

The New Brunswick government is believed to be in favor of having the Halifax School for the Blind located in Amherst where both blind and deaf students would be living under one roof.

"This would be a tragedy of

School for the Blind, expressed his view on the suggested move to Amherst. "I don't like the idea at all. We have medical centers here and we have readers — they would be hard to obtain in Amherst. The environment would not be con-

young."

"Our academic curriculum is the same as that in the public schools," Stanbury said. "We have been criticized for not having a vocational training programme. To the best of my knowledge, no school for the

government will take this matter up with the board at an early date," Stanbury said.

BRAM, headed by former students of the Halifax school, makes their point more bluntly. "The education departments of the four Atlantic provinces must wake up to the fact that their policies of herding blind people into a 19th century asylum, and paying little attention to them thereafter, is a gross violation of the rights of Canadian children to proper education opportunities."

"We have no quarrels with

with the facilities and imagination. However, Trivett said, there are unpleasant surroundings especially in the dining hall which is located under a stair-well. During a conducted tour of the school some months ago, Rev. Trivett noticed a great contrast between the boys' and girls' dormitories. The girls' dormitories were well painted, happy and pleasant. In the boys' dormitories there were holes in the doors of lockers, floor and bed blankets. "A resemblance to a 'flop house'," Rev. Trivett said.

## BRAM Opposes Blinds'

the first order because it would negate what the school has been trying to do throughout its history, namely to integrate the visually handicapped into a type of community to which they are accustomed, namely an urban setting where employment is available. So why regress by going into comparative isolation?" said Mr. L. Legg, principal of the Halifax School for the Blind.

"The facilities offered by the city of Halifax are of immeasurable value," Legg said. "Between the blind and the deaf there is no communication. It would be like gang warfare between both factions if the move to integrate both the blind and the deaf took place."

Terry Kelly, a student at the

ducive to modern society. We would lose "good" teachers we already have."

Norman Stanbury, Chairman of the Board of Management of the Halifax School for the Blind, said the members of the Board

by Martin Dalley

are seriously opposed to moving to Amherst. "This would be disastrous," he said. "Blind people, on leaving the school, nearly always live in an urban atmosphere where their future employment most probably lies, and the time for them to learn how to protect themselves in the traffic and crush of city milieu is when they are

blind in Canada has such a programme, as this field is the responsibility of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind."

However, the Blind Rights Action Movement (BRAM) feel that the responsibility of a vocational training programme is with the school. In fact, the only vocational training programme at the Blind School is piano tuning, and the number of piano tuning graduates is very small. A number of these graduates are unemployed.

The controversy over the need for a new school has been going on for the past five years.

"The previous government was sympathetic to our needs. They were reaching a point of decision and we believe the new

## Move to Amherst

the old or new government. The old government was understanding and helpful," Stanbury said.

Rev. Don Trivett, an active member of BRAM, referred to the suggestion of moving the school to Amherst as creating an idea of disabled people who can't speak or see. They should experience normal society, he said.

At the present time, there is a wing not in use at the Inter-provincial School for the Deaf at Amherst. This would be fitted out for the blind students.

"There are facilities of some sort as I have been told," Rev. Trivett said.

The school is doing all it can

Conditions which exist at the school are not the fault of the staff, but the lack of specialists, Trivett said. "During the tour the staff were most open and helpful, yet I felt they were reluctant to speak to blind members of BRAM."

The Blind Rights Action Movement has pressured the government even though it was taking action to obtain a new school.

BRAM has good intentions in regard to blind students' future. Their methods seem to be breaking down the structure of different segments of the administration, said a student at the school.

## Benevolent Dictatorship?

The democratic structures of Dal Radio have been eliminated and replaced by what might be called a benevolent dictatorship — for the good of the radio station.

At a staff meeting January 14th, Dave Smith, in his new role as Chairman, announced that the former executive had approved a change in the station's heretofore democratically-run operations. From now on, the chairman will have overall authority.

Subordinate to the chairman is an operating committee, whose five members will be

selected by Smith, after reviewing applications. Applications have also been received for positions of department directors, but their identity is not yet known.

Conceding the fact that Dal Radio progressed from a "helter-skelter" operation to an "almost helter-skelter" operation over the summer months, Smith nevertheless feels that the sloppy and lackadaisical work now being produced must be removed.

Other members of the former executive echoed Smith's feelings. Dave Weldon, tem-

porary station director, said, "I am sick, tired, disappointed, and disillusioned with Dal Radio, its executive-staff relations, and the general attitude of Dal Radio members towards Dal Radio, its facilities and its fellow members." He cited "egocentric programming jocks" as one of the prime reasons for the drastic structural change.

Radio Technical Director Fred Mattocks said that members have turned the studios into "a \$100,000 playpen." He also noted that over half of this year's budget will be spent on replacing damaged equipment.

Complaints were also registered by Bob Switzer, the Chief Librarian, concerning lousy programming and ignorance of different types of music.

Precise job definitions have not been decided as yet, except for the fact that the operating committee will assist the Chairman in making station policy.

The directors of departments will have no real say in the functioning of the station, but will operate their departments under the instructions of the Chairman and the Committee.

According to Smith, Dal Radio needs creative people with new ideas to join. They, like the present members, will be trained and tested before going on the air.

## The United Voice

The Atlantic Association of University Broadcasters is on the move.

First plans for the association were laid in 1969, but little progress was made. At the instigation of Radio UNB, interested stations met again, last November, and finally set the wheels in motion.

The purpose of the association is to promote co-operation among Atlantic university radio stations, and to work for the ultimate benefit and voice of its members. A.A.U.B. will create a united voice, giving members more bargaining power with record and radio equipment companies. It will also be feasible to apply to the CRTC (Canadian Radio and Television Commission) for such things as FM licenses.

With close to 50,000 listeners throughout Maritime universities, the impetus to provide better programming is being felt in all Atlantic centres. The next rap session is slated for U.P.E.I. starting February 5th.

## The CUP Saga

by Glen Wannamaker

This December staffers from the Dal Gazette attended the Canadian University Press national conference in Naramata (near Penticton), B.C. The following is a Maritimer's-eye view of this annual excursion.

They came in ones and twos; they came in threes and fours; they even came in fives and sixes. And then they were a multitude, singing praises to the stewardess of Pacific Western Airlines — "One of our safety features is this oxygen mask, though it is extremely doubtful that you will ever have to use it. . ."

They stormed Penticton International Airport and raided the outdoor baggage terminal, before commandeering several busses. Then . . . as the sun set slowly into Lake Okanagan, beautiful downtown Naramata Centre lit up like a giant firefly in a rain-storm.

Yes, Naramata Centre, British Columbia, site of the 33rd National Conference of Canadian University Press, was a sight to behold — for the native of *Ecum Secum*, sin capital of Nova Scotia.

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We arrived in mid-afternoon December 27th and got down to business rather quickly, with the opening plenary at dinnertime and a seminar on what CUP was, is, and hopes to be.

What it is now is an organization of university and college newspapers. CUP has a national executive, in Ottawa, as well as field secretaries who roam the country doing their best to improve member papers. Its purpose is to provide relevant features on any number of important subjects, and generally to provide news coverage in a way that is not done in the regular media — in other words, an alternate medium.

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