

Strike over, study break lost

HALIFAX (CUP) — A faculty strike which lasted 11 school days at the Technical University of Nova Scotia ended February 1.

"Nobody can get everything they want", said Mort Rubinger,

chair of the Strike Coordination Committee. "We felt we had made some progress in the areas we wanted addressed: catch-up (pay), working conditions, and improved cooperation with administration.

The 103 members of the union won average salary increases of 3.2, 3.8, and 3.75 per cent over the next three years. Before the settlement, a full professor was making \$51,515 a year.

Union representatives had asked for six, six, and six per cent hikes. This would have brought full professor salaries to just over \$77,000, in line with the industries and Ontario engineering schools which union officials say are luring Ph.D. holders away from the university.

According to a 1987 survey sponsored by the Association of Professional Engineers, members in Atlantic Canada make between \$34,000 and \$53,000 a year.

Over 90 per cent of members voted in favour of the new contract, which took 19 months to

negotiate. The union also includes library workers who walked out with the professors.

The technical colleges' 1200 students will miss out on a week-long study break to make up for the lost time.

The student council remained neutral during the strike.

While the collective agreement states that only salaries are negotiable, Rubinger said a committee will now be looking into working conditions and other issues faculty or administrators feel should be addressed.

Union representative and architecture professor Tom Emodi said the strike's real issue was the quality of education at TUNS.

Emodi said that at least seven of the last 18 departed teachers left for higher salaries and better working conditions. He said many go to Ontario's big four universities — Western, Waterloo, McMaster, and U of T — and huge conglomerates like IBM and Lockheed.

UBC gives Free choice

VANCOUVER (CUP) — Women at the University of British Columbia could soon have access to on-campus abortion services as a result of the Supreme Court's January 28 ruling that decriminalized non-therapeutic abortions.

"We could seriously consider doing our own" abortions at UBC if free-standing clinics are legalized, said Percival Smith, director of Student Health Services.

The 50 to 60 students per year requesting abortions through the health service have been referred to Vancouver General or Shaughnessy hospitals.

An abortion service was considered in 1980, Smith said, but "we were told no" by the hospital administration.

"I don't think women from UBC should have to go to (Vancouver General) or Shaughnessy. UBC is a community in itself. You should be able to get care in your own community," said Pat Brighthouse, spokesperson for Concerned Citizens for Choice on Abortion.

Lynn Percival, spokesperson for UBC Health Sciences and Shaughnessy Hospitals, said it was too soon to say whether the health service can get abortion facilities.

Darlene Marzari, New Democrat MLA for Point Grey, said she would support abortion services at UBC.

Both Marzari and Brighthouse said the services should be free.

(Students) are part of the most vulnerable group in terms of income," said Brighthouse. "Doctors should be funded by the province, not by women who can't afford to pay."

But B.C.'s Medical Services Plan will not cover abortions not deemed medically necessary by a hospital therapeutic abortion committee.

"For the time being, we are asking hospitals to set up a structure to determine whether a procedure is medically required," said B.C. Health Minister Peter Dueck.

"Someone's going to have to challenge (Dueck's policies)," Marzari said. "The personal and religious views of a small minority and the personal views of an individual minister cannot be inflicted on public trust and the public's right to medical treatment."

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works for establish a business in Halifax which would employ a number of Blacks, who as a group suffer twice the employment rate of whites per capita at the present time. Taylor emphasizes that a "self-help economic plan is a must" and employment strategies must be developed.

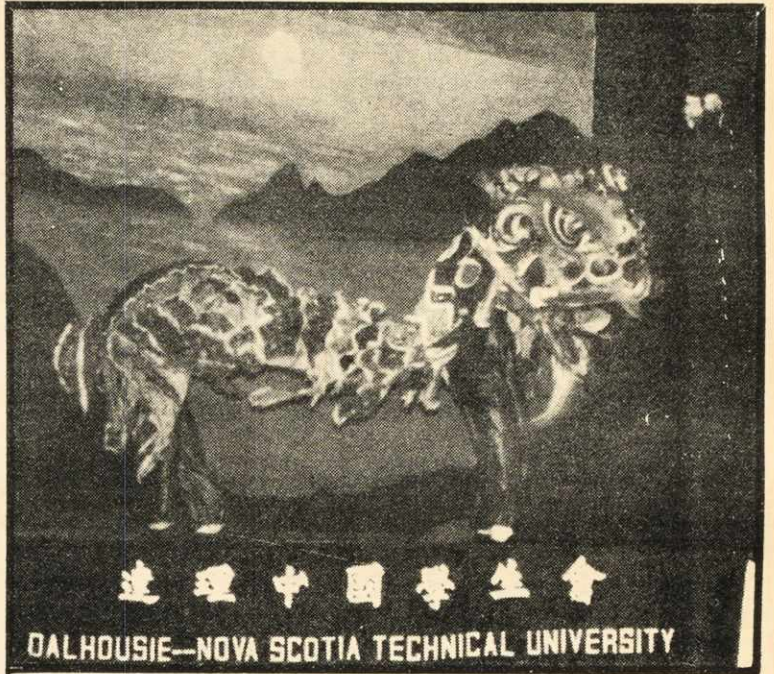
As far as current issues affecting the Black community, Taylor points to the Donald Marshall Inquiry and the Uniacke Square Regeneration Project. In March and April, the Marshall Inquiry will begin to look more at racism and discrimination within the legal system, and BUF intends to take part in the discussions. They intend to present a policy paper which has been worked on by many BUF members, and the BUF lawyer will question witnesses and call witnesses during this part of the inquiry. As well, Taylor suggests the possibility of "information sessions" to inform the public about BUF's role in the inquiry.

The Uniacke Square situation is very much related to the destruction of Africville in the 1960s, according to Taylor. BUF does not want to see a repeat of what happened in Africville, with the community being permanently displaced. Many of the same people who were relocated from Africville, or their children, are the ones who will be displaced as a result of the Uniacke Square project. BUF is fighting for the fair treatment of these people, and is working with the Uniacke Square Tenants' Association to attempt to secure a written agreement with the government that when the buildings are fixed up, these people will be given first priority in being able to move back into the

renovated apartments.

Taylor believes that the support of volunteers within the Black community has been very good. He points to volunteers involved with specific projects, such as *Upfront*, a show on Halifax Cable TV which discusses lifestyles and issues in the Black community, as well as showcasing the talents of Blacks. As well, there is a volunteer tabloid newspaper, *The Rap*, which was begun by Taylor and noted local author George Elliott Clarke, and is now under the direction of Mark Daye and Charles R. Saunders. Taylor says much care is taken in seeing that *The Rap* is not simply a propaganda wing of BUF, but rather an independent paper which can freely express the views of the Black community, even if it means criticism of BUF at times. *The Rap* is a tenant in the BUF office on Gottingen St., and there are good working relations between the two organizations. Taylor says Mark Daye "has taken the paper, which had good intellectual content, and added a 'people's aspect' to it," making it more accessible to the Black community.

Taylor sees BUF's role as an organization which can aid in long-term change through raising consciousness of the Black community, helping to educate society about the destructiveness of racism, and offering practical options and solutions to removing the barriers which prevent Blacks from participating fully in society. The Black community must be informed of its rights and assertive steps must be taken to eliminate the negative impact of racism. Taylor concludes, "it's a building process".



To celebrate the forthcoming Chinese New Year, the Dal-TUNS Chinese Student Association presents the 30th Anniversary and Chinese New Year Banquet '88 on Saturday, February 20th at 7:00 p.m. in the McInnes Rm. of the Dal SUB. Tickets are available at the SUB Inquiry Desk.

AIDS education

ST JOHN'S (CUP) — Memorial and Dalhousie universities have set up AIDS committees to educate the university community about the disease and establish policies on campus AIDS cases.

"Our priority will probably be students, since they tend to be at an age when they are likely to be experimenting with new relationships and multiple partners. We want them to be able to make informed and responsible decisions about their lifestyles," said Dr. Russell Harpur, director of Student Health Services at Memorial University of Newfoundland (MUN).

The eight-member MUN committee was struck in December. The Dalhousie group, set up last summer, has already released a policy on AIDS at the university.

The Dalhousie policy states that the university is committed to "individual rights (including confidentiality) and true regard for community public health interests".

AIDS cases will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis, the document states.

MUN's Harpur said his commission will look at issues like confidentiality, whether to allow an AIDS sufferer to live in residence, informing cleaning staff, and whether infected staff should teach.

"If you can't change attitudes at a place like this, where can you? That's our one hope," said Dalhousie committee chair Rosemary Gill, a physician at the university's health clinic.

Gill wants to concentrate on education. The committee shows AIDS education videos and is currently preparing a survey which will ask students and staff about their sexual practices and knowledge of AIDS. The committee has no budget, and is relying on donations to finance

the poll.

But campus gay and lesbian groups are concerned that there are no representatives of the gay community on either of the campus committees.

"Even though AIDS is not a 'gay disease', the homosexual community has been dealing with it since 1981, which is seven years more than the university has, so the gay community should have a valuable contribution to make," said Ron Knowling, president of MUN's student lesbian and gay association.

Harpur said the lesbian and gay community's head start on education means they represent less of a problem.

"The actual groups to be represented on the committee were also discussed, and there was no way to represent every group in the university community. The homosexual sector was not the only one omitted," Harpur added.

Health officials on both campuses are aware of students or staff testing positive to the antibody. But there are as yet no cases of AIDS or AIDS-related complex (ARC) at MUN or Dalhousie.

The AIDS virus attacks the body's immune system, leaving victims susceptible to any infection. The disease is often fatal. ARC is a less severe form. Current medical evidence suggests AIDS is transmitted through semen or contaminated blood.

Campus health clinics should take a more active role with the students who visit them, says Bill Ryan of the Halifax Metro Area Committee on AIDS.

"Students are more sexually active than any other group. All doctors should be asking whether their patients are practising safe sex."