

Quiet racism at Dalhousie, claims prof

By Paul Creelman

Quiet racism has discriminated against blacks and other ethnic minorities at Dalhousie, according to Professor Savannah E. Williams who gave a talk on racism in N.S. last Thursday.

"It's no accident that there are so few students of colour attending this university," stated Williams during the course of her half hour discussion. Saying that the situation at Dalhousie mirrors that of Nova Scotia society as a whole, Williams drew parallels to what she believes is institutional racism rather than blatant

discrimination.

"One of the things that I grew worried about in my studies with people in the school system was the way that students are categorized and streamed on the basis of possibly culturally biased IQ tests or expectations of how a student will achieve, thus resulting in a self-fulfilling prophecy. This process can start very early in the educational system, at the pre-school level rather than the high school level."

Relating her own experiences of racism and bigotry in Virginia when growing up, Williams says that whereas she had to fight

open physical and psychological racism in Virginia, the racism in Nova Scotia seems to be mostly of the more subtle psychological and institutional kind. Because of this, many people don't seem to be as aware of the problem in Nova Scotia.

E.T. Marriott, Dean of Student Services, is the director of the Transition Year Program, which is a program for ethnic minorities with insufficient preparation for university. He admits the program has not been as successful as was hoped.

"In the past ten years, we have handled about 150 stu-

dents, and of those about 25 graduated and got their degrees," said Marriott.

"So the transition year program was not a resounding success."

However, says Marriott, a comprehensive review of the program will be undertaken to clarify its objectives. He expects the offering and administration of the entire program to be changed to try and make it work better, although he adds that there has already been a significant contribution to the program by many good people, so it shouldn't be 'written off entirely'.

Other aspects of racism discussed during the forum were whether or not blacks have been unknowingly helping insti-

tutional racism by cooperating with institutions which preserve subtle racism, and whether or not there was a black elite in Nova Scotia.

William interspersed the historical portion of her lecture with examples of unusual or striking blatant racism in Nova Scotia. There was the case of the black woman, who sat in the wrong section of a segregated theatre and was consequently convicted of an attempt to defraud the government on her tax payment by an amount of 1¢. Another striking example was a Halifax woman who was refused service in a restaurant in the 1950s because she was black. In 1966 a black was not allowed to be buried in a Halifax cemetery because of a bylaw passed in 1907.

DFA contract means less services, says Owen

By Paul Creelman

The meaning of the recently ratified DF Dalhousie Faculty Association (DFA) contract is more money from the students and less services to them, according to president of the student union, Gord Owen. The contract provides for an across the board wage hike of 7-3/4% this year.

"The DFA contract is going to cost the university more money," said Owen. "As far as I can see, the administration has basically three choices. These are increased government spending funding, budget cuts, or increased tuition fees. Since the first option won't provide sufficient amounts of money for the university to solve its problems, it'll have to come from the other two.

However, DFA president Dr. E.Z. Friedenburg does not feel that the students' quality of education will suffer as a result of the DFA's settlement, which allocates \$412,000 to resolve

fee anomalies among other financial considerations.

"Well, the student won't really suffer from a decline in the quality of education, because the fee increases will mean he will be taught by a better professor," says Friedenburg. Noting that fee scales at Dal are substantially below Canada as a whole, said Friedenburg stated that Dal will not tend to lose as many of its professors due to inadequate salary scales.

However, Owen says that even with the increase awarded the DFA, the fee scales at Dal are still several thousand dollars below the national average, and he doesn't feel that the increases which were made were enough to really change the nature of the teaching staff.

"If you look at the whole picture over the past few years, responds Owen," you'll see that student teacher ratio has increased. So although we may be an obtaining good academic staff, the assistance for each student will probably decline."

Dalhousie President Andrew MacKay, when asked if part of the settlement of the DFA contract would have to come out of teaching materials or similar monies, replied that "obviously, there's going to have to be less going into everything else". Nonetheless, MacKay states the administration feels the contract is a generally satisfactory agreement. Both the DFA and Friedenburg and MacKay are not completely satisfied with the agreement, however.

One aspect of the contract which was not resolved was clause 7.03 concerning conscientious objectors who do not wish to pay DFA dues. The Senate objected strongly to the clause as it now stands. However, the problem arose so late in negotiations, that it was decided to go ahead with the ratification anyway, according to MacKay. Friedenburg states that talks will continue with the administration on this aspect of the contract.

Agent Orange may be 'genetic suicide'

WINNIPEG (CUP) — Canadians may be committing a kind of "genetic suicide," warned Dr. Charles Hoover, professor of ecology and biology at the University of Minnesota.

Speaking at the University of Manitoba, Hoover's concern centered around the use of 'agent orange' — a herbicidal mixture of the poisons 2-4-D and 2-4-5-D.

Hoover is shocked that Canada has not banned or limited the use of agent orange. The toxins used in its preparation are used extensively as pesticides in Canada. Direct contact with even dilute proportions of these lethal poisons results in immediate chest pains, prickling of the skin, numbness, and eventual paralysis, Hoover said.

Studies involving veterans exposed to the pesticide during the Vietnam War indicate a breakdown in chromosomes which are transferred genetical-

ly to offspring, said Hoover.

These veterans father children with double the average incidence of physical abnormalities.

Other studies, Hoover said, revealed loss of muscular coordination, respiratory difficulties, and a high incidence of cancerous tumors in animals exposed to agent orange.

When sprayed over forested and agricultural areas, Hoover explained, the mixture seeps into ground water supplies, and in this way has ruined water reserves in several American cities. Transfer of the agent several miles from the target area, and persistence up to eight years after initial application have occurred.

Hoover also said there is evidence to back up the claim that in some instances, use of agent orange actually increases the number of insects in a given area where the agent is applied.

Student Union President Owen has not paid his tuition fees

by Sheila Fardy

More than four months past the deadline, Dalhousie Student Union president, Gord Owen, has not yet paid his tuition fees. When asked why not, Owen replied, "I don't have the money."

Owen's yearly salary as Student Union president is \$6,000.00. His tuition as a thesis-only student is \$234.00. He has paid his Student fees however.

Asked to justify his not meeting the deadline of September 30th, Owen replied, "I'm not sure I can." He mentioned that he has incurred a lot of personal expenses this year related to his position and the numerous conferences and functions he must attend. "I've bought suits and ties which normally a student wouldn't need," he said.

He said the Student Union picks up travel expenses but added, "I also have a bank loan I'm paying off for my previous years as a student."

Asked to comment, University president MacKay said, "I thought his tuition had been paid."

Owen had planned to work part-time on his thesis in Chemistry during the school year, but found he didn't have the time. "The Faculty of Graduate Studies has requested that I ask for a temporary leave of absence from September 1st to April 30th while I am president of the Student Union," he said. He is hoping to finish his thesis in the summer and graduate in the fall.

The Faculty of Graduate Studies received a letter in mid-December from the Business Office stating that thesis students who had not paid by the end of December would be withdrawn. It is, however, possible to make arrangements to pay in installments if the student is carrying a full-course load. Owen said, "It is between me and the Faculty of Grad Studies."

President MacKay said, "I'm sure he isn't the only student who hasn't paid his fees yet."

Owen's status is "confidential" at the Faculty of Graduate Studies.

Asked whether he is still a Dalhousie student since he hasn't paid tuition, Owen said that the president, vice-president, and treasurer do not have to be full-time students, but must have been full-time students in the year they ran for office.

There was what Owen called a "misunderstanding" between MacKay and Owen about an invitation to participate in the Inauguration ceremony. "We wanted Owen to participate in the inauguration, found out he hadn't paid his tuition, then heard that he had and invited him." Owen eventually received a late invitation to the event.

Owen said he plans to pay sometime before the end of February, as his financial situation has now improved.

