

Better safe than rich

HALIFAX (CUP) — Dentistry students at Dalhousie University should fork out \$100 each for vaccines if they care about their health, says Dr. Donald

Cunningham, the head of the department.

Nova Scotia's medical health care program doesn't cover the costs of doctors or dentists pro-

tecting themselves from the highly infectious hepatitis-B virus.

"It's a conscious decision they make, a risk they take," said Pierre Lavigne, an official of the provincial department. "One of the problems we face as a society is who gets these vaccines free of charge and who doesn't. There are more people who can benefit from it than we can afford."

All 40 students in Atlantic Canada's only dental school paid the money.

According to Dr. Cunningham, some 37,500 Canadians are infected with the virus, 80 per cent of whom aren't aware of it.

Hepatitis is passed on through blood or saliva. The virus can enter the body through a cut or even through eye membranes,

causing an inflammation of the liver and flu-like symptoms. If untreated, it is fatal.

To be extra-safe, students must wear protective gloves and goggles when filling cavities. Cunningham recommends all his students pay the money. The vaccine is provided at cost through the provincial health ministry.

"Patients don't know they have it. The only way you can absolutely find out is through a blood test — a mandatory blood test," he said. "We (as dentists) aren't at that stage. There'd be an outcry over invasion of privacy."

Lavigne estimates about 30 people a year are given the vaccine. It is free to "involuntarily-exposed" people, such as hemophiliacs who receive regular blood transfusions and babies born to hepatitis-positive mothers.

New admissions to mental

institutions are also vaccinated free to protect them from "scratchers or biters" who carry the virus, according to another department official.

Because it is one of the most expensive vaccines available, Lavigne said it would "absolutely break" public health budgets to have wider hepatitis inoculations.

"Hi, big boy" — Dr. Ruth

HAMILTON (CUP) — Male students at McMaster University are being told to hang onto their pants now that a woman posing as a sex education counsellor has been calling them up asking for details about their penises.

So far, three men have been phoned by a woman claiming to be conducting a survey for McMaster's Sexual Education Centre. According to Jana Roth, the centre's coordinator, the woman asked questions of an intimate sexual nature and in one instance even persuaded a man to meet her.

During the meeting, the woman measure the man's penis for both length and circumference. She then questioned him about the fantasies he masturbated to and requested and received a semen sample.

The student contacted the Sex-Ed centre after the encounter and was a little "perturbed" to find out he'd been duped, said Roth.

"We would never do anything like that," said Roth. "The centre is not conducting any surveys now and when we do, it would be with questionnaires so as to maintain anonymity (of the respondents)."

REMINDER

Applications are now being accepted for the position of **Director of the Dalhousie Student Advocacy Service.**

The Director has a broad range of responsibilities including management of the Advocacy Office; recruitment, training, and supervision of a volunteer staff; and liason with the University and the DSU.

Applicants are also expected to demonstrate good interpersonal skills and assume responsibility for confidential matters.

The term is for one year starting May 1, 1988 and ending April 30, 1989.

If you are interested please submit your name, telephone number, and a brief outline of why you are interested with any related experience to:

Robert Power, Council Office, 2nd floor, Dal SUB
All applications must be submitted by
March 7, 1988

CFS in action

continued from cover

There is "no accountability" in this program, says Macerollo, asking why the federal government would allow this system to "go on in an unrestricted way". In British Columbia in recent history, a percentage of the transfer payments were actually used to help fund the construction of a highway.

CFS currently has about 50 member associations including the Dalhousie Student Union, representing about half of the student population nationwide. The cost per member is four dollars, of which one dollar funds the CFS services cooperative and three dollars fund the national

office in Ottawa and the various employees. CFS provides a variety of services to members, including International Student Identity Cards, a health insurance program, a public speaking program, Travel Cuts travel agencies, and the Student Work Abroad Program (SWAP).

There have been many incarnations of a national student lobby group over the years, including the Canadian Union of Students during the 1970s, with CFS being the most recent. Macerollo, however, feels CFS has gained its own credibility, and will be able to survive as an organization for some time to come.

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