

Campus Comment: What about Cape Bretoners' teeth

The VG heart unit gets a mixed reaction

by James Hamilton

Last July, surgeons at the Victoria General Hospital performed the region's first heart transplant. Patients normally have to travel to Montreal or Ottawa to receive the operation, but emergency conditions necessitated that the operation be performed in Halifax.

The operation paved the way for the opening of a heart transplant unit by health minister Joel Matheson. Although the new unit has been met with public support, its opening raises ques-

tions as to where government funding for medicine should be spent.

Dalhousie medical students are generally excited about the implementation of the unit. They claim the new unit will attract money and experts in the field of cardiology to the area. They are quick to point out that this will be good for the area in general.

One student did express apprehension about the new unit. He said "a great deal of money is spent in this area, yet low profile areas of medicine, such as psychi-

atry, rarely see extra funding." Most of the students interviewed agreed that this tendency to fund a high profile field reflects the public's distaste for unglamorous yet necessary research.

None of the five students interviewed wanted their names printed and all were hesitant to have their picture taken. The students said they didn't want any fallout from publicity within their small community. They also said they lacked the authority to comment on the issue.

Dr. Robert Martin, a Dalhousie

medical ethics professor, was very critical of the new unit. He claims that the money required to fund this unit could be used much more effectively in other areas of medicine. "Money spent in prevention of health problems is much more cost-effective than a high-tech cure." He cited ambulance drivers as an example. According to Martin, "They are generally very poorly trained, and as a result they can offer very limited aid at the scene of an incident. Thus the patient has to wait until he can be treated by a doctor. If the money spent on the unit was used to train and equip ambulance drivers, more lives would be saved at a lower cost."

Martin challenged the notion that the unit will be economically good for the area. He agrees that the new unit will attract more researchers, but this will also



Publicity-shy Dal med students clam up when interviewed. 'Our reputations,' they cry.

attract more costly high-tech operations.

Furthermore, Martin emphasized that Nova Scotia simply cannot afford high-tech health care. "How can Nova Scotia afford to pay for pioneering operations, when people in Cape Breton can't even afford teeth?"

King's journalism students to get real world experience

by Lyssa McKee

The School of Journalism at King's College will begin to publish a new local paper next week. The **North End News** will be a community-oriented paper serving the area bounded by the Harbour, and North, Cogswell and Robie streets.

The community paper replaces the school's previous newspaper, **The Monitor**. The change was made for several reasons. The faculty believes that publishing the **North End News** will give journalism students a real-world print experience that was previously lacking in the program. **The Monitor**, though it gave students an opportunity to publish their work, was not a real newspaper. It had no focus, and no particular audience. The school feels that the **North End News** will give students a much clearer understanding of the newspaper business.

The North End was chosen because it is an area which previously had no community newspaper, and because it is an area in transition. There is a lot of new development in the North End, and the diversity of the community makes it an ideal area for journalism students to find an



Gottingen St., North End: the myths and realities need to be exposed.

abundance of different story ideas.

The focus of the paper is to serve the community. The editor-in-chief, Malcolm Kirk, says "the **North End News** will try to cover the stories that don't get covered in the larger media." He expects that it will take some time for the paper to establish itself, but he hopes that the residents of the community will welcome the paper and will keep the staff

informed of events in their area.

The **North End News** will be published every two weeks from October to December, and from February to April. In addition to news, sports and arts coverage, it will include a comprehensive calendar of current events. The **North End News** will be distributed free of charge to 2700 homes in the North End, and the first issue is to be printed on October 10th.

BUF

Continued from page 1

satisfied that justice had been done.

"What we're trying to show," said Jones, "was how systemic the problem is. When you look at case, after case, after case, you can say 'well, wait a minute, there's a pattern here'. In this case, it's the police who fail to do their job, and here it's the prosecutor in the Attorney General's department, and here it's an all-white jury who grab at straws so they can acquit. If you're black and you're out there, there's no trust, there's no faith."

Jones says the issue of covert racism is being missed by the inquiry. "The protection that's afforded to people in our society has got to transcend racial barriers, it's got to be for Canadian citizens. Blacks should be no more harassed than whites, but it happens all the time," said Jones.

Jones cites as examples of harassment the police officer who stops a black driving late at night with the assumption that he is breaking the law, or the store detective who follows a man simply because he is black.

"The inquiry, perhaps, is not geared to do that but those kinds of things have got to be shown," says Jones.

OOPS

The paper would like to correct some of the errors made in last week's story on daycare. The Peter Green Hall daycare facilities are located at 1094 Wellington and the space there does not come rent free. Some services to the facility are subsidized by the Halifax Student Housing Society. Finally, though 48 new spaces will be opened on campus, only 24 of these will open at the Life Sciences Building.

David Woolcott

Jeffrey Simpson holds court

by Edward Fobes

Jeffrey Simpson, one of Canada's most recognized newspaper columnists, recently gave a small talk at Kings College. A small group of students and faculty was present to greet Simpson as he strode into the College's Haliburton room. He seemed very much in place in the Georgian atmosphere and surroundings. As he settled behind the pulpit, Simpson assumed his customary air of haughtiness with which we usually associate his appearances on CBC's *Sunday Report*, and began.

The main topic of Simpson's discourse concerned his not-so-recent book, **The Spoils of Power**, a work that documents the history of political patronage in Canada. Simpson was graciously sensitive to Kings' status as the only school of journalism in Atlantic Canada and dedicated most of the talk to the newspaper's role in pork-barrel politics since confederation.

In early Canada, newspapers were frequently the only means for the spread of information throughout our country due to the sparse and scattered population. In every community across Canada, the two main political parties would each sponsor a paper in order to get their message across. Because most of these papers were marginally profitable, they would accept party ads and printing contracts in return for editorial support. However, not all papers took the route of lending support to raise their own revenue; the *Sunday Express*

of Saint John's, Newfoundland being a prime example.

Time marched on, populations increased, and papers became larger, richer, and less dependent on the avails of political patronage. Nowadays, with certain exceptions such as the *Toronto Sun*, you don't get the affiliation of certain political parties to certain papers. In fact, the trend today tends to be skepticism to all political parties.

In response to questions from the audience, Simpson said just as there are very few party papers left, there is also a scarcity of so-called pet journalists. Most newswriters, such as himself, who seem to have the upper hand in securing interviews with the most sought-after political names, do so because of knowledgeable, reliability, and their own reputation and importance.

He also identified three principal strains of patronage: criminal, or the use of bribes; corrupt, or the jeopardization of the public good in order to attain an end; and benign, usually demonstrated in partisan appointments by the government. In reference to the last strain, he said it shouldn't always be looked down upon because many good government people would be passed over if the party in power thought too much of maintaining a clean image when making appointments. He went on to cite the short-lived Clark government of 1979 as being a casualty caused by the leader not making the proper patronage appointments, alienating a lot of people, and creating major party disunity.