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Call us when the revolution starts. Demonstrators wait in Robbie Burns park for the commencement of the anti-apartheid march on March 29. Photo: Ellen Mackenzie, Dal Photo.

50 march to protest

By DAVID OLIE

A GROUP OF ABOUT 50 DEMONSTRATORS marched through the streets of downtown Halifax on March 29 to protest the racist regime in South Africa.

The protest, organized by an ad-hoc solidarity committee of students from the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, made its way along the sidewalks of the city's business district, ending at the North End Regional library.

Many of the demonstrators say they want to draw public attention to the worsening racial situation in South Africa. Recent riots in that country have left over 30 blacks dead, mostly at the hands of white police and soldiers. "Oppression in

South Africa has taken on new proportions," says Karanja Nijoroge, Dalhousie's international student co-ordinator.

The protestors stayed on at the library to hear short speeches by the organizers and viewed a 1981 film on women in South Africa, *You Have Struck a Rock*.

Rocky Jones, a founder of Nova Scotia's Black United Front, links events in South Africa to the struggle for black equality in North America.

"People are dying here, not by guns, but by a velvet glove," says Jones. "If progress is made in South Africa then maybe, just maybe, things will start happening here, too."

Nijoroge says demonstrations by Canadians are important for the morale of black South Africans.

"Some people have given up hope for constructive change (in South Africa)," says Nijoroge. "Whatever solidarity can be given to the oppressed people of South Africa will be really appreciated by those people."

Organizers of the march timed it to coincide with the first day of the trials of six black activists in South Africa.

The prisoners, leaders of the United Democratic Front, are charged with treason for making statements in favour of the UN-sponsored international trade boycott of the South African regime.

Eight other activists are scheduled to be tried for similar crimes against the state.

The protest group plans further demonstrations in the coming months, leading up to June 16, which has been declared International Day of Solidarity with South Africa.

Board breaks 40 year tradition

By BILL MITCHELL

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 40 years Dalhousie's Board of Governors will open their meetings to the general public.

The board voted unanimously in favour of a proposal by Alex Gigeroff, outgoing DSU president, to end board secrecy.

Gigeroff sent a letter to board members requesting a meeting with board officers prior to the March 19 meeting.

The board is responsible for the financial management and planning of the university. According to Gordon Archibald, BOG chair, the principle of secrecy meant that the board operated much like a board of directors of a business.

During this year's dispute between administration and faculty, the Dal Faculty Association questioned the principle of board secrecy on several occasions. Some observers

have suggested this criticism was the main reason behind the BOG's decision.

Sandy Young, DFA president, says he disagrees with this view.

"The board is not a fearing body," Young says.

Greg Hardy, former student BoG representative, says he believes the strike did affect the decision.

"It was clear the confidentiality was not benefitting the university and was not in the interests of

bringing people together," says Hardy.

Gigeroff says the strike threat forced the board to gaze inwards. He says the board began to perceive itself as being unresponsive to the university community.

"People have an active interest in Dal and want to know what is going on in the administration, but the secrecy of the board prevented this," he says.

As for changes to the board's operations Archibald says the opening of the board's meeting won't make any difference. He says if there is one small benefit, it is that people outside the board will be familiar with the issues that are discussed. He says it may also promote greater communication between students and the administration.

Hardy says this change will have greater impact than others have predicted.

"Increased awareness of the board will lead to a greater accountability, ensuring the board members would come to the meetings even better prepared than before."

Hardy says committees that report to the board will continue to be kept confidential.

Not all future board meetings will be open to the public. There may be secret sessions at the end of each meeting to discuss real estate, staff and other issues which are still considered to be confidential.

The open sessions will be open to the general public on a first-come, first-served basis.

Mad moms march to make more maisons

By ELIZABETH DONOVAN

AS A SYMBOLIC GESTURE, Mothers United for Metro Shelter (MUMS) presented the MLAs at Province House with an eviction notice, giving the Conservative government three months to take concrete action to alleviate the housing crisis in the Halifax-Dartmouth area.

Marching down Barrington and Granville streets, carrying placards and banging pots and pans, 40 women, children and supporters protested the lack of affordable housing and the lack of initiative taken by the government.

This is an encore protest by these women and children. Last November MUMS staged a sim-

ilar protest, but received little concrete action to alleviate their situation.

Standing in the cold, Heather Schneider, one of MUMS' five core organisers, read out loud their notice to the government.

"To the members of the Legislature of Nova Scotia. We hereby give you notice to deliver up possession of the premise called Province House, in order to allow our government officials to experience the humiliation of eviction and to drive home the severity of the housing crisis."

Blocking the doors to Province House, a man "under orders" would initially admit only 10 women. He gave no explanation except that he could only let in a few "orderly" people at a time.

While the remaining women and children waited outside to come in, the 10 women met with Mike Laffin, minister of housing.

Eileen Cooke, a mother of two living at Second Stage, described the meeting with Laffin as "upsetting".

Laffin promised 20 family units for the Halifax-Dartmouth area, but many women say it's just not enough.

Cathline Tetlock, a worker at Second Stage, says Laffin is insensitive to what's going on with people in Halifax-Dartmouth.

"There are over 1200 families looking for housing in Halifax-Dartmouth—20 units is just not enough," says Tetlock.

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