



Women march in celebration of International Women's Day see page 7

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## VD 'real problem' at Dal

by J. Bryan MacLean

Sexually transmitted diseases (STD) have been identified by Student Health Services as a very real problem at Dalhousie. Recently collected statistics indicate there are over 25 STD's treated per week at Student Health. These include gonorrhoea, herpes simplex II, candidiasis, venereal warts, pubic lice, trichomoniasis and non-gonococcal urethritis which is mostly caused by chlamydia infections.

In a recent interview Dr. Anne Marie Gill of Student Health said although gonorrhoea is a reportable disease, Student Health does not report names to the Department of Health. For each person who is diagnosed as having gonorrhoea there is at least one or two other people who have it. The Department of Health

from the health information displays there or from the nursing office. There are circulars being distributed to all residence students with information on preventing sexually transmitted diseases. Staff from Student Health also met with dons at Shirreff Hall. The causes, transmission, symptoms, treatment and prevention of common sexually transmitted diseases were discussed; as well as the implications of the negative attitudes about VD. On March 10 a lecture, jointly organized by Student Health and Phi Rho, will be presented at Phi Rho on Inglis Street at 7:00. The role of health education, nursing and medicine in VD control will be discussed.

There is only one VD clinic in the province. Dr. Russell Manuel runs the clinic which is located in the D.J. MacKen-

"The law requires we supply names, but we try to bend a little. Even the lab reports are done with numbers instead of names."

The procedure at the clinic usually begins with a talk between doctor and patient, then if the situation requires it, testing is done. Treatment begins immediately, even before the test results are returned. A recheck is always required; at least once for males and twice for females. This is the same basic procedure used at Student Health. Tests done at Student Health are very accurate, reports Gill. The slides are done there and cultures for gonorrhoea infections are started at their facilities before going to the lab. Appointments are required at Student Health, but not for the VD clinic.

There are no charges for

**In one year gonorrhoea rose from 984 cases to 1064.**

uses the names reported to trace their partners and to ensure the partners receive treatment too. Tracing contacts is not necessarily a problem, according to Gill, especially within the university population. Gill said their clientele are more frank and will encourage their partner(s) to get treatment.

In recent weeks Student Health has begun a brief venereal disease information campaign. Pamphlets on STD are now available at Student Health and can be obtained

zle Diagnostic Center on University Avenue. Manuel says that there are advantages to attending the clinic rather than your own physician. Manuel says that the clinic does testing not normally done in a physician's office. "We also have more time to spend with each patient, and try not to rush them through." He also clearly states that everything is done in confidence. The clinic keeps statistics and reports to the Department of Health using a number system. Says Manuel,

treatment or drugs at the VD clinic; no need even for a MSI card. The clinic was advertised, but this has since discontinued. When asked why this is so, Manuel admitted the government is not interested in funding any of the work done at the clinic.

The hours for the VD clinic are Monday and Thursday, 5:00 to 6:30. The patient load varies anywhere from 15 to 30 patients per night. Manuel says it is difficult to approximate how many of these continued on page 7

## Feds threaten cuts..

TORONTO (CUP)

"Universities are threatened with a loss of over 40 per cent of their operating budgets if the current federal government plans to cut the cash transfers to the provinces for post secondary education are implemented," according to Sarah Shorten, president of the Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations.

McMaster, Ottawa, Toronto and York, "key research centres in Ontario," will suffer most, Shorten said, as they rely on federal cash transfers as a percentage of their revenue.

Shorten was speaking at a conference on financing universities, "For Whom and by Whom," held March 3 in Toronto.

The federal government has been involved in the financing of universities since 1951. Established Program Financing (EPF) has operated since 1977, whereby the federal government contributions, made in the form of tax transfers and in cash, are no longer tied to provincial spending but are tied to the GNP.

However, the current federal budget is so great that the government is considering reducing or even eliminating the cash portion of the program. This constitutes approximately 40 to 45 per cent of Ontario universities' revenue.

Professor Paul Davenport of the McGill University economics department, said "higher education is an essential input for economic growth...the benefits of a university education as the regional mobility of graduates increases creates a strong case for federal funding."

According to Davenport, university operating expenditures have fallen relative to both the GNP and to provincial expenditures.

Davenport repudiated the unemployed PhD stereotype,

arguing that university grads have a lower rate of unemployment than other members of the labour market, without reduction in their relative earnings.

Davenport also warned that if they do not train prospective employees, firms will locate elsewhere, particularly in the U.S.

The Assistant Deputy Minister of the Ministry of State for Social Development, Richard Van Loon, explained that the federal contribution was an unconditional grant that the provincial government can use as they see fit. The total cash transfers to the provinces for education in 1980-81 is \$1.6 billion, he said.

Provincial expenditures on higher education, however, rose only 6 to 7 per cent on the constant dollar basis, a fall of 14 to 20 per cent, Van Loon said. The provincial governments' "restraint ethic" and the failure of the post secondary institutions to lobby on their own behalf, are important factors in the current financing problems, he said.

Premier Richard Hatfield of New Brunswick was optimistic about the rumoured cutbacks.

"I think the current fears of the economic problems of our country will be solved on the backs of our universities, are unfounded," he said. "Higher education will be funded. It's just too important for the federal and provincial governments to ignore."

The president of the Institute for Research on Public Policy, Gordon Robertson, urged the current provision for a federal role, such as a forum where problems could be solved.

"It's going to be harder to bring Hatfield's positive convictions to the minister and get a positive reaction, if there is no recognition that there is a national dimension to this issue," he said.

## ... SUNS responds

by Paul Creelman

The present federal review of EPF payments, and possible cuts of \$1.6 billion from the federal spending on education were the number one topics at a SUNS conference last weekend. Jeff Champion, secretary treasurer of the Student's Union of Nova Scotia (SUNS), states that public awareness of the university's situation was the first priority of discussions at the conference. Stating that it has only been in the last few weeks that SUNS has become aware of the problem, Champion says that talks with university administrators with contacts in the federal government have made the danger of major cutbacks apparent.

"There was debate as to whether we should make some effort to stop it by holding a demonstration. After much soul-searching, delegates decided that it was too late in the academic year to organize a protest in the time left," said Champion.

Instead, SUNS will meet again in two weeks and hopefully set preliminary plans for a proposed symposium to be held in the riding of Finance Minister Allen MacEachen. The symposium will involve university, social affairs, and labour groups, all arranged to fit the primary theme, which has a working title of 'Education is an Industry'.

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