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Predjudice in Professional Schools

"We hope that this article does not add any more pressure on those blacks who are presently in professional schools."

Blacks in the university environment as well as the black community are beginning to wonder and grumble about the future survival of blacks who are already in professional schools, as well as those who are planning a professional career. This problem has become a larger question in the minds of those concerned with the recent failure rate of blacks in the law and medicine. It has become a societal cancer without any diagnosis.

Let us take a look at the three major professional schools at Dalhousie — Dentistry, Law and Medicine. **SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY** — Between 1967 and 1973, five blacks were accepted and all graduated. Three were accepted in 1967, one in 1968 and one in 1969. Since then, no more blacks have been accepted. It cannot be said that the lack of accepted students has been due to the lack of applicants for we are aware of those who applied. Therefore, it can be concluded that the School intends to control and protect the profession from Blacks. At present, there are no Black dental surgeons in Nova Scotia. Why? Though it seems obvious, this is a question we would like answered. **LAW SCHOOL** — In this profession, while it can be justified that the acceptance attitude towards Blacks is progressing relatively slowly, the failure rate of Blacks on the other hand, is increasing rapidly. This, we guess, they can justify for this is why they are lawyers.

In 1967 there were 47 graduates, all whites

In 1968 there were 62 graduates, all whites

In 1969 there were 68 graduates, all whites

In 1970 there were 71 graduates, all whites

In 1971 there were 112 graduates, all whites

In 1972 there were 130 graduates, all whites

In 1973 there were 136 graduates, only 3 blacks.

In 1974 there were 140 graduates, all white

Total graduates — 766.

Therefore, out of seven hundred and sixty-six graduates in the above mentioned period, there were only three Blacks. During the school year 1969-70, two Black students were accepted, one dropped out and the other failed. The following school year (1970-71) three students were accepted and they were the three Black graduates referred to above. In 1972, one Black student was accepted and is presently in his third year. In 1973, six Blacks were accepted and four failed, i.e. about 80%. This has led to our under-

ground investigation about the future for Blacks in professional schools, especially law school. It appears to those students who had the experiences as well as to us observers that only a token number of Black lawyers are allowed to graduate, while the others were merely accepted so that it can be justified that the school does accept qualified Blacks. Among the compulsory first year courses, there is one in which the professor normally fails 95% of the Blacks. Even when they write remedials they are flunked. It is also said that those first year Black students whom they do not intend to let through are placed in his section. It seems that this professor has the dirty work cut out for him. Therefore, the examiners know in advance which Blacks are going to make it. Thus our problem becomes one of dealing with the decision-makers. We are very much concerned about these problems but we are even more concerned for not having a solution. We sympathise with the six Blacks presently enrolled in the school, but we, the Nova Scotia Black Student Association for Higher Learning are very much concerned and cannot overlook the harm that is being done and continues to

perpetrate. These statements make some strong allegations, but they are statements of fact.

MEDICAL SCHOOL — In the school year of 1971-74, two Black students failed out of three, both in their second year of studies. These results are questionable since both students were among the top twenty of their first year class. At present, there are four Black students in the school; one in second year and three in first year. Will they ever reach their finals? This we cannot answer, but we hope for the best.

As a minority group we need a great deal of legal, medical and dental attention. The laws protect the interests of the rich, so will we. Will our financial burdens ever receive proper representation by white lawyers in the courts? It is doubtful. Secondly, we the poor have long been considered the most deviant group in society, so our visits to the courts are always recurring. The laws and their disciplinary measures are directed against our people. Doctors and dentists have little time for us; find little relief for our problems, ensuring further visits from us and further benefits from MSI for them. Why should we not have Black lawyers, doctors and

dentists who may give more attention to our problems?

The above factors and countless others brings us to seek fair treatment for our potential black professionals in professional schools. We ask for justice and equal rights. We ask all those in a position to make our needs possible, to shed some light on the topic.

for the Nova Scotia Black Students Association for Higher Learning.

TRACK

by Catherine J. Campbell

Dal women's **CROSS COUNTRY RUNNING TEAM** ventured to Truro last weekend in their first meet of the year. This team has been training after school everyday for 2-3 hours, and deserve much credit.

BARB MILLER and **BARB MUISE** our two freshettes from Yarmouth, ran extremely well after their comeback from a summer layoff. Miss Miller, finishing third, covered the hilly two mile course in 11 minutes, 43 seconds. Miss Muise finished up with a respectable time of 12 minutes, 14 seconds, with our veteran runner, **JANE BAGNALL** in hot pursuit with a time of 12 minutes, 33 seconds.

CN-CP-- Those ol' pussycats

By Lynn Garland

If you're thinking of sending a threatening telegram to the Prime Minister or an obscene message to your girlfriend's mother or if you're short of cash and you want to wire a desperate plea — forget it. CN-CP telecommunications can't accept your message.

There were a few reports to the *GAZETTE* about high handed operators at the CN-CP offices refusing to accept charged telegrams from students. In fact, the story that emerges is not one of a cold blooded utility merrily ripping off students, but the reverse—an office reputedly providing a service with an easy credit policy and virtually no power to collect from people who fail to pay their bills.

When informed of complaints by a Dal Student who attempted to charge a telegram to Ceylon, Mr. A. C. Dean, manager of the local CN-CP Telecommunications office stated that he "had no axe to grind with Dal students" and in fact, needed their business. The company's policy is to accept and charge telegrams from anyone with a telephone and local address as long as the telegram is not a request for money, does not cost over 10 dollars and that the person sending the mes-

sage does not have any outstanding accounts with CN-CP. This policy is applicable not only to students but to anyone attempting to send a telegram.

Mr. Dean outlined how powerless the company is to collect from people who forget to pay their bills. Most bills are less than 5 dollars—a sum that is far too low to threaten anyone with court action. The company refuses

to use collection agencies and the cost of billing people in some cases exceeds many of the bills themselves.

In short, if you're tempted to tell the Prime Minister where to stuff it or if you want to send your best wishes to Team Canada or if you want to hit your parents for some extra money—write a letter. And try charging the stamp the post office.

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When asked what type of platform on which he would be prepared to run, Braybrooke would not elaborate. However, he did say that he would be pro-development, not in the general context that the words denote, but "selective development," planning a development or developments to suit the neighbourhood into which it would be located. Braybrooke felt that it was necessary for the city to have progressive development plans, to provide jobs in the community.

Connolly was also contacted to find out his plans for re-offering. He stated that he would be submitting his papers to the City Clerk's office to-day.

When questioned on what type of platform he was prepared to offer his constituents, Connolly said that he felt that he would try to continue his efforts of the past three years on Council. He felt that, in the area of financial responsibility, the current Council had an excellent record. He was also concerned with seeing portions of the Graham Report instituted, although he had reservations about certain portions of the report. These included the concept of a smaller council to represent a larger area, although the report stressed the need for more citizen participation in municipal planning and development. Connolly also noted that the report suggested the need for full-time aldermen. He questioned this proposal, saying that he doubted that the aldermen would put in any more time at their job than the current members are doing.

The *GAZETTE* will have more of the candidates' views in next week's issue.