

cross-canada briefs

Acadia cancer support a first

BY MICHAEL NASH

WOLFVILLE, NS (CUP) — Away from home to attend university, Terry McDonald and Sharman Connick were not ready for the added stress of watching family members get sick with cancer.

While the disease is never easy to deal with, the two Acadia University students say their experiences would have been less difficult if they had a proper support group to turn to.

With that in mind they started Living with Cancer at Acadia, Canada's first campus support group designed for students, staff, and faculty dealing with cancer.

"We felt there was a need to establish a group on campus," said McDonald. "There weren't any specific groups at the university level designed to provide support."

One out of every three people will be diagnosed with cancer at some point in their lives and of that group, one in five will succumb to it. Cancer can strike every major organ in the body and there is no guaranteed cure — just various forms of treatment and coping mechanisms.

Living with Cancer at Acadia is part of a larger national program sponsored by the Canadian Cancer Society known as Living with Cancer. The Acadia group is unique, however, due to the fact that it is the first of its kind in Canada to be established at the university level.

Computer lets 100 flunk-outs back in

BY CHAD LUFF

ST. JOHN'S, Nfld. (CUP) — One hundred students who should have flunked out of Memorial University last semester were fortunate that a computer screwed-up worse than they did, allowing them back in school this term.

University Registrar Glenn Collins said the error occurred during the processing of readmission status and grade reporting in late December. The mistake wasn't picked up until January and by that stage the students involved had already been told they were eligible to return.

In response to the screw-up, the university allowed the students to register, but all were placed on academic warning.

"By the time the error was discovered, these students were back into the university, if not attending classes," Collins said. "A lot of them had made travel plans and decided to come in on the basis of the information they were given. We decided to honour that information."

The university says a computer that calculates grades had trouble with a new system of credit-hours the university implemented last semester.

Students taught to hack computers

BY TRACY E. FRAUZEL

OTTAWA (CUP) — For University of Ottawa computer science students, cheating on exams could be as easy as paying attention in class.

Computer science professor George White teaches a course that shows students how to obtain information from their local computer networks. The course focuses on how to interpret codes that reveal information such as the origin, destination and route of e-mail messages.

But in the meantime students are also learning to use the same devices to track down information passing on the university system, including exams and marks.

Wajdi Feghali, a fourth year math and computer science student, is concerned about the possibility of students viewing course marks as they are transferred between administrators and professors.

"A student could acquire a piece of equipment and sniff the network, and by (using sniffers) they are looking at the data being transferred. So not only could you see the marks of all the students, there may be other sensitive information being sent by professors, secretaries and faculty members," said Feghali.

A sniffer is a computer device or programs that allows a user to view all the information passing on a computer network. A computer on a network will only accept information destined for its address, but sniffers pull in all the information passing by on that network.

However, Peter Hickey, assistant director of communication, contends that there are mechanisms in place at the U of O to prevent sniffing but did not want to describe them for security reasons.

"If somebody wants to get marks changed," said Hickey, "they'd be much more successful to bribe someone to do it than they would be to go across the network."

DAL/TUNS MERGER

Changes to engineering program still under wraps

BY STEPHANIE PIERI

Details about changes to the Dalhousie Engineering program are still sketchy, and faculty remain tight-lipped, with less than two months left before amalgamation with the Technical University of Nova Scotia.

The Bachelor of Engineering program at Dal will soon undergo a radical change as a result of the Dalhousie/Technical University of Nova Scotia (TUNS) merger. The amalgamation of the two schools, which comes into effect April 1st, will reduce the time it takes to complete an engineering degree from five years to four years.

A professional degree, the Bachelor of Engineering is conferred by TUNS in collusion with Dalhousie University.

In the past, the first two years of engineering study were completed at Dalhousie, and the degree was completed with a three year program at TUNS. The changes mean students will be completing two years at Dalhousie before moving over to TUNS — which will become a college of Dal as a result of the amalgamation — to complete their degree in four instead of five years.

When asked to comment about the changes to the engineering program here at Dalhousie, Dr. Sherwin Nugent, Chair of the Engineering Department, refused to comment at this time.

Negotiations surrounding the proposed changes to the engineering program remain very hushed. In fact, the Registrar's Office does not know the details of the amendments to the program, and doesn't expect to know until April. It is expected that in April the committee working on the curriculum will be finished. No de-

tails are being released before then.

"We live in a microwave, where people want answers now. We simply do not have them," said Linda Conrad, administrative secretary for the Dalhousie Engineering Department.

Dr. Adam Bell, Dean of Engineering at TUNS, explained some of the historical changes that have been made to the engineering program in Nova Scotia.

"It went to a four year program in the late seventies and early eighties and then it went to a two/three year program and it was left at only five years because with only one year at an associated university, it was essentially a non-starter for them," said Bell.

One problem that the universities have been facing in dealing with this change is the impact it will have on course content. In the past, the degree requirements meant the completion of 53 to 55 credits. Now, students will have to have only 45 credits. However, because the engineering degree is accredited, the content of the courses being eliminated cannot disappear from the degree requirements. This means the dropped courses' content will have to be worked into the remaining courses.

A five year engineering program is unique to Nova Scotia; nowhere else in North America is the program set up in the current format. The changes to the degree will mean that the Dalhousie/TUNS engineering program will be made more "competitive" with those of other universities. Students will not only be saving a year in tuition, but gaining an extra year's work experience and — more importantly — pay.

New roof, new leaks

BY GAZETTE STAFF

The new roof of the Killam Library atrium was supposed to make the building air tight and leak-free. A heavy snow and rain storm put the roof to the test recently, a test which the structure failed as it leaked water for several hours.

"Two huge gutters with a buildup of slush created lakes [on the roof]," said Bill Lord, Director of Physical Plant and Planning, explaining the cause of the leaks.

The water buildup caused only minor leaks. Water dripping from the roof pooled on the floor of the atrium. As there were no leaks in the interior skylights, there was no water damage done to any books or materials.

Martin Giddy, Manager of Architectural Services, said that the roof design includes a series of peaks and valleys which are meant to allow water to run off. While previous rain storms hadn't caused any real problems, in this particular storm snow that collected on the roof was not given

a chance to melt away before the rain began to fall. The snow acted like a dam, preventing the rain from running off.

"This isn't a regular thing that happened," said Giddy.

The most likely solution to the roof problem is to run heating cables along the roof to melt collected snow. However, the cables can only melt the snow so fast, so there is always the possibility of water backing up if the right conditions arise again.

When the roof was being constructed last year, there had been debate as to whether the heating cables should be included then or at a time when the need arose. Lord estimated the cost for installing the heating cables at around \$200, a small amount compared to the \$1.5 million cost of the whole Killam improvement project.

Along with the addition of the roof, the Killam improvements last year included the upgrading of the ventilation system and the addition of new, more efficient lighting.

Activities
African Heritage Month

FEBRUARY 13

Reading by author Dionne Brand

7 p.m.
Halifax North Branch Library

Public Lecture

7 p.m.
Black Cultural Centre
Guest Speaker TBA.
Sponsored by the Black Cultural Centre for NS.

FEBRUARY 14

Reading by Dionne Brand

In conjunction with the Dalhousie English Department, Dionne Brand will be giving a reading. BSACE.

Rites of Passage: Black Youth

7 p.m.
Halifax North Branch Library
Sponsored by the Brothers Reaching Out Society.

Anti-Racism Conference

7 p.m.
Holiday Inn Harbourview, Dartmouth
Sponsored by the Nova Scotia Federation of Labour.

FEBRUARY 15

African Heritage Month Gala Dinner and Dance

6 p.m.
World Trade and Convention Centre
\$30 per person. Sponsored by the Black History Month Association.

FEBRUARY 18

Open House/Coffee Hour

Student Resource Room, Dalhousie SUB
Off and on-campus students welcome.
BSACE.

Public Speaking Contest

7 p.m.
Dartmouth North Community Centre
Sponsored by the Parents of Black Children for Quality Education.

Owning the Problem: White People's Response to Racism

7 p.m.
Halifax Regional Library, Cole Harbour Branch
Sponsored by the Metro Coalition for Non-Racist Society.

A World of Our Own

Featuring Lucky Campbell
7:30 p.m.
Black Cultural Centre, Dartmouth
A musical about Liberty in all its forms. Liberty, a Black Loyalist, meets Liberty, an indentured servant, on the freedom ship to Nova Scotia where they're set adrift to face further struggle and eventual triumph in the barren winds of Tracadie.

FEBRUARY 19

Building Legal Service in the African Nova Scotian Community

7 p.m.
Halifax North Branch Library

Sankofa

Film
7 p.m.
Windsor Foundation Lecture Theatre, Art Gallery of NS, 1741 Hollis Street (Bedford Row entrance)
Sponsored by the African Canadian Education Project.

For information on African Heritage Month events, please call 454-INFO (4636) or visit the web site at <http://www.chebucto/~aj509/africa.html>.

For more information on Dalhousie Black Student Advising Centre Events (BSACE), call Khadija at 494-6648.