

Software Engineering TM

BY SEAN RYAN

ST JOHN'S (CUP) — A computer science department is being sued for what a national professional engineering association is calling a violation of federal trademark laws.

The suit, filed by the Canadian Council of Professional Engineers (CCPE), concerns the use of the term "software engineering" in the name of a new non-engineering program at the Memorial University of Newfoundland (MUN).

The suit was filed in conjunction with a local group, the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Newfoundland (APEGN).

The dispute began about a year ago as what some called a turf war between the university's Faculty of Engineering and Department of Computer Science. Both were bidding for the proposed "Honours in Software Engineering" program.

After losing the program, the engineering faculty brought their

concerns to the local association. This led to an extensive lobby campaign, by both professional engineering groups, in an attempt to derail the university's efforts.

In a press release, APEGN President Geoff Emberly wrote, "It is just as misleading for a non-engineering faculty, such as the Faculty of [Science] of MUN, to offer a degree program in engineering as it would be if they offered a degree program in law, medicine or dentistry."

Allen Steeves, the executive director of APEGN, said the suit is based on the public's best interest.

"We're mainly concerned about the negative impact on the students and on the public and on our ability to regulate the profession in that area if we lose the titles 'software engineer' and 'software engineering' to anybody that wants to use it," he said.

"If we lose the right or ability to defend this title then we lose it to everybody, so it becomes a very serious public safety concern in our estimation."

"The professional engineering associations seem to think that people will be somehow confused between this and the designation of 'professional engineer' which is something that they are responsible for designating on individuals," said University spokesperson Peter Morris.

The new Memorial University calendar includes disclaimers to clarify that this is separate from what would be defined as a program of the Faculty of Engineering.

Morris pointed out that the University of Toronto (U of T) also offers a program in software engineering through their computer science department.

"It is common practice throughout the United States; Other Canadian universities are considering it," he said. "Their strategy is really their strategy and not ours, but on the surface it certainly appears as if we are being singled out."

But CCPE Interim President Wendy Ryan-Bacon said the fact that U of T is much larger and more powerful has nothing to do with the council's decision to sue the University.

"I guess there are a number of factors [why we have not sued them], but whether they are doing

it or not has no bearing on the case against Memorial," she said. "If we are successful in this we intend to go after other universities as well."

While Dalhousie does not currently offer a degree program in software engineering, it does offer a number of software engineering classes through the Dal-Tech amalgamated computer science faculty.

The interim Dean of the Faculty of Computer Sciences, Dr. Carl Hartzman, said that while the lawsuit and the threat of actions against other similar programs is a concern, he disagrees with the claim that software engineering, and the term software engineering, is the sole province of engineers.

"The word engineering is English — you hear of political leaders engineering coups all the time," he said. "I think it is an attempt by the engineering department to take over a field that is growing and vital — to feather their nest."

And while Hartzman agrees that there is a need to regulate the field, making it the sole province of engineers is limiting.

"It is a mistake. It gives software engineering too narrow a focus," he said.

With files from Shelley Robinson

Write for the Gazette, because stupidity is a vicious disease.

312 SUB

Meetings every Monday at 4:30 pm.

Cola

continued from page 5...

very pleased with the Freedom of Information decision," said Paula Martin, spokesperson for UBC. "We hope the [Supreme] Court will uphold the decision." She refused further comment, saying it is not university practice to comment on ongoing legal matters.

Coca Cola says withholding details of the deal is standard business practice to protect their own interests and prevent a bidding war between competing beverage companies.

"We don't disclose the specifics of a deal with any contractual arrangement mainly for competitor reasons," said Tina Warren, director of corporate affairs for Coca Cola Ltd.

"It was a win for UBC and a win for Coca Cola," she continued.

According to Warren, a study conducted on campus revealed that 75 per cent of UBC community members preferred Coca Cola refreshments to competitor companies.

"It's what students want," she said.

Write for the Gazette, because redundancy is a vicious disease.
312 SUB
Meetings every Monday at 4:30 pm.

Write for the Gazette, because redundancy is a vicious disease.
312 SUB
Meetings every Monday at 4:30 pm.

Write for the Gazette, because redundancy is a vicious disease.
312 SUB
Meetings every Monday at 4:30 pm.

Write for the Gazette, because redundancy is a vicious disease.
312 SUB
Meetings every Monday at 4:30 pm.

Desperately seeking individual with strong leadership skills and public speaking abilities to be

Chair - 1998 Grad Class Challenge

Qualifications

- ◆ Graduating May 1998
- ◆ Possess strong interpersonal and communication skills
- ◆ Motivated and energetic
- ◆ Knowledge of Student Societies an asset

Responsibilities

- ◆ Ambassador for Class of 1998
- ◆ Attend important receptions and social events
- ◆ Liaise with Development Officer and student representatives

Honorarium Awarded

Respond by September 29th with a brief cover letter outlining why you are interested in the role of

Chair - 1998 Grad Class Challenge

To: Dalhousie Development Office
c/o Shawna Burgess
Room 105, Macdonald Building

For more information, call 494-6863 or write shawna.burgess@dal.ca



HERE FOR YOU.

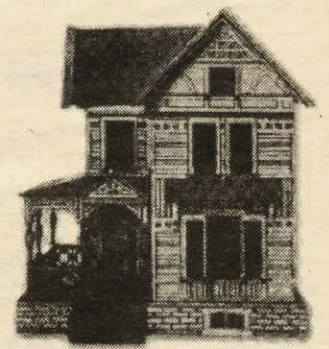
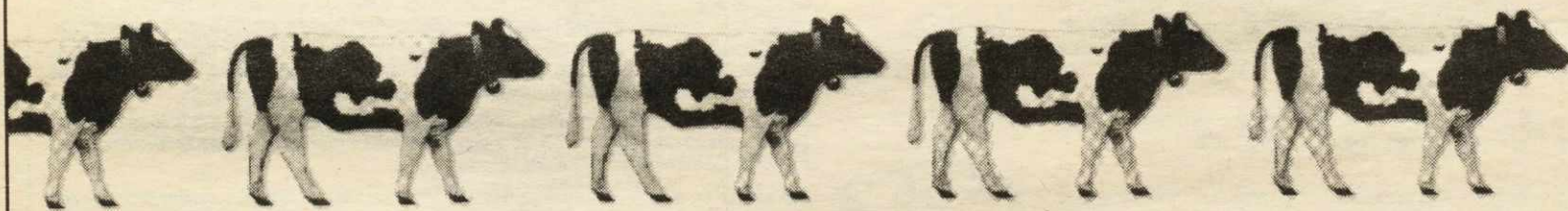
FORT MASSEY CHURCH
QUEEN & TOBIN STREET
HALIFAX

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP:
SUNDAYS, 9:30AM / NURSERY & SUNDAY SCHOOL

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP:
SUNDAYS, 11AM & A FULL MENU OF MID-WEEK PROGRAMS

FIND A SPIRITUAL HOME WITH US.

Talk until...



... with monthly Flat Rate long distance.

Packages Start at
\$29.95 PER MONTH
Call 1-800-363-FLAT

Why let expensive per minute charges cut your long distance calling time short? Join the thousands of Canadians who have stopped paying by the minute and are enjoying the simplicity and extraordinary savings of London Telecom's one low monthly Flat Rate. Call today, or visit our website at www.ltn.com

LONDON™ TELECOM NETWORK
Canada's Flat Rate Long Distance Company

*Taxes extra. Certain restrictions may apply. Unavailable in regions not served by Bell, BC Tel, Telus, Communications Inc., MTS, NewTel, NB TEL, NewTel, Island Tel or MT&T. Distance sensitive rates of time may apply. Please call for details.