

Female offender discussed

by Trish Aikens

The mini-conference on the female offender, held by the Dalhousie Law Section of the National Association of Women and the Law, turned out to be more of a general discussion on crime than a conference specifically concerned with female offenders. This might have been excusable if the panelists had appeared a little more enthusiastic, and had audience participation been greater.

The panel included a representative each from the Halifax City Police, the Criminal Justice Committee of the Junior League, Unison, the Maritime School of Social Work, and the Dalhousie Law School. Panelists raised several interesting points, focussing on three particular problems: the scarcity of information available on female offenders, and the inadequacies of the information that does exist; the lack of interest in and concern for the female offender; and the stress placed on the

more numerous and often more serious male offenders.

On the last point, it was noted that crimes committed by women are increasing in frequency and variety. This trend has been tied by some to the women's lib movement.

The panel discussion was preceded by a film portraying the lives of two American women serving 25-year prison terms. Alarming living conditions and the lack of constructive activities for the inmates was evident in the film. In response to the documentary panelists agreed that prison is an artificial environment, destructive to those within it. Correctional programs, as well, work against rehabilitation of female offenders. In the view of panelists, humane and just treatment is absent in many prisons although in Canada reform is taking place. Ontario was pointed to as a progressive correctional system.

The discussion which followed tackled almost everything except

the female offender -- the root causes of crime, the institutional buildings themselves, children and crime, and discrepancies between the rich and poor in incidence of crime. The mini-conference concluded finally with call for greater

public awareness of the problems of crime, especially with respect to women offenders. Familiarization with the court system and its functions was also recommended.

Another conference of this sort might prove more beneficial to the public and participants if discussion were concentrated more directly on the specific issue. Too much time in this three-hour conference was lost to generalities.

HELP WANTED

Concerned students needed to assist in organizing the NUS / AFS referendum.

Come to the Council Chambers Friday, 12:00 noon, Room 220, Dal S.U.B.

Scrambled Leggs

Scrambled Leggs? Yes, that's right, and that's the name of the sixth and greatest "Follies" to be produced by the Junior League of Halifax on February 9, 10, 11 and 12, at the Q.E.H. Auditorium. Other successful shows, such as "Tosed Greens with Dressing" and "Hot Raspberry and Orange Ice" were enthusiastically supported by the public, enabling the Junior League to develop and finance such valuable community projects as the Community Resource File, the Hearing and Vision Screening Clinic at the I.W.K. Hospital and "Ahoy", the first Atlantic magazine for children.

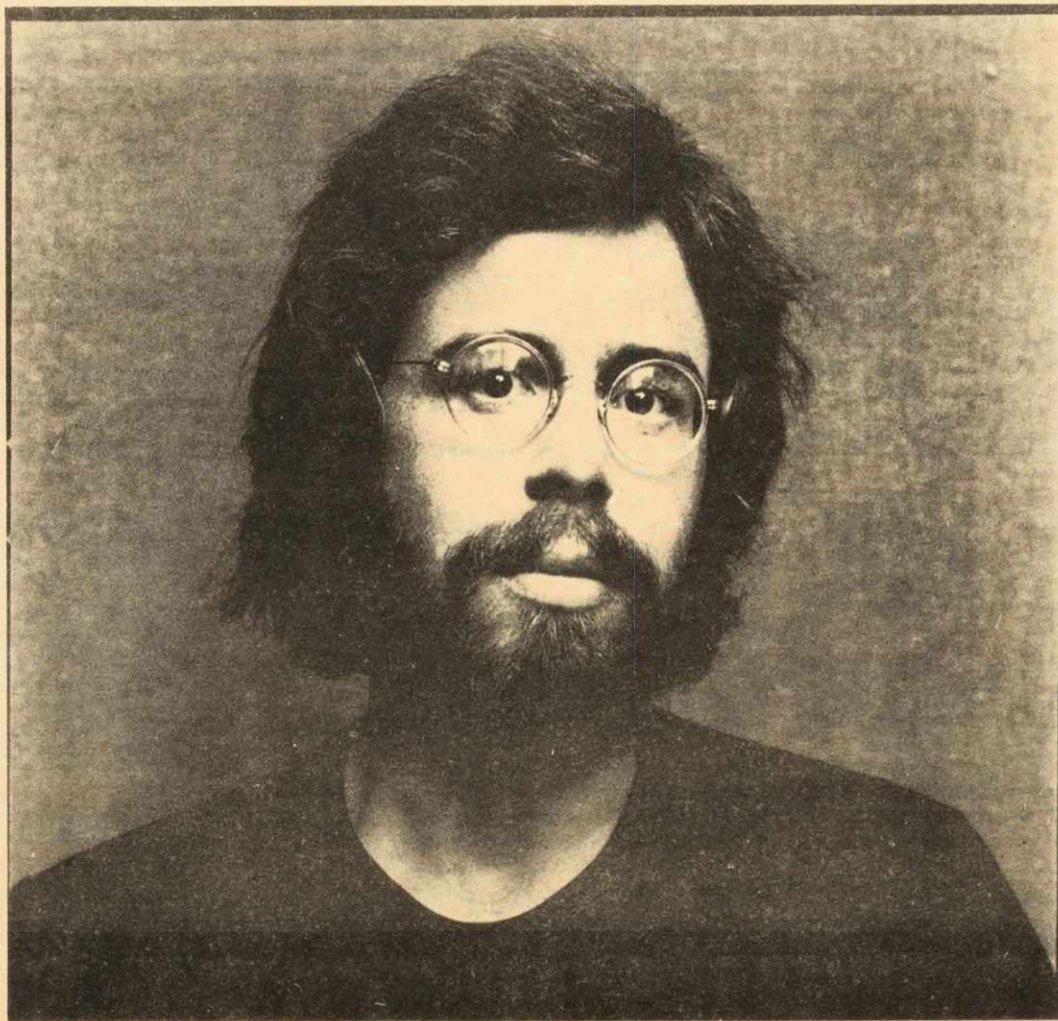
The Junior League of Halifax is an organization of women from Halifax-Dartmouth, one of more than 200 Leagues scattered over North America. Established in Halifax in 1933, the purpose of the League is to promote volunteerism, but, it is best recognized for the innovative projects developed by the members of the Junior League, who research and attempt to fulfill needs which are evident in the community. The League members organize staff and help to finance community projects, until their value is demonstrated and sponsorship assured, by an appropriate community organization. All funds raised in the community are returned to the community, and since its establishment, the Junior League of Halifax has raised more than \$200,000 for its valuable service programs.

This year "Scrambled Leggs" is being directed by Mr. David Russell of Hollywood. Mr. Russell comes to Canada for the first time, with an extensive and varied back-ground in theatre and show business. For the past two years, he has devoted his time and talents to working with amateur groups, as a director with the Cargill organization.

All cast members of the 1977 "Follies" are members and friends of the Junior League of Halifax, who have freely given of their time and efforts (as well as talent) to develop an exciting show.

Tickets are available at:
Halifax Shopping Center Mall
February 3-12.
Mic Mac Mall - February 5 only.
-During regular store hours.
Box office telephone 454-6950

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REBECCA COHN

FRIDAY FEB. 25
SATURDAY FEB. 26

8:30 p.m.

TICKETS-\$5.00/\$6.00 at the DAL BOX OFFICE
phone 424-2298

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