

NEWS BRIEFS

Expert on rape to lecture at Dal

One of the world's foremost experts on rape will be teaching at Dalhousie during the second session of this year's summer school.

Dr. Menachem Amir, a criminologist at Israel's Hebrew University, will be teaching a course on "victimization", a study of victims of crime. Specifically, he will be concerned with who they are, how they are selected and how they can be protected.

Amir has recently written a book on rape which has been called the best known subject in the field.

"He's a very distinguished man. Pretty well any student of rape will recognize the name," said Dr. R.C. Kaill, chair of the Sociology and Social Anthropology department.

Engineers' Society fees up seven dollars

Student Council passed a motion last Sunday to raise the fees of the Dalhousie Engineering Society from three to ten dollars.

The proposed increase was earlier supported in a referendum where 53 percent of engineering students voted 82 percent in favour of it.

Engineering rep Keith Wellband moved the increase which now must go to the Board of Governors for ratification.

Med Society signs new contract with Student Union

The Dalhousie Medical Students Society (DMSS) have signed a new contract with the Dalhousie Student Union.

In the three year, non-renewable contract the DSU guarantees the DMSS \$4,000 per annum to pay for the Tupper Times, a publication focusing on issues concerning the lower campus; partial funding of dues to the Canadian Federation of Medical Students, a lobbying group for medical students; and numerous lower campus functions often open to all students.

The Society is planning to raise its fees from ten to thirteen dollars a student.

Lecturer to speak on library services for the handicapped

The director of National Library Services for the Canadian Institute of the Blind will be speaking at Dalhousie next Friday, April 10.

Francoise Hebert will speak at 10:45 a.m. in the MacMechan Auditorium of the Killam Library on "Library Services to the Handicapped in Canada".

Course evaluation still alive

by Paul Creelman

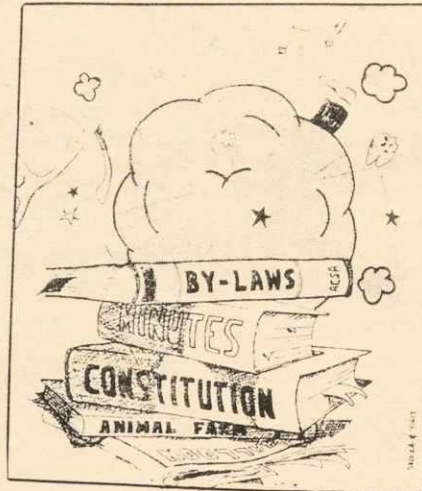
There remains hope for the course evaluation project. Plagued with organizational problems and difficulty writing up the survey reports, last year's pilot project never made it off the ground. However, a proposal for a joint faculty-administration-student union course evaluation may make the evaluation of courses a reality next year, according to Jeff Champion, vice-president of Student Council.

"The proposal was presented to the committee on academic administration last Monday—it was decided the proposal to design a questionnaire applicable to all faculties would be referred to the committee on teaching and learning to make a report by next month."

The main concerns of the administration are that the evaluation deal fairly with all of the different faculties. Expressing guarded approval of the idea of a course evaluation, faculty were worried about the results of a poorly designed evaluation.

Dr. David Cameron, representing the President's office

of the administration, states that there are serious reservations about the idea of designing a single questionnaire which would be used for all courses offered at Dal.



"We can't evaluate Arts and Science in the same way as Law", says Cameron. Rather, it was felt that "evaluation of classes and teachers is more appropriately handled at the faculty or departmental level."

The concerns of the faculty and administration fall into several areas, says Champion.

"They're afraid of a vast number of things", says Champion. "They're afraid the evaluation won't be relevant to their programs, that they will be evaluated poorly and that the evaluation will be biased."

However, to answer some of these concerns the Student Union is proposing a very general set of questions which couldn't possibly apply to a single department, says Champion. The concept of a joint evaluation project is still seen as the only way to create an ongoing yearly evaluation. A co-operative effort of this type could help lessen the immense strain on the resources and manpower of the Student Union which course evaluations have been in the past.

Champion states that the proposal will be studied by the Committee on Teaching and Learning, which is to make a report next month. The project, if approved, could be in place by next year.

Poverty and Destitution no fun

WINNIPEG [CUP]—Claiming poverty and destitution, a group of Manitoba students gathered in front of a downtown department store March 26, to show their dissatisfaction with the student aid program by begging money from passerbys.

Demonstration organizer Debbie Jansen, a student at the University of Winnipeg, said the demonstration is an attempt to publicize what she describes as the "second-class status of students relying on student aid."

Jansen, who is on student

aid, said the student aid program in Manitoba did not provide students with enough money to live on, and added insult to injury by conducting "spot audits to discover how anyone could possibly live on what little money they are given."

It was discovered recently that over 650 students in Manitoba have been subjected to random audits which include demands to produce grocery receipts, bank statements and income tax forms, dating back three years.

According to the student aid

brochure, the student aid branch audits the files to "confirm financial information and to protect the program from abuse."

Jansen said the detailed information students are expected to produce relegates the student to a "class lower than the welfare recipient."

She said it is also often impossible to produce the documentation demanded by student aid.

John Clake, vice president of the University of Winnipeg, said "I could never come up with the kind of documentation demanded of those students being audited. I don't see how they can expect students to come up with it."

"As soon as you get your money from student aid you forfeit your rights as a citizen," Jansen said. "The government is not allowed to ask people on welfare for all that information."

"When I was audited, they asked me where I got a \$9.83 entry in my checking account—the entry was dated March 15, 1978. It cost me \$15 to get that information for them from the bank."

Tom Evans, vice president external of the University of Winnipeg students' association, said students have no legal methods to fight the student aid people. Student aid, he said, has the legal right to audit the way they do.

"It is ridiculous, but they can't be touched."

Fredric Kleiman, director of Student Aid in Manitoba, said that if students would just give full disclosure when they apply for student aid, many problems in the program could be avoided.

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