

# Tech students win first round

by Tom Regan

The students of the Nova Scotia Technical College (NSTC) have won the first battle in their dispute with the dean of architecture. The Board of Governors of NSTC have announced they have asked the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada to conduct an impartial investigation concerning complaints against the Dean of architecture and the problems with the conflicting schools of thought within the College.

The Royal Architectural Institute consists of all architects across the country. It will be the College of Fellows of the Institute, which consists of the senior architects of the association, that will conduct the investigation. Students are hoping for the investigation to begin in April, when most classes are finished and there is more time to make proper representation.

Not all the students demands were agreed to as Professor Larry Richards was still denied tenure and promotion.

Students of the Architectural School seemed happy with most of the Board's

recommendations.

"We are very pleased that the Board has taken this action" said Cathy McArel, spokesperson for the students. "We hope that the Institute does call the investigation in April because this will give us more time to prepare a proper presentation. Right now most of us are pretty busy trying to catch up with our school work." work."

Although the Board seems to think that the students have some basis for being upset, McArel said the attitude of the Dean and the President of the college, Clair Callahan, have not changed.

"We haven't heard a word from the Dean about the whole thing", Ms. McArel said. "He and the president seem to think the whole thing has blown over. They still maintain a callous attitude."

McArel said the students will still support Professor Richards for a fair trial hearing regarding his position at the school.

"Many of the students do not want to support the idea of tenure. Many think tenure is outdated. However we do think Richards had legal

grounds for fair procedure. He deserves a hearing at least."

"The students have filed an official grievance with the Faculty Association concerning professor Richards.

However it now appears that the students might have a hard time convincing Richards to stay even if he is granted a new hearing.

A source within the school of architecture said the Board ordered President Callahan to offer Larry Richards a new contract as Campus Design Co-ordinator, a position Richards previously held in addition to his teaching job.

When contacted Professor Richards said the report was true.

"Yes I was offered a contract as the Campus Design Co-ordinator, but I did not accept it", said Richards. "It was totally unacceptable".

Richard declined to say what exactly was wrong with the new contract and only commented that he had "no real interest in working for an institution that has done some of the things this place has."

## TA's at Dal organize

by Charles Spurr

Cutbacks in higher education have had their effects in all aspects of university life. One example is the movement of teaching assistants towards becoming organized in unions in order to protect their interests. This movement amongst the teaching assistants is due to the escalating cost of living, and to all of the other burdens being put on the students.

Nationally, this process has gone so far as to have led to a strike at Ryerson Polytechnical in Toronto. As the pres-

ures of the current economic crisis mount, it is likely to spread across the country.

At Dalhousie, the Graduate Students' Association (GSA) is just in the initial stages of sorting out the problems faced by graduate assistants.

Tom Keating, spokesman for GSA, said graduate students receive funding from three sources: from assistantships, outside grants, and graduate student scholarships. The three sources of funding are usually combined into a single package of which the student has to work for a portion. The amount of the assistantship and the work varies.

Approximately one third of the graduate students (or about 300 students) work at assistantships at Dalhousie. Hourly earnings vary from \$2.75 to \$9.00, but teaching assistants are usually paid on a yearly basis. So students receive from \$500 to \$1200 per year for an assistantship.

Keating said graduate students are in an uncertain position right now, not being included in either the faculty or staff associations. However, he said most faculties recognize that graduate students make a valuable contribution to their departments. Yet some larger universities have been able to make greater advances in defining the teaching assistant's position.

In addition to pay, the GSA spokesman said, there is the academic side of the question. Assistantships often provide an important asset to the

student's education. Yet there has been no increase in the amount paid teaching assistants, unlike other university employees.

The two major complaints concerning working conditions for teaching assistants at Dalhousie, Mr. Keating said, were the type of task and the number of hours worked. Students often complain that the tasks given them are menial and do not contribute to their academic programme.

Keating said the number of hours varies quite a bit. While the Faculty of Graduate Studies recommends that teaching assistantships be from six to ten hours per week, TAs often report having to work longer hours. One teaching assistant complained about having had to work 32 hours per week for a ten-hour assistantship.

As for foreign students, Keating said they are not eligible to receive money from outside grants such as Canada Research Council. Yet any assistantship jobs are available to foreign students, if that work is a part of their program of study and so long as payment does not come from outside grants.

Is a teaching assistant's union needed at Dalhousie? The GSA spokesman said the abuses that have taken place at other universities, such as York University, have not been heard of here. "We're just beginning to fight our way through all the variables involved," Keating said. "A union might be necessary to deal with the question of pay."

## Feminists rally

by Cathy McDonald

Women, men and children marched through falling snow and slush on Saturday, March 8th, protesting the Nova Scotia governments' inaction concerning women's issues.

The march commemorated International Women's Day.

Singing and chanting: "Up from the kitchens, up from the bedrooms, up from under, women unite!" the 160 protesters marched from Victoria Park on Spring Garden Road, downtown to the Court House.

A mock trial was staged. In the play "governments past and present" were accused by provincial women of "gross contempt and negligence of the needs of women".

The march was initiated by the Nova Scotia's Women's Action committee and supported by 16 women's groups in Halifax.

In a communique issued before the march, these groups called for universal access to community based free day care, as recommended by the Nova Scotia Status of Women's report of 1976. The "prosecutor" in the mock trial attacked the government's day care policy. Day care workers are paid poverty wages and the quota of children per worker was recently increased.

"This shows how unimportant child-care or 'women's work' is," the prosecutor said.

The government was accused of stalling with the long promised matrimonial law while other Canadian provin-

ces have moved towards legislating equal division of property between divorced couples.

An issue stressed in the trial was the need for legislation enforcing equal pay for work of equal value. Most women work in low-paid service, education and clerical jobs. Nova Scotia Premier Buchanan had introduced a resolution for equal pay legislation in April 1977, while leader of the opposition. However since Buchanan has been in power no legislation has been passed.

The government's main defense in the "trial" was the creation of the Advisory Council on the Status of Women. The protesters feel this council has done little to face the issues. Margie Vigneault, speaking on behalf of the protesters, said the Advisory Council does not have any real power.

"The Advisory Council has no power unless it is very public, but it maintains a low profile and is afraid of the press." She said the council is used mainly to reward women in whichever party is in power. It is slow and bureaucratic, an ineffective body.

Vigneault said the protesters wanted to "keep the women's issues alive that were well-documented in the Status of Women report in 1976. The 1980's have come and nothing has changed. In fact women have suffered cutbacks in areas like day care," she said.

Other issues protested by

the march were the need of support for Bryony House (a crisis shelter for battered women), the provision of readily available birth control and abortion information, and the inclusion of sexual orientation in the Human Rights code.

With loud boos and shouts of "guilty" the protesters convicted the governments of "failing to accept responsibility and thwarting efforts to effect change in all areas of concern to women".

International Women's Day originated in 1910 when women garment workers marched in New York. They were protesting sweatshop conditions and demanding the right to vote.

