

Structural problems seen

Report avoids Poushinsky issue

by Glenn Wanamaker

The Sociology Pro Tem Committee has recommended, in response to student charges, that Professor Nick Poushinsky avail himself more frequently for student consultation and that certain basic course deficiencies be examined.

The committee, set up to investigate charges of teaching incompetence, intimidation of students, and neglect of teaching responsibilities in Poushinsky's two courses, has submitted its report to faculty and administrative officials. Its members, D. B. Brodie and Bill Stephens, say there is no evidence of intimidation or incompetence.

In Sociology 301 (Statistics) computer programming was the basis of the first term's work. Students say that Poushinsky attended only two classes during this period while a computer programmer from the Computer Centre did the actual teaching. As well, no statistics was taught during this time. The Pro Tem report agrees that he should have made himself more available to the students and that the different aspects of the course should have been more closely co-ordinated.

As a result of this lack of co-ordination, data for a term paper was unavailable for the required date and two extensions were asked and granted, the second after a group letter.

In Sociology 450A (Honours Seminar) students say that content was disorganized and that Poushinsky was "belligerent". At one point he held a surprise test because he felt that students were unresponsive. The next class was boycotted. Students in these two classes emphasized that these are examples of the "bad faith" often exhibited by Poushinsky.

His frequent absence from class is apparently due to the fact that he has a Class A lobster license. Students also point out that he received a loan from the Nova Scotia Fisheries Board to outfit his boat, that he fished the entire workable fishing season, that he sold his catch to Mel's Market on Inglis Street, and that he can claim any losses against his income.

Poushinsky says he is doing this as part of participant research in the community of Sambro. However, students claim this violates several "traditionally held ethical principles of participant observation research". Basically the violations are: a) that he is making a profit; b) that he is

depriving another fisherman of a job; and c) that his absence causes him to be negligent.

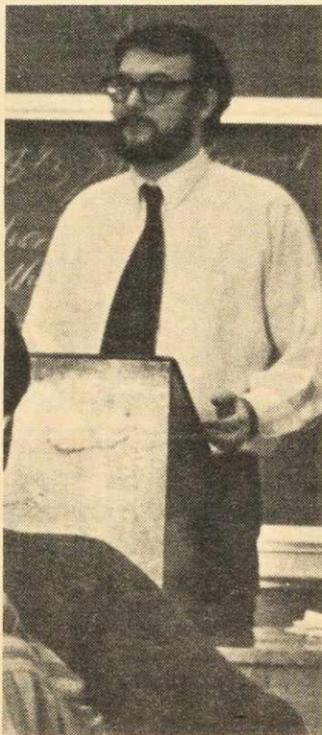
The Pro Tem Committee makes no mention of his lobstering activities. They only recommend that he maintain better office hours, that all papers and exams be returned

to students, and that any student may have his exam marked by another professor in Statistics.

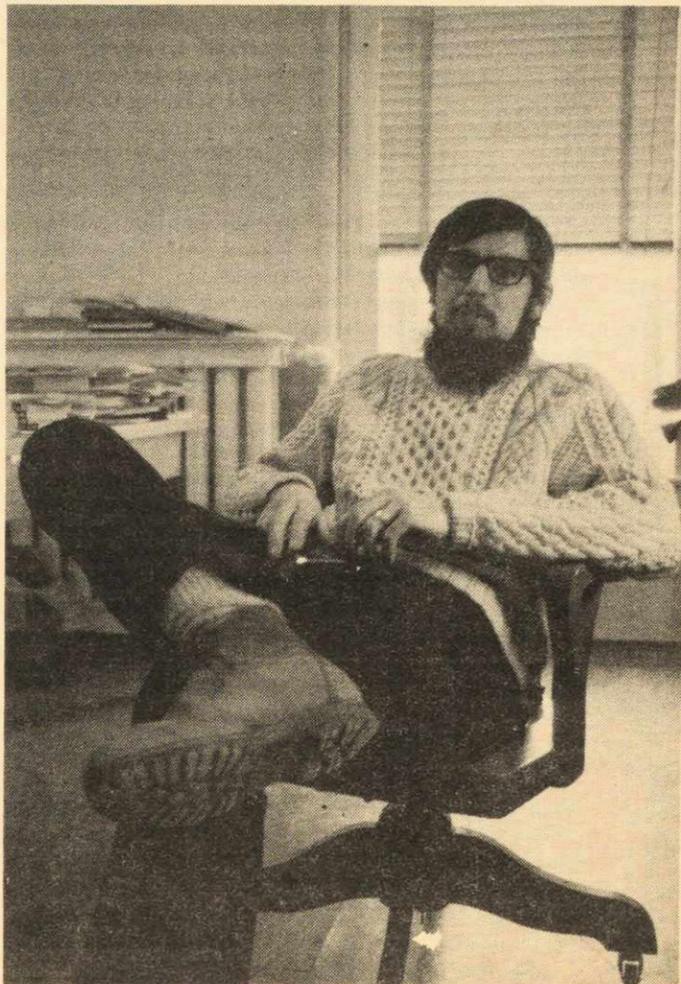
Generally the 15-page report sees basic structural deficiencies in both courses. The committee members feel there is a definite distinction between the two courses while students treat them as being dependant upon each other. The report emphasizes that professionalization is the objective of the 450A seminar. It also points out the traditional historical problems with statistics courses. The report makes a general recommendation that the department "undertake to clearly define and distinguish" the problems and differences in the course.

The greatest part of the report deals with the structural problems in the department and for this reason students feel that their issues with Poushinsky are being ignored.

The report concludes that there is no evidence of incompetence or intimidation, and that there is no evidence supporting the allegation of "unprofessional conduct" arising from Poushinsky's lobster research. Further action on this report rests with Department Chairman Don Clairmont and the faculty executive committee.



Soc Department Chairman Don Clairmont



Professor Nick Poushinsky, the subject of controversy in Soc. Department.

(art mackay / dal photo)

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FRIDAY, MARCH 24
Jazz and Suds SUB, 9 p.m.
Graduation Organ Recital by Sister Rose Robitaille, All Saints Cathedral, 3:30 p.m.
A Man for All Seasons, Mt. St. Vincent Movies, Seton Academic Centre, 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 25
The Consul — opera by Menotti, Cohn Auditorium, 8:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 26
The Consul, 8:30 p.m.

MONDAY, MARCH 27
Mic Mac Artifacts, Killam Library Display until April 10.

TUESDAY, MARCH 28
Student Recital by Raymond Grant, baritone and William Wallace, trombone, Cohn Auditorium, 8:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 31
University closed all day. Requiem by Faure, Atlantic Symphony and Atlantic Choral, Cohn Auditorium, 8:30 p.m.

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