

# The pill not getting enough use at King's

by Norm Barnett

The King's College health plan now includes oral contraceptives, but the student council would like to see that changed for next year.

Last week the council decided not to include it in next year's health plan because it was too expensive. This year, the drug

plan as a whole was overused, but the pill was barely used at all. This means that next year, the cost for it almost doubles. That also translates into contraception costing almost 10 per cent of the student union fee.

"It's not getting enough use. It just wasn't worth it," said student union president Lew Turnquist.

Last year the inclusion of oral contraceptives was the result of a motion at a general meeting followed by a referendum. That created a problem for the council because there was nothing in the constitution to govern a referendum.

As a response to that situation recurring, council is hoping to introduce a motion of rules

governing any future referenda. "I have no opposition to a referendum, but I've been wary of it becoming a precedent."

This year, unlike the last, the battle lines don't seem so clearly drawn. "Without the increase in fees, I don't know which way council would have gone," said Turnquist.

One student echoed the coun-

cil. "It's not financially sound to either increase student union fees or take money away from well-used societies, but there's still considerable debate whether anti-conception drugs should be on a university health plan."

King's students will have their chance to express their views at a general meeting next Monday.

## T-shirts will benefit Mic Mac law student

by Heather Hueston

"People's perception of lawyers is that they're only out for a buck," says Sheldon Nathanson, a second-year law student. "We wanted to do something positive and constructive." Nathanson wants to "put a little meat" into the stuffy ideal of lawyers doing public service.

The effort to help native access to education by 50 law students with a social conscience has drawn praise — and orders — from around the province.

Organizer Nathanson says the sale of T-shirts around campus has raised about half the \$5000 target for a law scholarship for a MicMac aboriginal from Nova Scotia.

There are no MicMac students enrolled in the law school and no MicMac has ever graduated from the program.

Nathanson says the Donald Marshall trial shows how the lack of practicing native lawyers hurts the ability of natives to communicate because English is their second language. "The Marshall case was a communication problem," says Nathanson.

Nathanson says reaction has been extremely positive, with people writing their support and sending cheques. "We've gotten letters and cheques from places I've never heard of," says Nathanson.

Henson College Native Education Counsellor Jean Knockwood says she's happy that students are becoming sensitized to native students' needs, but unfortunately, "I'm not getting the same signals from other programs." She says the only program to have special measures for minority students is the Maritime School of Social Work.



PHOTO: SUSAN HALIBURTON

Blow ten bucks on a T-shirt and send a kid to law school. 'Sydney police Went By The Book — But Cops Cannot Spell! It's Marshall not Martial! A judicial inquiry into a MicMac's wrongful murder conviction reconvenes May 16.

## Many non-white students are facing broader issues

by Norm Barnett

To black students at Dalhousie, life is more than just going to classes and hanging around campus. They face a range of issues and problems that most others just don't see, and making us aware of that is the goal of the Canadian Black Students' Association.

"We were relatively unknown last year," said Darrell Bowden, Public Relations director and President-elect for the two-year-old group.

Some of the group's members say part of their mandate now is to create more of a support group out of what they have. "You need to feel more comfortable dealing with problems," said Cynthia Thomas, a law student. "This is the best thing to happen to us, to have this group here," added Karen Hudson, current president of the Canadian Black Students' Association at Dal. "We've gained a lot of credibility this year. We have some people who are really dedicated to seeing some change happen on campus."

Despite the barrage of issues, the groups feels they are headed in the right direction.

Much of the reason a support group is so necessary in a univer-

sity setting is that some of the racism that exists in the community at large is carried onto the campus.

Dalhousie is not immune to the Canadian racism which is silent but can sometimes be more damaging. Bowden said, "To me, you won't see any of the racism unless you look for it. Everyone keeps it under their hat, nobody wants to talk about it."

One of the most significant problems this situation engenders is the pressure put on the black student to conform to his or her environment. "We're such a small percentage, it seems like we're almost isolated," said Hudson. "It's like a different world from where I live. We have to lose some of our cultural identity."

Being the only black person in a class of hundreds can be a very difficult situation. "You come across people from little towns and villages in Nova Scotia. They're not used to being around black people," said Bowden. Dealing with misconceptions is another serious issue, she added. "When you go to look for a job they ask where you're from. When they say the North End, you know people have misconceptions."

It is difficult for young black

raise their on-campus profile to where they would like it to be. Events such as King Day, a tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., "are making people aware we are a group," said Bowden. King Day proved so popular that next year it will be held over two days because the McInnes Room wasn't big enough to hold all those who attended.

Nova Scotians to get jobs, even summer jobs. Much of what is available pays only minimum wage, which makes it almost impossible to pay university expenses. Although it is costly, many students go to Toronto to find better paying summer jobs.

This year is different for the group; with a few well-attended events, they're just beginning to

Some members of the group feel they should remove the "executive hierarchy", but Bowden said they needed a president to act as a contact with other organizations. "Other black Dal students (in the Transition Year Program) have a built-in support system. We don't. We have to create our own."

## Nicaragua gets support

by Erin Goodman

"Give Peace a Chance" was the theme of a rally held last week to protest the increasing US occupation of Honduras. Fifty demonstrators gathered in the Grand Parade last Thursday for the noon-hour rally sponsored by the Latin America Information Group.

Placards reading "Freedom and Dignity for Latin Americans" and "U.S. Stop the Lies" were hoisted during speeches from recent witnesses to the violence in Central America.

Betty Peterson travelled to Nicaragua for several weeks during February and March as a participant in a Witness for Peace tour. She described her visit to the war-zone and the desperate situation of Nicaraguans faced with frequent contra attacks.

"We lived with the campesinos, we slept on cement and dirt floors — we shared their terror as we listened to gunfire all night."

Marion White of Deveric visited Honduras for a week in mid-March. "The country is really occupied," she said, pointing out that an additional 3000 U.S. troops landed in Honduras in March. She described some of the problems caused by the huge influx of U.S. servicemen, including widespread prostitution, charges of child prostitution, charges of child sexual abuse — "children being raped by (U.S.) servicemen — and a spreading AIDS epidemic in the country."

Guadeloupe Donair is currently on tour with OXFAM-Canada as a representative of the Agricultural Workers' Union in

Nicaragua. She spoke emotionally to the crowd, encouraging Canadians to pressure Ottawa to publicly condemn the actions of U.S. President Ronald Reagan. The crowd cheered as she shouted, "Viva la Nicaragua Libre!"

The rally closed on a sombre note, with a minute of silence commemorating the 8th anniversary of the assassination of Archbishop Oscar Romero of El Salvador. Romero was an outspoken critic of the Salvadoran government and U.S. policy in his war-torn country.

Dalhousie professor John Kirk spoke of Romero as a victim of U.S.-perpetuated violence in Central America. "What Oscar Romero wanted was a just El Salvador — he called for the right to self-determination."