

U.N.B. threatens to sue student newspaper

FREDERICTON (CUP)—The University of New Brunswick and its housing director are threatening legal action against the St. Thomas University student newspaper *The Aquinian*.

The Oct. 5 edition of *The Aquinian* quoted UNB housing director Roy Brostowski saying landlords in the Fredericton area were reluctant to rent to foreign students.

The quotes included several racial slurs that Brostowski says were taken out of context.

Representing both the univer-

sity and Brostowski, UNB lawyer Gordon Petrie sent a letter to *The Aquinian* and reporter Lauren Grieve Oct. 7 asking the paper to retract and apologize for the "inaccurate and false reporting."

Aquinian editor Peter Boisseau says the story is accurate and the paper is seeking further legal advice.

Boisseau says the student council lawyer is trying to railroad the paper into a convenient settlement that is not in their best interests.

"The council's lawyer has shown no indication or consideration for the *Aquinian's* stance of maintaining our right to print the truth," says Boisseau. "It's principle versus practicality. We'd rather go with principle as opposed to practicality."

The Aquinian is establishing a defense fund to fight the case.

Meanwhile the UNB student union has set up a board of inquiry to look at allegations of racism within the UNB housing department.

UNB and STU share the same campus.

Women against poverty: trying to break the cycle

by Elizabeth Donovan

Susan is a mother of two, single and trying to survive on earnings of less than \$8400.00 a year. She says, "To be a woman, and a single parent, is to live a life of uncertainty."

At the Women Against Poverty Soupline on October 12 single mothers attending could identify with Susan's constant anxiety and tension about the future. The soupline was held at the Anglican Diocese Centre in downtown Halifax.

"It is the immediate future we can only concentrate on, like will there be enough money for

groceries this week?" said one single parent.

A report by Women Against Poverty presented to the Royal Commission on the Economy confirms the situation. It said single mothers are the largest group receiving welfare and half of all families headed by women live below the poverty line.

Cindy is a single mother, receiving Social Assistance of \$727.00 a month. Her basic needs expenditures total over \$600.00. "The Family Benefit allowance does not cover any unexpected costs like prescriptions, dental care and other medical

expenses," she said. "My son requires a special diet. What cost me \$42.00 every two weeks for groceries will now cost me \$82.00."

Cindy is also presently enrolled in a pre-employment program to upgrade her education and receive office skills. The class is filled to capacity and the waiting list is long. Jobs are not guaranteed upon completion of the program.

A Social Policy Review Committee report in March said the unemployment rate for women was 50%. Already, 20% of the workforce are single parents. Of those 20%, many women still receive family benefits because they earn, on average, 44 cents for every dollar earned by a man.

"If the training and employability of single parents will show no improvement, one-parent families in Nova Scotia will be under greater stress," stated the Committee.

Susan described her greatest fear if situations worsen—"Women will increasingly become more and more isolated because of their miserable conditions."

Fear—the only deterrent in Alberta

EDMONTON (CUP)—The University of Alberta voted to join the Canadian Federation of Students last week despite a smear campaign which linked them to communists and socialists.

CFS chair Graham Dowell said the U of A's decision to join is important because it is "the biggest school that has ever run a referendum to come into CFS."

He also called the decision "fairly significant financially" because of the U of A's size.

The referendum campaign was marred, according to a student union official, by an illegal anti-CFS campaign which linked the federation with socialism and called it the "Communist Federation of Students."

Chief returning officer Glenn Byers said under the U of A's student union by-laws, any referendum lobby committee must apply for official recognition from the student union.

He said only a "yes" committee came forward.

U of A student Gordon Stamp illegally went from class to class telling students not to vote for CFS because they were "socialists" and cost too much, said Byers.

Stamp claimed his lawyer told him it was legal to campaign against their referendum results and have them overturned.

In 1979, the U of A voted against joining the National Union of Students, the predecessor to CFS, by a small margin.

Democracy in action at Dal

Dal students will exercise their voting privileges before the end of November.

DSU chief returning officer Michael Tilley says a by-election will be held to fill one vacant Senate rep seat and a Gazette Publishing Board of Directors position.

Both positions became vacant in September. Student rep Craig Carnell transferred to Saint Mary's University at the beginning of the academic year. Atul Sharma was required to resign from his position on the Pub Board after his election to VP External because of a possible conflict of interest.

There is a possibility the CKDU-FM referendum will also run during the by-elections. Council will set the date for the



referendum when it meets Nov. 5. It is currently reviewing the CKDU-FM proposal accepted by the CKDU-FM ad hoc committee on Oct. 24.

"I'm looking for people to serve on the Elections committee and man booths," said Tilley.

Interested students may contact him at the council offices, 2nd floor SUB, or by phoning 424-2146.



Dalhousie housing crisis

by Brian Cox

At least 400 Dalhousie students have been turned away from student housing this fall.

"The Halifax situation has gotten worse and there is no change in sight," says Dean of Women Christine Irvine. Dalhousie is currently experiencing a "crisis in Housing," says Irvine.

As many as 300 women are waiting for rooms in Sherriff or Ardmore Hall women's residences.

Dean of Men Pat Donahoe admits it is "difficult to get money for Housing." Donahoe is worried the housing problem may deter students planning to attend university for the first time. "Coming to university is difficult enough without shelter being a major concern," says Donahoe.

Irvine and Donahoe foresee few housing openings in December. Otherwise, there is little which can be done for those on waiting lists, they say.

Teachers fight problem

OTTAWA (CUP)—Ontario's university teachers promise a fight if education minister Bette Stephenson tries to change the provincial policy of universal accessibility to university.

"If she (Stephenson) decides to reverse the policy, she's going to have a political fight on her hands," Bill Jones, president of the Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations, said last week. Jones, a psychol-

A few students who could not find "a place to crash" were forced to take desperate measures to find shelter. One student lived out of his car for a month. Another student was forced to live out of a Dalhousie building for four and a half months last year. After he ran out of money while searching for an affordable apartment, sleeping overnight at Dalhousie became a necessity. "I don't know if I could take it again," he says. The student is currently living in a basement room for \$100/month.

John Graham, Dalhousie director of student housing, says, "The problem is financial. Student housing is the bottom priority of the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Commission," he said. Graham says housing should be given equal priority with other issues on campus.

Graham said the Housing office, on the SUB main floor, is available to Dal students looking for housing on or off campus.

ogy teacher at Carleton University made the comment in response to a speech by Stephenson to an OCUFA meeting in Toronto, Oct. 13.

In the speech, Stephenson said she wondered whether Ontario had ever committed itself to providing a place in university for all qualified applicants. A qualified applicant is one with a 60 per cent average in grade 13, according to the policy.