

## NEWS

## Bye bye student employment pie — job centres close across Canada

BY BRUCE GILCHRIST

In a August letter to all MP's, Pierre Cadieux, the federal government's Youth Minister, tabled his plan to close all university employment centres (over one hundred) within the next three years.

However Scott McCrossin, the Chair of the Student's Union of Nova Scotia said every centre, including Dalhousie's, could be phased out by next May.

Cadieux said the campus employment centres are "specialized centres that are increasingly difficult to justify" and that the move to close the centres is to help "focus resources on the most disadvantaged clients in the labour market." The money saved from the closing of the centres will be redistributed to programs aimed at preventing high school dropouts.

McCrossin said this is the government's plan of pitting high school students against university

students. He said, "It is definitely a plan that takes from one and gives to another... What are the high school students going to do once they graduate and make it to university?"

Tom Leonard, the Halifax Metro Manager of the Career Employment Centre, said that in Halifax's case, this is not a service cut but "a redistribution and redeployment of resources to a larger force... students will still have access. They're just losing their privileged position." It is expected that students will have to travel to the downtown employment centre to compete with everyone else.

Nothing was mentioned concerning the job accessibility of students in smaller towns, where no other Canada Employment Centres exist. McCrossin said that he expects "students in smaller towns to suffer" as a result of the only centres in town closing.

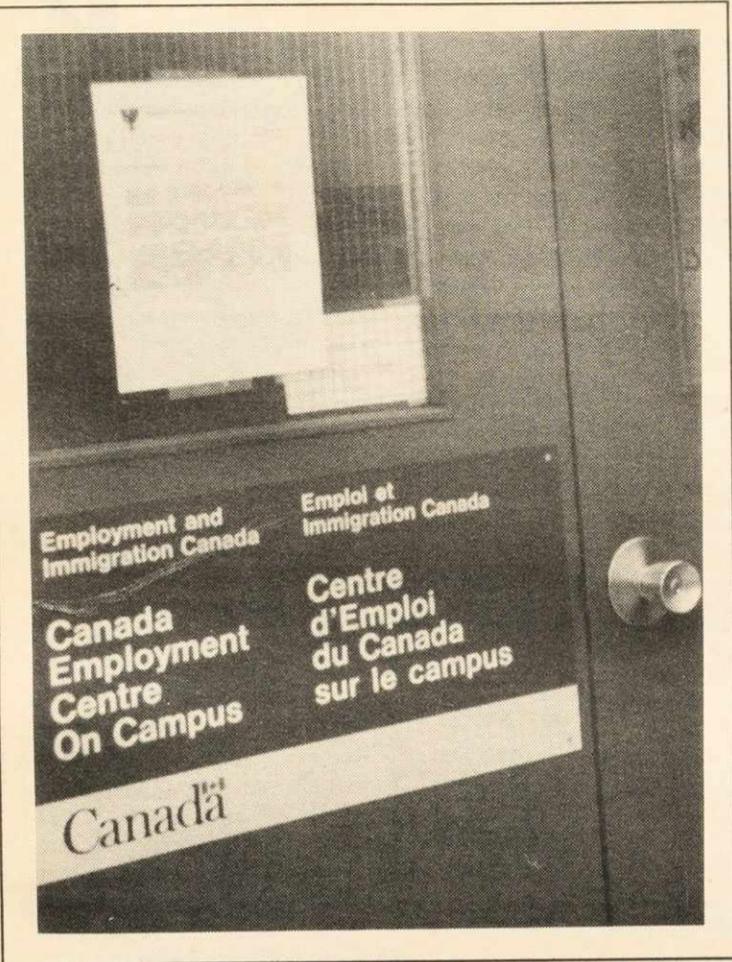
Leonard also said that some uni-

versities, including Dalhousie, have considered taking over the service but McCrossin said it's like "expecting one hand that's already been cut to pay for missing the other." He feels that it's "not the university's responsibility. It's the federal government's."

McCrossin that because of the lack of funding, increased tuition, and taxes that "more students, and even university graduates, are in need of this service than ever. It has to be replaced."

It appears that the Federal Government wants its employees to stay quiet about the closings, as they have been asked to refer all inquiries to top level managers, such as Leonard.

McCrossin also said the Student's Union of Nova Scotia will participate in protests to be organized by the Canadian Federation of Students in response to the closings.



## Report on racism urges Nova Scotians to walk together

BY DAWN MITCHELL

HALIFAX (CUP) — Nova Scotians were urged last week to walk together in an attempt to overcome racism in the province.

Less than two months after disputes between the Black and White communities sparked demonstrations in Halifax's North End, a committee was appointed to address concerns raised during the July debate.

"[The report] is not all-encompassing," said Carolyn Thomas, chair of the quickly formed Nova Scotia Advisory Group on Race Relations. "It is a good and worthwhile contribution to what is to be done to achieve the desired results," she said.

### "It's a blueprint for change for every level of government"

The group, which included representatives from the Black community, municipal, provincial, and federal governments, worked throughout August. Its report outlines 94 recommendations to all levels of governments ranging from education to tourism.

"It's a blueprint for change for every level of government," said Mildred Royer, group member representing the city of Halifax.

Education was the major theme which ran through the report.

The advisory group was members of the Black community should be provided with the proper education and encouragement to take

positions in jobs currently closed to them.

"The recommendations are such that no one dare let them sit on the shelves," said Rev. Ogueri Ohanaka, director of the Black United Front.

"I hope there will be no reason for us to say the government has failed us again," he said.

The group has given the governments and other agencies 30 days to develop a comprehensive plan of action for the implementation of the report.

BY SUZY KOVINSKY

Prior to 1982, a man accused of rape would often use his accuser's sexual history as a defense for his own innocence. Nine years ago a law was created to prevent this from occurring. The so-called "rape-shield law" was legislated to protect women from often brutal and victimizing cross-examinations about their sexual histories. Cross-examinations which many people felt was irrelevant to the guilt or innocence of the accused.

A few weeks ago the Supreme Court of Canada nullified the "rape shield" law, opening up a second round of discussion on this controversial topic.

A woman's sexual history can now be used against her in a court of law. This disturbs supporters of both victims' and women's rights. A Toronto lawyer, who spoke on condition of anonymity, thinks that

## Advisory group recommendations

- The Nova Scotia Department of Education incorporate anti-racist principles as a key element of the philosophy of education and that these principles be reflected in major documents as the Nova Scotia Schools Act and all curriculum guides.

- All levels of government provide adequate long-term funding for the Indigenous Black and Mi'kmaq Program at Dalhousie Law School

and seek to provide internship programs and employment within the public sector and encourage the private sector to do likewise.

All levels of government provide incentives to businesses to locate and/or develop in Black communities and to create employment for Black people at all levels.

- All police commissions and senior police management in Nova Scotia carefully review current re-

ruitment and promotional practices in order to create more opportunities for Black people and other visible minorities through affirmative action programs and similar positive policies.

- The municipalities in Nova Scotia use community organizations and community media facilities to inform citizens of what initiatives are being undertaken to improve race Relations in their cities.

## Lack of rape shield law causes concern

the mentality of many judges in the past was "if you're not a virgin in a castle then you've asked for it." Many people feel that this attitude

### Victims of acquaintance rape will be faced with a "press charges if you dare" dilemma

has not disappeared, in a system supposedly supportive of female victims, yet almost entirely created and controlled by men.

Dalhousie University professor Susan Sherwin states that the defense attorney tries to prove, "If you've done it before, you really enjoyed it, you're a slut and you could do it again."

This places the woman in a bind. If the victim is painted as a promiscuous person, a judge or jury might see her as initiating the sexual attack. If she is a virgin she might be unjustly seen as sexually frustrated and, therefore, been done a "favour" by her attacker.

Support systems, Sherwin adds, are finally succeeding in convincing victims to report sexual assaults, the removal of the "rape shield" law is a reactionary step. She remembers that prior to the law's creation "trials were so horrendous that they often deterred women."

Barbara Harris, the President's Advisor on Women, is especially concerned that victims of acquaintance rape will be faced with a "press

charges if you dare" dilemma.

In light of the fury shown across the country by a diverse assortment of interest groups, Justice Minister Kim Campbell has stated that she is initiating plans to create a "partial rape shield law" in place of the original.

This vague promise has many people wondering what sort of a law can safeguard the rights of the defendant while protecting the victim from unfair judgement and malicious persecution.

Recently, the *Globe and Mail* printed an editorial analogy which helps to put this issue into perspective. It read: "Assume that a milk store is robbed. While on the stand, the man who owns the store is asked 'Have you been robbed before' and 'do you still carry milk?' After answering 'yes' to both questions the defendant is proclaimed innocent because the owner obviously has invited the crime."