

# Women will write on discrimination

by Vicki Grant

In 1970, the Royal Commission on the Status of Women established defacto what was widely accepted as general knowledge - that women in Canada were "consistently underpaid, underpromoted, and underhired." By the 1972-73 academic year, most major universities across the country were conducting similar studies on their campuses and arriving at similar conclusions.

These reports proved to be a boon to the cause of sexual equality, prompting such action as the expenditure of \$79,000 by the University of Toronto to rectify disparities in the salaries of its male and female faculty members.

Yet, here it is 1976, 6 years after the findings of the Royal Commission were made public, and Dalhousie is only just beginning to inquire seriously into the status of its women. Why the delay? Is Dalhousie unique in that it has been spared any form of sexual discrimination? Hardly. According to Dr. Dorothy Broderic of the School of Library Science and chairperson of

the committee investigating the status of women on campus, "There is no question that the status of women on this campus is no good."

This March, no longer prepared to wait for the Faculty Association to take action (the common body which generally instigated the study in other universities), a Dal Women's Group approached Dr. Hicks with a list of those people willing to undertake a report on the economic and social standing of the women faculty members. Broderic explained that, "Unless we can get some woman power on faculty, there is no way to help students." Therefore after the first phase of the project is completed, establishing that there are indeed "cultural conditioning biases" and discrimination against women at Dal, further studies on the status of female students and workers will be taken on, to be completed within 2 years.

Broderic cited three "road blocks" that prevented the study being made possible at an earlier

date. The first was the difficulty women of different faculties have in meeting one another. It has been a popular practice at Dal to all but exclude women from inter-departmental committees - many of these committees are made up solely of men while others concede to allowing a single "token" female representative. This left few opportunities for women on the teaching staff to get to know each other and to compare notes.

The committee was further impeded by the lack of an up-to-date faculty directory. The old edition which lists the members' initials rather than the first names made

rounding up female staff "a full time job".

The other obstacle was the privacy that has traditionally shrouded personal wages. Broderic bemoaned the fact that "People talk more openly about their sex-lives than their salaries", and it has been a hindrance in attracting women to their cause. Even though there is a basic difference in income between male and female full professors of \$3500 throughout Canada, relatively few women are aware of the disparity. With no basis for comparison, they are satisfied with their salaries—to them the inquiry

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## Lawsuit against the Journal

According to Frank Cassidy of the St. Mary's Journal, the lawsuit against the Journal by Commerce professor and SMU Faculty Union President Shripand Pendse, is still pending. The conflict that caused the lawsuit was written up in the March 23, 1976 St. Mary's Journal. The Journal in that issue printed a story concerning Bob MacIntyre, student rep on the University Review Committee (which approves tenure and promotions for professors). MacIntyre accused Pendse of "infringement of rights" - his rights as a committee member. According to MacIntyre (and as printed in the Journal), Pendse questioned MacIntyre as to the validity of his position as a member of the Review Committee, since he had not been elected. MacIntyre was appointed to the board in November by due process, after the elected member was unable to sit on the Committee for personal reasons. The article angered Pendse, who denied MacIntyre's allegations, and Pendse has planned to sue the Journal for libel, and/or slander because of the

article. His rationale is that the news of his promotion was given to the Journal before the last issue went into press, therefore, he indicated he did not use his influence. The last issue of the Journal was dated March 23, 1976; news of the promotion was only made common knowledge on March 23, 1976 - too late for publication. Pendse also inferred support for his position from members of the Faculty Union, whereas approval was not given formally by members of the Faculty Union.

Cassidy is confident that Pendse's lawsuit has only a weak basis and that item will be dropped. However, Mr. MacConnell, lawyer for Pendse indicated that the two possible alternatives were to settle out of court or sue. Both he and Robert Cragg, lawyer for SMU Student Union and the Journal, have not been in contact for sometime. So, the situation is "still up in the air", in the words of Cassidy, and may be so for sometime. There may be a special issue of the Journal out this week concerning the issue.

## Scobey is finally victorious in Silverman battle

by Harvey MacKinnon

Porter Scobey has won his case against notorious landlord and developer Allan Silverman.

In a decision last Friday, Silverman offered Scobey a one-year renewal of his lease, failing in his four month attempt to evict Scobey. The conditions of the agreement include: an application by Silverman for a 12% rent increase; a promise from Scobey to stop organizing tenants; and an additional promise from Scobey to refrain from embarrassing Silverman any further in the media - the story, first covered by the Gazette, was later picked up by CBC-radio and tv (national and local), CTV-tv, the Mail Star, and the 4th Estate.

Scobey is a tenant of Somerset Place who was served an eviction notice 4 months ago and his attempts to find a reason for the action were fruitless. The law is currently on the landlords side since he is not required to justify eviction notices. Scobey, a good tenant, decided to fight an unjust law and he discovered others in a similar position.

The fact is, Silverman was tenants in Somerset place facing a similar situation have had their leases renewed.

Silverman was evicting tenants in an attempt to get around the recent 8% rent control legislation. He had been successful before Scobey's resistance as had a few other

evicting tenants and raising rent on apartments by well over 20%.

However the primary issue at stake is the landlord's ability to evict a tenant without any reason after the three month notice. Scobey felt this was unjust and as a result of his efforts all other unscrupulous landlords in Halifax.

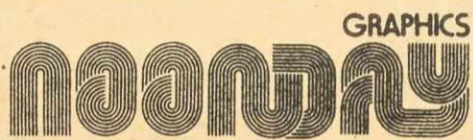
Hopefully Scobey's crusade will help plug this gaping flaw in the landlord-tenancy Act. Porter Scobey plans to continue campaigning for tenant tenure.

Silverman, a landlord who has countless complaints filed against him at the residential Tenancies Board, is being sued over this issue by a former tenant. The Gazette recommends that students be wary of any property owned by Alan Silverman when returning to Halifax in the fall.

**Sociology** continued from page 3  
Canadian situation and the problems endemic to Canada.

Canadian Sociology Departments have a sizable minority of Americans and usually a majority of American-trained academics, these people tend to then hire "their own" rather than "risk" hiring an academic trained elsewhere (e.g. Canada).

Dalhousie's Sociology Department has been plagued with hiring and dismissal problems over the last few years. The situation does not appear to have changed.



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