

Tech explodes in controversy

by Sylvia Kaptein

The administration of the Nova Scotia Institute of Technology recently decided to deny tenure and promotion to assistant professor Larry Richards, without consultation with either students or faculty.

No reasons for the action were given by Dean Peter Manning, who recommended to the president that Richards, a professor in the School of Architecture for five years, be refused the promotion. In addition, Richards' contract will not be renewed after this year.

"No one agrees with the way it (the refusal) was carried out", said second term student Dale Seitsin. Another student who asked to remain anonymous said that the situation was "definitely unjust and we're upset!"

Student Barry Isnor said that both students and faculty consider Richards one of the best professors at the School. Isnor said that one reason for Richards' denial of promotion might be a personality clash between Richards and Manning. Richards tends to be very vocal about matters he does not approve of, Isnor said.

Two committees have been formed by the students, one specifically to investigate the Larry Richards case, and

another to try to get Dean Manning's work evaluated. Isnor, an active member of this second group, said they hope to go as far as forcing the dean to resign.

Dean Manning said that the students have an exaggerated opinion of the problem and don't realize how complicated it is. He also said that these decisions are none of the student's business.

Manning said for this reason he refused to hold a forum at which students could question him about the decision. He did say that students could meet with him individually or in small groups. However, one student said Manning is willing to do this because he would then be able to maintain control over the situation.

Feelings about Dean Manning are running high. Many students described him as autocratic and dictatorial. One student who asked to remain anonymous said that the dean did not always act in the best interests of the students.

According to Isnor, this situation with Larry Richards is not an isolated incident. Two years ago, Manning wished to hire Sam Mattar, then a graduate student. Students protested this hiring so much that it never took place. Recently, however, the

dean hired Mattar without consulting anyone.

Students at the School of Architecture have been active in many ways besides the two committees. A petition supporting Richards circulated around the School and collected 130 to 140 signatures out of a possible 145 students in the School. A poster campaign sporting insults at Dean Manning will be intensifying this week, according to Isnor.

In addition, over one hundred students met with president Clair Callaghan to ask him to reconsider the decision. However, Callaghan sided with Manning and refused to reconsider.

The faculty also have taken measures to support their colleague. Wednesday, February 13, they met with the Board of Governors with a motion of non-confidence.

Isnor said that he was skeptical about the outcome of this meeting and mentioned the possibility of a student walkout should it fail to get the administration to reconsider their decision.

Professor Richards has already contacted a lawyer to fight on his behalf and the students are in the process of getting one to find out what their own legal rights are in the matter, if any at all.



Labour Board investigates Garden firing

by Paul Clark

The Labour Standards Board has been called in to investigate charges by a former employee of Beaver Foods Ltd. at the SUB Garden that she was unfairly fired and denied pay she had earned.

Cathie Boudreau, an employee at the Garden since October 15 who was dismissed from her job on January 28, filed her grievances with the labour standards division of the Department of Labour last week.

She said Kurt Forster, manager of the Garden, told her when she was fired the action was taken because she had called him a name behind his back and had been coming to work and making out her time card one half hour early every day.

After Boudreau had contacted the president and other members of Beaver management to complain, she received a letter from Dominik Machek, district manager of



Beaver, informing her she was fired due to her "rude manner of communicating with customers", inattentiveness to her job, creating low morale among employees and in-

cluding an unauthorized extra one half hour of work on her time card.

"Most of the reasons given are lies", Boudreau said.

Boudreau said Forster had

given her permission to come in half an hour early every day to earn some extra money, but later denied this and erased this part from her time card.

"What really bugs me is they give me one reason for

firing me and then send me this letter with different reasons", she said.

Beaver district manager Machek, who spoke to the Gazette with Forster, said "we

continued on page 3

inside the Gazette

Follow-up Poll	P.3
CKDU	P.5
Council Elections	P.6
The Who	p.16
Tigers back on top	p.20