

by Lyssa McKee

Claiming that the curriculum at the law school is racist, a group of Dal law students is campaigning to see it changed. The group says that the courses do not adequately prepare future lawyers to deal with minority issues.

Catherine Cogswell, a spokesperson for the group, says that the law school does not address the legal and social problems faced by minorities in Canada.

"For example, here in Nova Scotia we have the largest indigenous Black population in Canada, with historically deep-rooted, ongoing problems with the legal system. As well, our Native people, the Micmac, are in the midst of political and economic turmoil. Nowhere in our curriculum are these problems adequately addressed.

"Until the school makes a conscious and affirmative efforts, it is perpetuating the problem through ignorance."

Cogswell criticizes the focus of the law program. She says that students are taught "a way of thinking like a lawyer." "We are taught to analyze social issues in terms of laws and statutes as opposed to looking at them in their social context."

In order to bring racial issues to the attention of the students, Cogswell's group held a forum



## Dal law school ignores minority issues

last Saturday. This forum featured Black and Native panelists speaking on a variety of minority issues. Cogswell calls it an opportunity "to get information from people to whom these issues directly affect." Speakers at the forum included Kevin Christmas from the Union of Nova Scotia Indians, and Graydon Nicholas, Chair of Native Studies at St. Thomas University in New

Brunswick. Nicholas spoke about the role of universities in affecting change.

"It has to come from our own. All Dalhousie University and other universities can do is try to recognize and support that," said Nicholas.

The law students' awareness campaign, which included distributing a memo to the law school community, is supported by Law

School Dean Innis Christie, who in an interview with the Chronicle Herald this week denied that the school is "racist".

The organizers hope that the student-run campaign will be the most effective method of encouraging the curriculum planners to incorporate racial issues into the program.

Cogswell is also concerned

with the low number of racially visible students at the law school. She says that "people are intimidated by the institution of law," and feels that the law school should make a conscious effort to set about "demystifying the whole institution."

The law students' campaign coincides with the release last month of the *Report on Visible Racial and Cultural Considerations at Dalhousie*, written by Janis Jones-Darrell, the President's Advisor on Visible Minorities. In her report, Jones-Darrell points out that "barriers to employment and education for visible racial minorities especially those indigenous to the region, are in the lower-level, menial, lower-paid, grant-paid or part-time positions, if employed at Dalhousie."

In terms of education, Jones-Darrell reports that "curriculum adaptations for the racially visible students at Dalhousie are rarely considered. Generally, racial and cultural values, research and cultural experiences have not been integrated into existing courses."

Jones-Darrell sees the problem as getting worse rather than better: "programs initiated in the past are either being eliminated or face severe cutbacks." She cites the uncertain future of the Transition Year Program as an example.

## international students' week

### International students face economic discrimination

OTTAWA (CUP) — If examinations, interrogations, tests, piles of paperwork and five digit tuition fees aren't a deterrent, Canada is a great place for a foreign student to study.

That is, if you can discover any information about Canadian universities.

International students face a myriad of barriers to studying in Canada and federal policy changes for 1989 only address some of them, according to an international education advocacy group.

In February 1988, former employment and immigration minister Benoit Bouchard allowed international students to work on campus.

And since January, as the result of a Federal Court of Appeal decision, students in Canada on study visas are eligible for unemployment insurance benefits.

Three years ago, Mariaurora Mota, a former University of Waterloo student, took the Canadian Employment and Immigration Commission to court demanding benefits from the UI plan she paid into.

Clement Oshinyimika, Carleton University's International Student Centre coordinator, said the decision was a long time in coming.

A Canadian Bureau of International Education (CBIE) report released in November shows that despite a small increase this year,

international student enrollment in Canadian universities has been on the decline since 1975.

In 1987-88 there were 23,335 international students studying in Canada.

The report concludes that while students' experiences in Canada is generally positive, Canada is not their first choice, and money remains a problem.

CBIE researcher Colin Stewart said the new measures are mostly "a step in the right direction."

But he said allowing international students to work on campus will not significantly change their lot.

"We're concerned that there's not usually that many jobs to be found on campuses," he said.

Stewart said the new regulation could even cause problems between international and Canadian students.

"If the Canadian students start to see they're not getting the on-campus jobs they used to get, they could start blaming international students."

Other federal policy changes include:

- Allowing international students to accept work on-campus while at school;
- International students may now work in Canada for up to a year after they graduate in a field related to their degree;
- Spouses of international students are also allowed to work;
- Students sponsored by Cana-

da's foreign aid agency can work without restriction;

● The Canadian government is now offering more scholarships to students from developing countries.

Before they even arrive in Canada, Stewart said would-be students are faced with an almost total void of information.

"Most foreign students find out about Canada by word of mouth," he said. Canada does very little to promote its universities abroad," he said.

Even under the new guidelines, foreign students will still be working and studying under unfair conditions, Oshinyimika said. Visa students still have to contribute to the Canadian Pension Plan (CPP), even though Canada won't likely pension them.

And while international students can get reimbursed for wages deducted for the CPP, Oshinyimika said the procedure is time consuming and almost unknown.

And international students still have to get a permit for every job they take while on a student visa whether it lasts a year or a month. A permit costs \$50.

Oshinyimika said this policy is unfair because the fee represents an additional strain on usually tight finances.

"The \$50 fee for every job can get a bit onerous," Stewart added. Tuition fees for foreign stu-

dents vary according to school province and program from \$1,458 to \$26,886. Newfoundland and Manitoba are the only provinces that do not charge higher fees for international students.

Median living expenses are around \$7,000 per year, according to the CBIE report.

Working international students will still face prohibitive income tax, unless they can prove they receive no money from outside Canada.

But finding the documentation

can prove "time consuming and complex," said Oshinyimika. "Often international students don't take the initiative or have the time to do it."

Students who don't endure the rigmarole of doing their taxes properly can pay as much as 40 per cent of their earnings in federal government income tax.

"If you make it this kind of experience," Stewart said, "how likely is it going to be that people are going to recommend Canada to their friends?"

## Subsidize fees!

by Christina Frei

International students at Dalhousie not only have to cope with the difficulties of being far away from home; they are also being burdened financially.

The differential fee, imposed on foreign students in most of Canada, is the amount of tuition payable on top of the regular fee. At Dalhousie, these students pay over twice the regular tuition, but in some parts of the country, universities charge up to ten times the standard fee.

Dalhousie Student Union Treasurer Frank DeMont says, "There is no requirement for a differential fee — the government should fully fund the differential fee, or if not that, then universi-

ties should subsidize international students. They do bring something to Nova Scotia."

Ted Marriott, coordinator of the International Student Centre at Dalhousie, emphasizes the advantages which foreign students bring to Dal as well as other post-secondary institutions in Canada.

"By and large, they are bright, enthusiastic students. You can only have a good university if you have two things — that is, good professors and good students. High quality students bring with them new and different ideas. Fresh ideas help us expand our education and understanding. They also bring with them social and cultural differences that help to enrich our own experience on campus."