

# Carrigan to quit St. Mary's in 79

by Scott Vaughan

Owen Carrigan, President of Saint Mary's University, has announced that he will not seek the renewal of his contract as university president after it expires in June, 1979.

Carrigan told the *Gazette* that he had informed the Board of Governor's in the spring of last year of his desire to step down at the end of his present term. Carrigan said that his decision was in no way related to the recent non-confidence referendum, in which 87 per cent of the faculty members voted against him as president.

The SMU president has refused to resign prior to the termination of

his contract because "no formal charges have been presented by the faculty union, and thus the terms of my contract should be honoured until it expires."

The results of the referendum were forwarded to each member of the Board of Governor's, and last week a committee consisting of three members of the Board and three members of the faculty was established to come to a compromise over the Carrigan affair.

Victor Catano, President of the Faculty Union, said that the Board of Governor's realizes the "crisis situation which exists at the present time, and are offering to go to certain lengths to defuse it."

It is in the opinion of some members of the faculty that the

committee will recommend to the Board of Governor's that Carrigan give up his position as chairperson of the Senate and that he be excluded from all internal academic policies. In his place the Academic Vice President, Dr. Owen, will have final say in academic matters.

One of the central problems which would arise from such a decision will be the necessity to redraft the constitution of the university, since the powers of the President would be dramatically altered.

Meanwhile, contract negotiations between the faculty and the administration are almost complete, and a clean draft of the proposed contract will be given to each member of the

faculty for ratification next week. If the contract is ratified by the faculty members, then the faculty union and the administration should come to a final agreement by mid-November.

Asked if he foresaw any problems with the final ratification, Catano said that some members of his union have indicated that they would refuse to agree to the contract unless Carrigan's powers are not diminished for the remainder of his term in office. Catano pointed out that at "no time has the faculty union demanded the resignation of Carrigan, for it is the responsibility of the Board of Governor's. We (the faculty union) have simply submitted the results of the referendum."

## Acadians need effective change

by Daniele Gauvin

"In view of the recent revival of Acadian pride, identity and awareness in the Maritimes, the 10 year old 'Federation des Acadiens de la Nouvelle-Ecosse' (FANE) feels it is time to educate the public," said federation president Paul Comeau at last Thursday's law school lecture.

"We need to make people accept that we belong here, that we have vital problems and that our goal - the preservation of our language and culture - is not a threat to their lifestyle," Comeau added. He then went on to examine the reasons for the rapid assimilation of Nova Scotia's 80,000 Acadians and to suggest a 3-point plan of action.

"Some people don't realize that the Acadiens have been here since 1604," Comeau said. "Since then, they have been a silent, invisible minority, adopting a policy of harmony and co-operation with the English to ensure their survival." The federation feels that such a policy is no longer viable and that only a strong, organized collective of Acadian voices, united under FANE, can bring about effective change.

For Comeau, effective change has to start with the educational sector. "The only way for us to maintain our French identity in a primarily English environment is to have guaranteed access to French language education." The present system consists of isolated primary

schools whose policies vary from school board to school board. There is a pressing need, Comeau feels, for a stable, homogeneous system extending at least to grade 9. Such a system would go a long way in stemming the tide of increasing assimilation. The rates of assimilation, or cultural absorption, range from a low of 11% in Inverness county to a high of 90% in Lunenburg. This means that only 10% of the Acadian population in Lunenburg still use French daily.

Some of the key factors contributing to assimilation cited are the emigration of workers to English urban centers, the late arrival and inappropriate programming of French media, lagging economic development in rural areas and a mediocre French school system. The latter is especially important since it has contributed to the educational level of Acadians which is lower than average for Nova Scotia as a whole. This in turn is a serious handicap for the work force.

Although the government's only response so far has been to grant an experimental French school in the Halifax area, FANE plans to continue making proposals to the premier, to the departments of education and agriculture etc. They also plan to discuss publicly the linguistic rights issue and to share their various survey results with government and interest groups. As Comeau emphasizes, "Governments can't legislate attitudes."

## Dal faculty unsatisfied

by Eric Lawson

The Dalhousie Faculty Association, is unsatisfied with its current relationship with the administration, according to President Philip Welch. Salaries and the faculty's weak bargaining position are the DFA's key issues of concern.

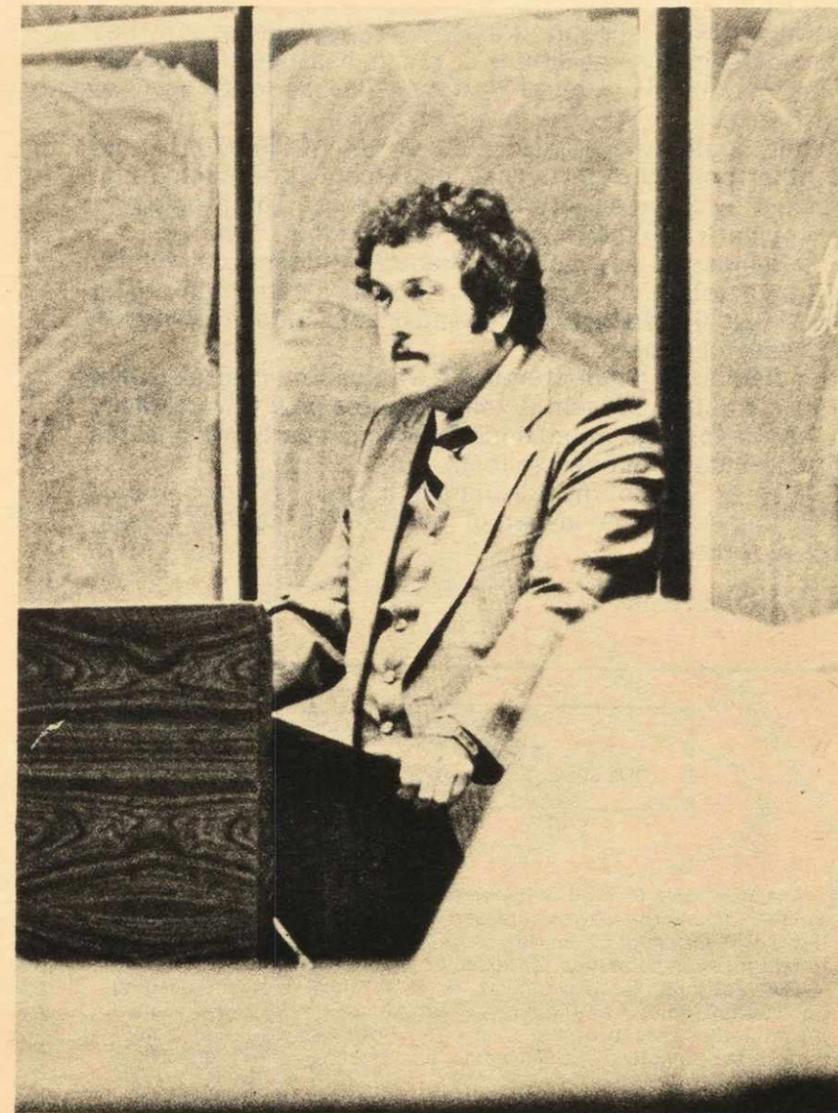
Dalhousie University faculty salaries are currently among the lowest in Canada, with Assistant Professors' salaries being 37th out of 40 universities surveyed last year. Associate professors' and professors' salaries are better, but still do not rank in the top half of the survey.

R.L. Comeau, of the Economics Department, and a member of a DFA board set up to deal with the administration on the problems of salaries and bargaining, feels that better faculty organization is essential. Comeau says that because the Faculty is disorganized, the Administration tends to ignore them. The

DFA would like to see the Faculty organized into a more tightly-knit group in order to strengthen their position in dealing with the administration.

The DFA does not, however, wish to unionize. University faculties, at Saint Mary's and Acadia, are currently unionized, while other universities have the same contract system as Dalhousie. Dalhousie's system involves an individual contract for each faculty member, who deals directly with the Administration and, in some instances, the Board of Governors.

According to Welch, the DFA wishes to adopt the sort of "mixed bag" system currently in use at UPEI, as well as some western universities (U of A, UBC). The particular type of "mixed bag" system which the DFA is aiming for would involve an organized faculty involved in collective bargaining with the administration and a



Dal Photo/Delorey

Act, and as such would not involve a union.

The DFA definitely favours a moderate approach, but feels that if the administration is not responsive to their demands, a more formal method of organization may be required.

binding arbitration clause. The Organization would, however, be outside of the Labour Organization

## Staff rejects contract offer

The Dalhousie Staff Association has overwhelmingly rejected the administration's proposed contract offer of a 5.5 per cent increase.

At a meeting held yesterday, 400 staff members voted in favour of a 17.5 per cent increase, and it is this figure which will be presented to the administration's bargaining team. Only three members in attendance at yesterday's meeting opposed the union's new wage demand.

The membership also decided that they will not accept a discontinuation of annual increment payments, which the university wishes to do away with. DSA President

Jane Mersereau said that the administration, during the ongoing contract talks, has refused to even discuss a negotiable pay increase. "The show of support should have much influence on the attitude of the administration's bargaining team," Mersereau told the *Gazette*.

"There was talk at the meeting of slowdowns and strike action if the proposals are not accepted, but at this time no conciliator has been called in," Mersereau said.

Vice-President W.A. MacKay said that he would not comment at this time on the DSA's new proposals.