

March on!

by radical cuddles

2 p.m. Saturday, March 12, Quinpool Road was invaded by a group of women and children bearing placards and shouting at the top of their lungs.

"We are the old women, we are the new women, we are the same women, stronger than before."

There were approximately 175 of them and they were described by one passer-by as "a bunch of radical feminist activist types". This was later reported by the local papers.

Placards like *If men bled, tampons would be free* and *Women unite and celebrate* were flapping in the high winds as the "bunch" strode down Quinpool Road towards Queen Elizabeth High School.

This year's International Women's Week March received

minimal coverage by the local media, and the coverage it did receive painted the picture of radical feminists on the rampage. The questions of what these "crazed" women were doing and why were downplayed in lieu of sensationalism.

"Yes means yes, no means no, however we dress, wherever we go."

The march was described by several participants: "It's unifying and strengthening to march with other women. It's women showing support for other women — it's lots of fun, too."

"Not the church, not the state, women must control their fate."

At the end of the route the women, hoarse from yelling, gathered in the QEH cafeteria for coffee and cookies and to listen to several women speak about women's solidarity and the continuing struggle for equality.



A bunch of radical feminist activist types on the march on Saturday afternoon.

PHOTO: ARIELLA PAHLKE



Barbara Harris sitting demurely.

PHOTO: ARIELLA PAHLKE

that will look at the present situation at Dalhousie through profiles of women on campus and issues that are important to each group as well as problems that have come up in the past 18 years. She stresses the importance of looking at the process of change.

"Many people feel Dalhousie is quite a dinosaur, that it's difficult to change things.

"If that's true, we have to know why," says Harris.

She is also attempting to collect all the reports on women's issues that have been written in the past, and feels her position is important because it provides a place where people at Dalhousie can go to find any past reports.

"It's useful to have things concentrated in one space," says Harris.

Women working at Dalhousie are affected by a number of issues, such as pay equity, day-care, job flexibility, training and development, pensions, sexual harassment, affirmative action, and cutbacks.

"Considering the number of women at Dalhousie, it's amazing how invisible women's issues often are," Harris says. She intends to set up a ten-year plan

Working lawyer

by Tony Tracy

Anne Derrick is a lawyer with a difference. While many in her profession do not seem to practice basic ethics, Derrick has a true social conscience.

The difference becomes apparent upon walking into the offices of Buchan, Derrick and Ring, the all-female law firm in which Anne Derrick is a partner. The brightly coloured, open and airy offices look nothing like the conservative businesslike office found in the majority of law firms. A copy of "Tightwire", a publication produced by women prisoners in Kingston Penitentiary, is sitting among the few other reading materials in the waiting area. And, perhaps most notably, although there are four lawyers in the firm, and an additional four staff including 2 article clerks, there are no men working in the firm.

Derrick has been in the public eye most recently with her work on the Donald Marshall case, as well as the Brenda Thompson case. She feels the Thompson case "has implications for all women in general, whether or not they are women on welfare". The issue, she feels, is privacy, and especially for women, who are traditionally powerless.

The law firm was created by three partners who had gone to law school together, and worked at Dal Legal Aid together. They liked the idea of working with each other, and defining their own environment at the workplace, having a feminist environment created and nurtured by women. Although the firm does do a lot of general work, it is best

known for cases where there are social issues at stake. Many of the cases they take on relate to feminism, and they are concerned with the status of women in general in society, as well as being concerned for the rights of working women as well as prostitutes. They have also been involved with gay and lesbian rights cases, health and legal medical issues including the rights of women to reproductive freedom, and issues involving peace and civil disobedience. There has also been work with minority rights, including cases involving the black community, as well as the Donald Marshall case. Derrick believes lawyers should be committed "not only to good services for individual clients, but also to justice and change, against inequality". Law, to her, "must have a social value, and we must advocate on social issues," while at the same time demystifying the law for the layperson. Together with partners Flora Buchan and Donna Ring, as well as Patricia Lawton Day, a lawyer who has joined the firm more recently, Derrick is working towards this end.

With regard to women within the legal profession, Derrick feels there is "still real discrimination in law, and member of the legal profession who do not accept the presence of women as equals". Although women have "come some distance", the struggle is not over, as women face other types of problems at the same time, including responsibilities with their children and families. The practice of law, she says, "is still structured around

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First year on the new job

by Ariella Pahlke

Last year, a new position was created at Dalhousie. The one-year trial position of President's Advisor on Women, Minorities, and the Disabled was originally supposed to take someone one day a week to fill.

"With more pressure, it got increased to two people, each working two days a week," says Barbara Harris, who is now working primarily as the advisor on

women.

"It's been given enough time now not to be just a token position, but it's still not enough," she says. Harris' job involves advising on issues concerning all women at Dalhousie — except for students.

"We're supposed to be dealing with employees," says Harris. This includes faculty, administration, support staff, and cleaners.

Harris wants to have a report completed by the end of April

in order to "make sure changes concerning these issues are in the university's plans, although there will be a financial cost to improving the situation of women."

Harris' report will include a recommendation assessing the need for her position. Other Canadian universities have set up similar positions and, according to Harris, the positions have been continued.

"As soon as someone's doing it, the need is obvious," says Harris.