal in the newsroom.

MacKay sided with Crocker, reaffirming the growing number of women employed in the media. Crocker cited the affirmative action bill as having greatly promoted women in the field as well as enhancing their power. MacKay went on to say that since the 1920s, women have played a role in the media.

Strides for equality have been made through increased pay equity since the early 1970s, said MacKay.

At the Daily News, MacKay said, one complaint women have is that they are assigned to "cute stories", but said male journalists are assigned the occasional fashion show to cover. As for equal opportunity on the Daily News, 4 posts out of 9 for news representatives are held by women, as are 2 out of 7 executive posts.

Taking offence to Crocker's advice for women to "stop sulking", Steed said he implied the legitimate complaints of women are somehow petty. As for the accusation that she covers too many women's issues, she said, "I've never had anyone tell me I was doing too many stories on men."



SUB director fired, takes legal action

by Geoff Stone

The Dalhousie Student Union and Jim Haughen have a few problems together.

Haughen, former technical director of the Dal SUB, was fired this past month from his position by the Student Union.

Haughen had previously given his notice of resignation from the job for December 31st. Two weeks later, the Student Union fired him.

Haughen said the Student Union gave him two weeks' severance pay after the notice. He

started legal action to receive more pay, and in a later settlement received more money. "They (the Student Union) are paying more to get rid of me. It was a pretty stupid thing to do," said Haughen.

SUB manager Andrew Beckett said the official reason for the dismissal was problems in the technical department, problems that have been solved since Haughen was fired.

Beckett also said the Student Union was quite aware when

they fired Haughen they would have to pay for the two months that were still left. "It hasn't cost the Student Union any more money," he said. Beckett explained that the technical department is running better now, and that if Haughen had been left at his position, trying to reorganize the department in January would have been worse. "We are now on track," Beckett said. Technical services provides a number of audio-visual and maintenance services to the Student Union Building.

No petting working dogs

ST. JOHN'S (CUP) — Rick Turner gets lost in hallways because other students keep petting his dog.

Turner is blind, and his golden Labrador puppy Poppy guides him through Memorial University's tunnels and corridors.

"People don't realize she's a working dog," complains Turner. "When she's out of her harness, fine, it's play-time and you can pet her with no problems. But when she's in the harness she's supposed to be all business."

Students handling Poppy or

She can't avoid students, so she relies on them to move out of her way. That can be a problem.

"Especially in tunnels. People stand in groups and I can't tell they're there or how big the group is unless they're talking,

calling her by name distract the dog, Turner says. Poppy once got turned completely around and led her owner against the flow of traffic.

Regina Ash uses a long white cane to feel her way around campus.

People also sit on floors, which is particularly bad — I've had a couple of accidents from walking into sitting people."

Turner gets really upset when passers-by feed Poppy sandwiches or left-over muffin pieces. The dog is on a special diet to keep her in top condition, and she stops to gobble up the food.

Helpful students trying to open doors without saying so can confuse Turner and Ash.

Says Ash, "They want to help, but they don't know how to approach you."

Less than 1/5 of Dal profs women

by Geoff Stone

According to a recent survey, fewer than one out of every five professors at Dalhousie are women.

The rough survey, conducted by the *Gazette*, noted that while Dalhousie students may have one professor who is a woman, there are rarely two in any of the departments.

But students were generally positive that professors do avoid sex stereotyping in the classes. Students said older professors are more likely to stereotype than younger profs.

Students said professors' general comments in class usually avoided sexist remarks, but some professors have brought up remarks which they later denied.

At present at Dalhousie, the sexual harassment committee is looking into a comprehensive policy on sexual harassment on campus.

Students in the sciences said in general, professors do not attempt to relate the ratio of men and women in the sciences. Most students said lab instructors were usually women while the course professors are usually male.

The Dalhousie students talked to, male and female, were not as impressed by the attitudes of students outside of class. Most students said there were a number of obnoxious comments students have made.