

# Dal profs asked to Keep the door Open

by Eleanor Brown  
Canadian University Press

HALIFAX (CUP) — A request that professors keep office doors open when meeting with students is among three recent policies adopted by Dalhousie University's sociology and social anthropology department to fight sexual harassment.

The policies were initially recommended by the department's new sexual harassment committee. Also adopted was a double-marking system and added course evaluations questions dealing with sexual harassment and discrimination.

"Our main role is keeping the issue alive in the department," said Brenda Beagan, a sociology graduate student who chairs the six-member committee, created last March after an ad-hoc group of students and professors met to discuss sexual harassment.

"It's virtually certain that sexual harassment is something which happens throughout the university," said another committee member, sociology professor Graham Morgan. "There's no reason other departments shouldn't be doing it."

According to a recent guide co-sponsored by Lakehead University's student union, sexual attraction and relationships are likely to occur in a university environment.

"What makes sexual harassment different from "flirting" or casual "asides" is that it is unwanted by the recipient and it occurs in a relationship in which the parties are generally unequal," the booklet says.

"In the educational setting, harassment in its extreme form occurs when a faculty member who is in a position to control, influence, or otherwise affect a student's academic future uses that authority and power either to coerce a student into sexual relations or to punish the student for refusing to enter into such relations, or threatens to do so."

The booklet also says harassment includes repeated or unwanted looks, comments, jokes, hugging, patting, or brushing against someone which causes discomfort on the job or in the classroom.

Beagan says the department is so small and friendly that concerned professors are unsure just what sexual harassment is.

"A responsible use of power (held by professors) is making sure you ask those questions (about what makes students uncomfortable)," she said.

The new "open door" policy means office doors won't be shut unless both the professor and the student agree they be closed.

The three questions added to the regular course evaluation forms students are requested to fill out at the end of each course ask whether sexual harassment, or gender or racial discrimination, has been encountered from either students or staff.

Also, students who feel they have received an unfair mark for any reasons which could include sexual harassment may present their work to the Undergraduate or Graduate Education Committee, which will appoint a second reader. The second mark replaces the first.

## ANC night of Food and politics

by Ellen Reynolds

An eclectic evening of politics, food and dance last Saturday night in the McInnes room raised about \$1000 for the African National Congress.

According to Juanita Montalvo, one of the organizers, this quasi-political event put on by Dalhousie's ANC South Africa Support Group achieved its goal and more.

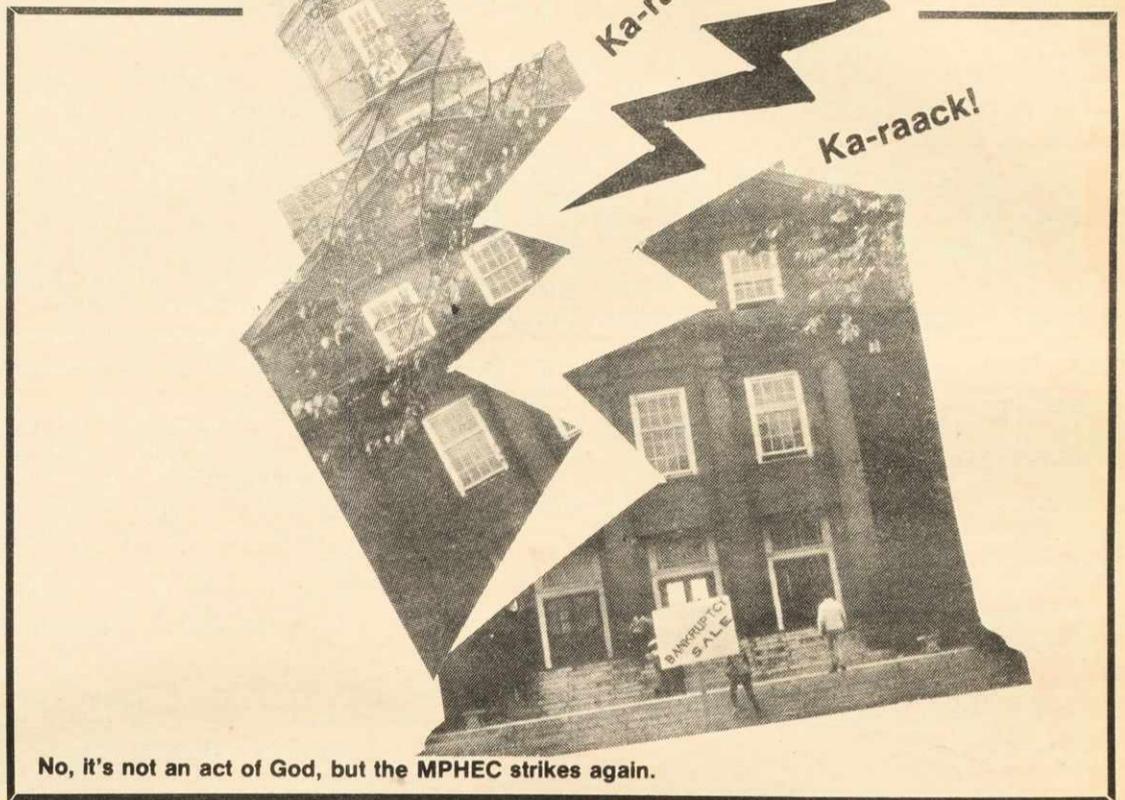
After a delicious East Indian meal, Mafika Ludidi, a member of the support group, spoke briefly on the importance of Canadian solidarity with South Africa. Ludidi also criticized media coverage of South Africa and how, by stressing the conflict among blacks, it has further

undermined the struggle against apartheid.

Miguel Figueroa, from the Coalition Against Apartheid, gave an update on how Halifax's City Council has recently adopted the Coalition's recommendations.

The approximately 300 in attendance stayed to see a slide show on the history of the ANC and the continuing struggle in South Africa. The food, prepared by the members of the East Indian community, was fabulous, according to Montalvo, as was the turnout.

Following the slide show, tunes ranging from Michael Jackson to South African dance tunes kept people boogieing into the night.



## MPHEC recommendations

# Lightning cuts

by Heather Hueston

Despite a big sales pitch last December to get badly needed increases to university funding, the Association of Atlantic Universities (AAU) recommendations for 1988/89 were cut by 40 per cent.

The Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC) this month released their recommendation for a university funding increase of 7.7 per cent. The AAU had asked for an increase of 9.8 per cent.

Even if the government approves the MPHEC's figure as they did last year, Dalhousie Vice-President of Administration and Finance Bryan Mason isn't happy with what that will mean for Dal. Although the Nova Scotia government approved the MPHEC recommendations of 6.5 per cent, that only translated into a 3.15 per cent increase for Dal.

"That 6.5 per cent was supposed to be for our basic funding. The government made that amount cover non-MPHEC recommendations, or for things added on," said Mason.

For example, he says, "suspicion is strong" that equalization payments, money given to balance out per-student funding among N.S. universities, came out of that figure. "That is supposed to be over and above the normal grant," he said.

Dalhousie is also handicapped by the enrolment-based formula for distribution fund. "Half our enrolment can't expand," Mason says, because of ceilings on

faculties such as law, medicine, and dentistry. Dalhousie is one of the two centres of graduate research in Nova Scotia. Universities like Saint Mary's with more physical space available and growing enrolment reap the benefits.

"SMU has more and more students to equalize. I'm not against the next university, but you should get a guaranteed base funding and the special funding over and above that."

The MPHEC has set 4.7 per cent for sustenance, 1.75 per cent for restoration of the funding base eroded in the past decade by budget cuts, .50 per cent for programme expansion and .75 per cent for equalization payments.

Mason says the AAU had called for a multi-year restoration funding program for the three maritime provinces, but it has never been accepted by the MPHEC. "They say per-student funds have dropped 20 per cent since 1980, so they see the need. But they don't say anything beyond that. They haven't committed themselves to how many years. There's no target," says Mason.

The AAU had requested 6.5 per cent base funding and 3.3 per cent towards restorative funding.

Nova Scotia Confederation of University Faculty Associations spokesperson John D'Orsay says more restoration funding is overdue.

Instead of expansion, "the MPHEC is still talking about maintenance. But they're spend-

ing dribs and drabs. At this rate (1.75 per cent per year), it'll take 25 years to make up for past underfunding," says D'Orsay.

D'Orsay says NSCUFA is upset that the Commission didn't address the issue of quality — the need for more faculty and library material.

NSCUFA based its recommendations for expanded education and research in the light of the recent Free Trade deal with the United States. "We want to see enrolment up by 50 per cent over the next ten years — the phase-in time of the deal," says D'Orsay. Because of reduced protectionism, Nova Scotians will have to develop a competitive education plan "if we want to avoid 'the Kentucky syndrome', where an undereducated population misses out on the techno-jobs.

10.6 per cent of Nova Scotians have university degrees, compared to a national average of 12.4 per cent and 19.6 per cent in the U.S.

D'Orsay also criticized the report for tying university research to the private sector when Nova Scotia is one of the more underdeveloped business areas.

The Council of Maritime Premiers should rule on the recommendations. Last year, Dalhousie made noises about its disappointment, and this year, says Mason, "if the formula changes and the money comes through, we'll keep quiet. But if Dal continues to be poorly treated, it'll be our duty to protest."