

Women's committee created

by Nancy Minard

At the Nova Scotian College of Art and Design, young women and men engage in creative thinking and doing, with the hope that their vision might have a place in this big, changing world. One of the more liberal schools in the region, NSCAD assures students that, yes, your art does have a purpose.

The NSCAD Women's Committee was formed last September.

Regardless of what textbooks, history surveys and the media tell us, vital women artists have existed in the past and continue

to have important visions today. The seven members of the Women's Committee are working to recognize the stifled voices of women artists and to act as balance to the accepted male-centred traditions. Usually lacking from art survey courses, voices and visions of women artists have long been kept under wraps.

Alexandra Waschtschuk, a member of the committee, refers to an "undercurrent of discrimination". It is the "invisibility" of women artists — insufficient reference material in the library, the low ratio of female to male faculty members — rather than

outright discrimination that concerns the group. Ignorance about feminism, Waschtschuk says, also hinders awareness of and openness to the feminine art of the past and present. With certain despair, Waschtschuk describes the apathy of the student body and the public. "Things haven't been solved. There is still so much discrimination. But it's been talked about so much that, for many, escaping the issue is as easy as turning off a TV."

Student apathy is also one of the factors behind the cancellation of weekly brown-bag lunch events. Attendance was too low to justify the energy spent organizing films or finding speakers.

The problems are compounded by the shoestring budget of an \$800 grant from the college, a "ridiculous" amount, according to Waschtschuk. She said the group often has to scrimp and get free films from the NFB, recruit speakers from among Masters students, or hope that speakers would waive their fees.

The group's bimonthly women's film series is also in jeopardy due to low turnout.

Waschtschuk says a lot of female students have expressed interest in the idea of a women's group, but when it comes to

showing up for events, they don't.

What most frustrates Waschtschuk is that the group may go the way of the previous NSCAD Women's Committee and fold at the end of this term. Three of the group's core members are graduating, and despite the efforts to keep a high profile, Waschtschuk is pessimistic on what lasting impact the Committee has made.

"We've put so much work into it and if it disappeared, I don't even think anyone would notice," says Waschtschuk.

Unclassifieds

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One furnished apartment from May 7 to Sept. 2 (1 bedroom or bachelor apt. preferred). Must be near campus; wanted for male student working Halifax area. Phone Ken after 6:00 p.m. at (506) 454-3806.

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The University Bookstore will be closed for inventory on Wednesday, March 30 and Thursday, March 31. The store will also be closed on Good Friday, April 1, but will be open for business as usual on Easter Monday, April 4.

Athletic Fee Referendum

MARCH 30, 1988

If you are a student interested in a YES Campaign or a NO Campaign for the Athletic Fee Referendum please submit an application to the Student Union Office (Rm. 222 of the SUB) by Saturday, March 19 at 4:00PM.

There will be an information meeting regarding the conduct of the campaigns on Monday, March 21 at 5:30 in the SUB, Rm.100.

If you have any question please call Lara Morris, Chief Returning Officer at 424-2146 (Office) or 425-6062

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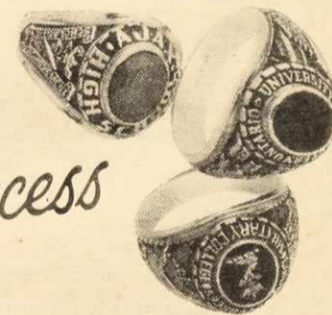
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