

Black community must work together

by Gary P. LeBlanc

Nova Scotia's black citizens have a long way to go and need a lot of organizing to get there, said a local politician at a lecture last Tuesday. In the McMechan Auditorium of the Killam Library, Frank Boyd gave a presentation called "Back to the Plantation". Boyd gained his higher education at St. Mary's and Dalhousie, and ran for alderman in

last month's municipal elections.

The "Black Bourgeoisie of Nova Scotia" program originally scheduled for the evening was cancelled due to the speaker being in the U.S.

For the first part of the evening, Boyd delivered a brief summary of the black community's history in Nova Scotia. He said although the community has existed for over 200 years, "growth has been retarded",

because of lack of education and limited opportunities offered to black people.

Before the 1950's the only prominent group that was involved in affecting change for the black condition was the Afro-Baptist Church. The community fought for and won the Beechville Community Centre and were told at the time "they had no history." In 1969, the black community "met to iron out problems" and not since that happened has a unifying spirit been felt among the black population of Nova Scotia, said Boyd. He said that if they didn't "get together" and cooperate to improve the situation, then the black community would continue to head towards a

condition not much better than "the plantation".

Boyd quoted MP John Munroe as saying the "blacks in Nova Scotia need a positive image." Munroe and the community set up the Black Unification Front of Nova Scotia (BUF). Funded by the provincial and federal government, it was set up to be a service to the community. The Black Educators Association (BEA) was also established to aid in the education of black people, but they've had problems agreeing with BUF on what to do, according to Boyd. Though two cultural centres were set up, none could decide on roles and who to support, he said.

The last area Boyd dealt with

was BUF, which led into the question period in the issues raised. Through the questions asked, Boyd seemed critical of the BUF. He said that BUF was "not getting enough change for dollars spent." He suggested that the organization should be seriously scrutinized and criticised.

However, in conclusion, Boyd said the black community needs to follow and support BUF or go back to the "plantation". At the same time he sees just causes to affect changes in the organization. His parting message to the Nova Scotia black community was it should examine itself and its representatives (such as BUF, BEA and work together to improve the overall black condition.

Return of the ice age?!

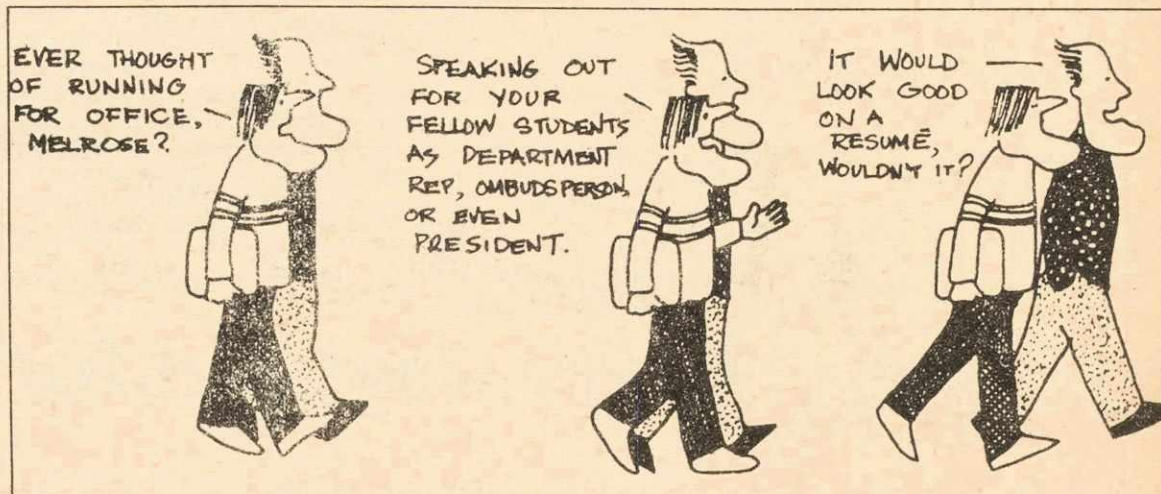
by Richard Payne

The final round of the Dal Debating Tournament was held on Sunday, November 14 in the "Red Room" of Province House. The impromptu resolution "That this Government Supports a Return of the Ice Age" was debated by Judith Glynn and Terri-Lynn Jay of the University of Ottawa (Government) and Bernie Roehl and Jamie Roberts of the University of Waterloo (Opposition). The decision of the House was that the Waterloo team carried the debate. Other prize winners were Ian Hanoomansingh of Mount Allison (Best Individual Debator) and Terri-Lynn Jay of Ottawa (Best Public Speaker).

Sodales, the Dalhousie Debating

Society, has participated in two major tournaments this semester, in addition to organizing their own (which, by convention, they do not participate in). Early in October, Dalhousie was awarded two of the

three major prizes available at the University of Toronto's Hart House. Steve Coughlan was named Best Individual Debator and Brian Robertson Best Public Speaker at that tournament. Two weeks ago Ken Mills and Kevin Gault finished in ninth place overall at the National Championships in Victoria, B.C. Membership has increased this year, but interested students are always welcome. For further information contact Brian Robertson at 422-5592.



Ontario begins centralising its universities

OTTAWA (CUP) — The long-expected rationalization of Ontario universities has begun.

Bette Stephenson, universities and colleges minister, announced October 29th that Laurentian University and three colleges in the northeastern Ontario mining belt will be amalgamated into one university in September 1984.

The new university will be administered from Sudbury, the site of Laurentian University, Algoma College in Sault Ste. Marie, Nipissing College in North Bay and Le College de Hearst in Hearst will still exist, but will lose their autonomy, including their boards of governors and faculty unions.

The Ontario government has appointed a committee to recom-

mend a name and funding levels for the new university. Jeanne Stephenson, a researcher for the Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario, said the hybrid institution will probably be named the University of Northeastern Ontario.

Stephenson's announcement stated that the move will make university education more accessible to students in isolated northern communities, but Stephenson thinks the opposite is likely to happen.

The government plans to eliminate most programs offered at more than one of the four campuses, said Stephenson. This will force students who want to take a certain program to move where that program is offered, reversing the past principle that a wide variety of pro-

grams should be offered in smaller centres.

The government will more easily convince one centralized board of governors to direct each campus to specialize in certain programs than to convince four separate boards of governors, said Stephenson.

"This is certainly a method of gaining more control."

Government officials began discussing "rationalizing" Ontario universities during the late 1970s. Those ideas came together in the 1981 Fisher report on the role of universities. The report gave the government two options: increase university funding each year by one or two points more than the inflation rate, or merge institutions and eliminate duplicate programs.

The government has chosen the latter option, according to Stephenson. "They say they can't afford to keep all the universities open, but Ontario has dropped from fourth to tenth place among the provinces in per capita funding during the last five years," she said. "Their priority is buying out Sunco (an oil company now 25 per cent owned by Ontario), not funding universities."

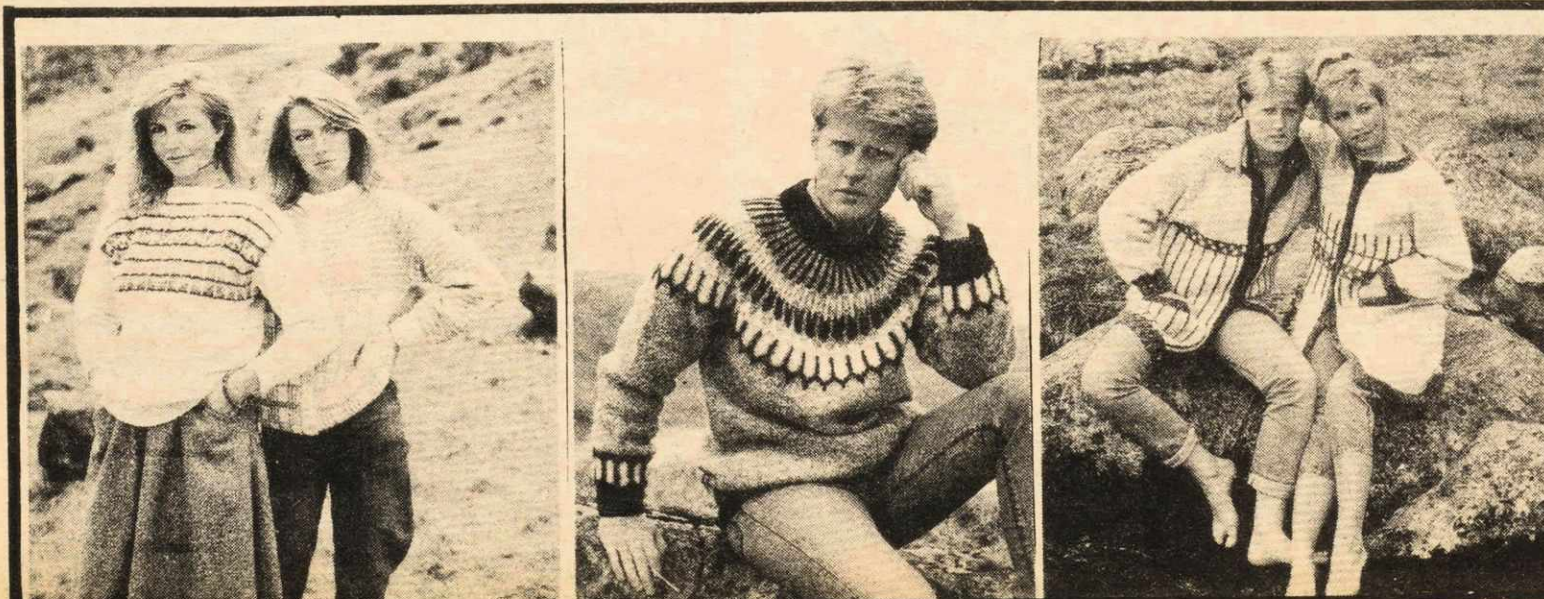
The government plans this amalgamation as a trial run, "intended at least to some extent to see how rationalization of programs could work."

This move will give the government more control over how universities allocate resources by centralizing decision-making powers in

fewer institutions, said Stephenson. And she said funding for the new university will almost certainly be lower than for the four current institutions.

Further moves to rationalize the universities are still being studied, so critics can only speculate about who's next. But "it's safe to say they're considering merging the two universities in Ottawa and the two in Waterloo," said Stephenson.

The Ontario College of Art may become part of the University of Toronto fine arts department, said Stephenson. Proposals to cut courses or merge institutions that would involve Ryerson Polytech, York University and the University of Toronto are being considered, she added.



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