

Dentistry could segregate AIDS patients

by Eleanor Brown

HALIFAX (CUP) — Dalhousie University's Dentistry Faculty may be the first in the country to set up a special clinic for AIDS patients.

"The patients had to be offered a place to come. If we didn't, we'd simply force them into denying they have AIDS, and put the practitioners and themselves at risk. We don't want to drive the issue underground," said faculty head Dr. Donald Cunningham.

Two of the school's 12 cubicles have been set aside to treat the teeth of people who test positive for the AIDS and hepatitis viruses.

But Cunningham says the two staff and volunteer students involved in the program are far more worried about hepatitis than about the high-profile — and often fatal — AIDS virus.

Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome and hepatitis are both transmitted through semen or contaminated blood.

In addition, hepatitis can be passed on through saliva. It

causes flu-like symptoms, including fever, fatigue, jaundice, despondency, and eventually death if untreated.

Cunningham says that while there are only about 2000 AIDS carriers in Canada, some 80 per cent of the 30,000 people carrying the hepatitis virus don't know they're infected.

All students, who routinely fill cavities as part of their training, have been asked to wear gloves, masks, and goggles for the past three years to protect them from spittle and spurting blood. The practice became mandatory in September.

Cunningham is a bit upset it took something like AIDS to convince doctors to take the rudimentary precautions they should have been concerned with in the first place.

"My attitude would be one of John (the Baptist) crying out in the wilderness about safety. You don't get much total support for it and then something hits the fan and they turn around and say, 'My god, you're right!'"

The patients — Cunningham refuses to say how many — are treated in a quiet area where students don't usually wander around. The clinic guarantees confidentiality.

A quick wipe of counters with a solution of one part bleach to four parts water immediately

and effectively kills the AIDS virus, Cunningham says. But clothes exposed to the hepatitis virus must be soaked from 20 minutes to 6 hours in chemicals to sterilize them.

The clinic was set up in October, but only recently publicized.

"We started this off with a low

profile," says Cunningham, "and I fully intend to keep it that way."

Cunningham says he got in touch with the organizations which needed to know — including Halifax's Metro Area Committee on AIDS. The news got around through word of mouth.

Council rejects apartheid

by Jayn Ritchie

Last Thursday the Halifax City Council voted on the issue of sanctions against the South African government.

The council unanimously approved a plan set out by a local group called Coalition Against Apartheid. The Coalition's 7-point plan recommended that no goods known to have been made in South Africa would be purchased and no investments or agreements would be undertaken with either financial institutions or agencies which work

in the country. The Council also agreed to allow the Halifax District School Board to encourage student awareness programmes about the South African apartheid system in the future.

The Council's anti-apartheid decision was reached despite two recommendations to the contrary. The first was by Halifax City Solicitor Donald F. Murphy and the second was in the form of a full-page advertisement in the Chronicle Herald /Mail Star, paid for by the South African Embassy, which appeared the morning of the Council's meeting.

In a memo to the mayor and the members of the City Council, the City Solicitor acknowledged that the Council was free to deal with the anti-apartheid issue as they saw fit, but he recommended that Council follow their previous policy of non-intervention, as issues such as these were seen as the responsibility of a higher level of government. Murphy suggested that the decision may mean that "other equally fervent groups with less controversial causes may also seek the support of Council."

The Embassy's advertisement placed in last week's paper displayed the headline "Economic Terrorism against South Africa" above a picture of a destitute squatter camp in South Africa. Four quotations from prominent South Africans are included on the page: all of the quotations indicate the writer's opposition to policies of disinvestment in South Africa. They are by liberal writer Alan Paton, Helen Suzman of the Progressive Fed-

eral Party, Chief Mangosutho Gatsha Buthelezi of Kwazulu, and Bishop Isaac Mokoena, president of the Reformed Black Independent Churches of South Africa.

The quote by Helen Suzman of the Progressive Federal Party (the moderate liberal opposition party in South Africa) says, "today, blacks are slowly but surely accumulating economic power as they are drawn into the national economy." While an increasing but small number of Africans are enjoying economic prosperity, many critics have observed that these slow moves in the right direction are not necessarily constructive. They maintain that if this image of "moving" is sustained, then substantial change is averted indefinitely.

Chief Buthelezi, the Chief Minister of the non-independent area of Kwazulu, says, "Only those working for a future communist state see disinvestment as being in the best interest of South Africa." Although Buthelezi has averted many attempts by the South African government for his homeland to become independent, Buthelezi has received substantial financial assistance from them. Recent surveys indicate that Buthelezi receives only limited support outside Kwazulu, especially concerning the issue of sanctions.

The advertisement was seen by at least one council member as "intimidation" on the part of the South African Embassy and/or Government. But, as the Coalition observed, the advertising campaign backfired.

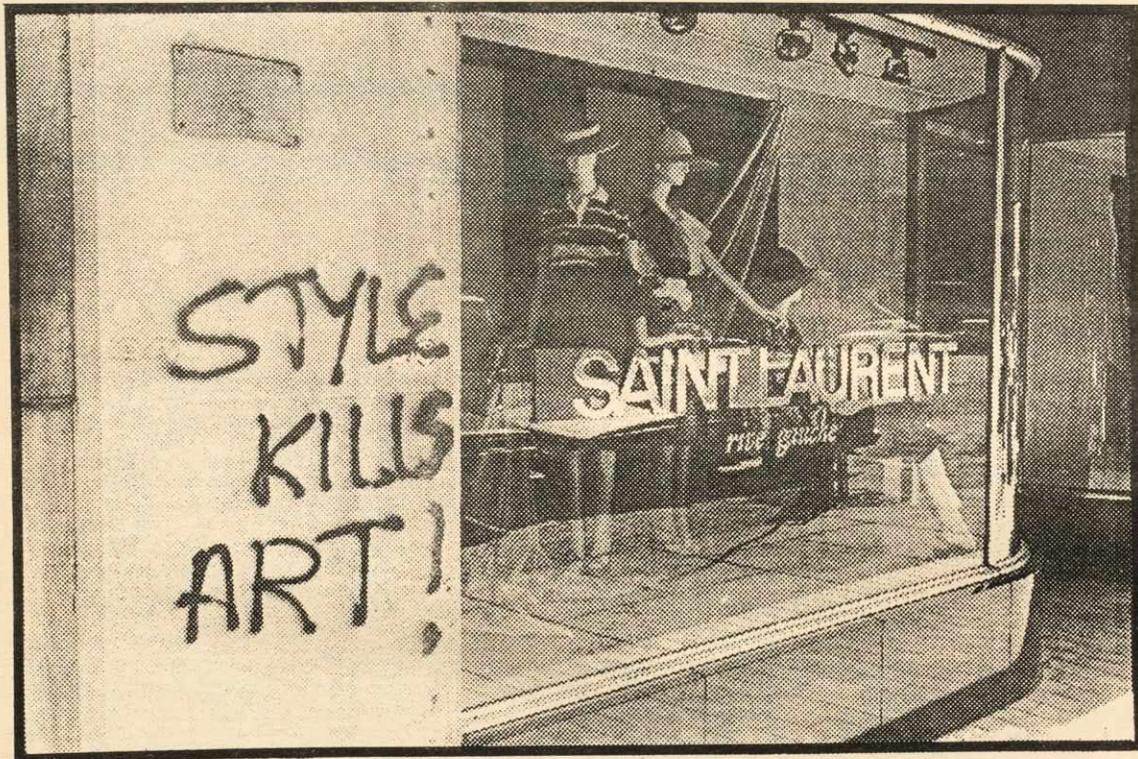


PHOTO: BRIAN TITLLEY

Radio station hits canvas

CKDU art show opens

by Kathleen Johnson-Tracy

CKDU-FM was the host for an art show held on the second floor of the SUB during the past week, in conjunction with the station's fundraising drive. The exhibit, aptly named "The Alternator", featured alternative pieces of art done by station members and staff of CKDU. The show's intention is to attract publicity for the fundraising week (The Drive for Twenty-Five), as well as raise

some money for the station through the sale of some of the exhibits. The artwork has been on display each day this week from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. and will be available for purchase on Friday.

Many art media are apparent in the exhibit, including stained glass, photographs, pen-and-ink drawings, silver bromide prints, watercolour drawings, an oil painting, and an interesting display of technical drawings.

Philip Doucette, the coordinator of the show, has done a

very good job in setting up the exhibit, and has put in many hours working on it. There was, however, only a small number of participants, although the show was quite varied in style of good quality.

The show seemed to be very well received by most of the students who wandered in between classes out of curiosity. The artists who did participate were of very high calibre, and the show was overall very well done and deserving of congratulations.

Continued from page 1
determination.

Cowen explains the NSSNP's position on the issue as one where they agree that the Innu would be better off without further military expansion and dependence. "She is spending government grants (\$640,000) to defend government money," says Cowen of Rudkowski.

The NSSNP consider Rudkowski "a symbol of disservice to the ten thousand native Innu people of Labrador whose homeland, Nistassinan, is being used for NATO war preparations despite their strenuous objections."

Cowen said the Innu have been living in depressing conditions. "Every community is welfare-supported to some extent, and government housing makes up most of the living quarters. The suicide rate is five times the national average."

As Cowen puts it, "The Innu feel they have one last hope. They want to build for the future using some of the strength from the past." In other words, the Innu feel they must use some of their traditions to restore the missing spirit that is so desperately needed.