

# Metro opens AIDS hotline

by Sabrina Lim

On November 22nd, 1989, the Metro Area Committee on AIDS announced the opening of INFORM-AIDS, a service funded by the Nova Scotia Department of Health and Fitness.

According to Leon Chubbs, support coordinator of the hotline, response has tapered off since the service's first two weeks. The service receives between 10 and 12 calls a day, and 3 to 10 calls

per evening.

"The callers ask a range of questions about AIDS," said Chubbs, "ways of transmission, what is considered safe sex and high-risk and low-risk behaviour, the pros and cons of testing, and where they can go for testing." Chubbs defines the majority of callers as "people who are sexually active, or know someone with AIDS and want information about transmission."

The INFORM-AIDS hotline is a toll-free, confidential informa-

tion phonenumber that also provides education, counselling, and referrals to callers throughout Nova Scotia. The hotline's phones are answered by trained volunteer-information specialists who have participated in two 6- and 7-hour workshops designed to sharpen listening and counselling skills.

Chubbs said the skills allow the operators to polarize the callers' questions in order to answer in a clear, sensitive manner. The volunteer specialists are also pro-

vided with an intensive manual on the subject of AIDS that they are required to be familiar with.

INFORM-AIDS assures confidentiality and is designed to provide the public with clear, updated facts on AIDS in order to dispel the lies and misconceptions about AIDS.

"People need information in order to protect themselves," said Chubbs. As their motto goes, "Information is our best defence and prevention is our only vaccine".



Information is our best defense and prevention is our only vaccine. Call the AIDS Information Line.

**1-425-AIDS**

(toll free from anywhere in Nova Scotia)

**Tuesday through Saturday 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.**

a service of the Metro Area Committee on AIDS funded by the Nova Scotia Department of Health and Fitness

# New black support group at Dalhousie

by Sandy MacKay

Black unity on the Dalhousie campus is the goal of the Black United Students Group.

The BUSG held their first meeting on Monday evening to explain the goals and expectations of the group to an audience of about 25 people.

Jason Power, Warren Adams and Geron Sebastian decided to put the group together one night when Power came to talk to the other two about a particular problem he had had with an incident of racism on campus. The three of them talked, and later decided the discussion they had could be carried out on a larger scale. The BUSG plans to unite black students from Canada, the West Indies, and Africa in discussion groups, to talk about particular problems black students have at Dalhousie, in Nova Scotia, and in Canada.

"We all come from different ways of life, from different cultures, and we should share the issues we have as black people," said Sebastian at the opening

meeting.

The group plans to hold open weekly discussions on topics like racism, inter-racial relationships, and black history and culture. They are not trying to replace any of the groups representing black students at Dal, but rather to bring people together to talk that may not otherwise get together.

"We plan to hold discussions, not to organize social activities like the BCSA (Black Canadian Students Association)," said Power.

Archy Beals, president of the BCSA, pointed out that they organized social events, but they were also actively campaigning for the rights of black students at Dal, and negotiating with President Howard Clark on the fate of the Transition Year Program.

Some present at the meeting were concerned that the name of the group might alienate other students who could benefit from the discussions. Chanaz Gokol of the International Students Association pointed out that "the name, with the emphasis on black, might scare some people off. It might exclude Malaysians,

for example."

The organizers promised that the meetings were open to anyone of any race, creed or colour who might be interested in learning about some of the problems black students have on campus.

"There are problems we have as blacks that we can discuss as blacks and solve as blacks. Although we welcome white people, there are simply things that white people will not understand. However, we will try to

help them understand," said Sebastian.

The organizers were warned to be aware of "white racism" and offered support from various people. The group will begin its discussion series next week.



Pictured here, from left to right: Isaac Saney, Jason Power, Geron Sebastian, Warren Adams, Sharon Phillips and Kervin White.

photo: Rochelle Owen

# Federations want strike

by Lucy Niro

MONTREAL (CUP) — Quebec's largest student federation and its smaller rival will join forces next month to persuade students to go on a province-wide strike against the tuition-fee hike set for this fall.

Representatives from L'Association Nationale des Etudiants et Etudiantes du Quebec (ANEEQ) and la Federation des Etudiant(e)s du Quebec (FEQ), announced they would work together to defend Quebec's thawing tuition fee freeze.

Quebec's tuition fees — the lowest in Canada — have been frozen at about \$517 for the past

20 years.

But on Dec. 9, Education Minister Claude Ryan declared tuition fees would rise by \$350 each year for the next two years.

By 1992, students will be paying about \$1240 per year. Ryan said universities will also be able to add on an extra 10 per cent as an administrative fee at their discretion.

The two associations agreed to organize a special meeting of all CEGEP and university student councils across the province on Feb. 10 in Montreal. They plan to hand out a set of joint proposals outlining pressure tactics against the government.

ANEEQ's secretary general, Josette Cote, and FEQ official

Cedrick Pautel, said the two student coalitions are also planning a general one-day demonstration on Feb. 14, in a last-ditch attempt to persuade Ryan to drop his plan.

Pautel said FEQ and ANEEQ agree universities' financial woes stem from a lack of private and public funding from the province. "The government should maintain and augment their level of financing," Pautel said.

"Private enterprises benefit most from having university graduates as employees, so they should pay a higher share of taxes," he said. "Lastly, students themselves can help finance universities when paying taxes once in the work force."

# An apology to 3200 of our readers

Last week the Gazette ran an insert for Hollywood jeans. We didn't get to see it before it ran. We didn't even know it was going to be inserted in our paper, as a matter of fact.

Those of you who read the article "Molson with a blue dress on" may have been a little shocked. So were we. We apologize for running the insert.

The insert came from Canadian University Press's advertising division in Toronto, and we are taking steps to see that this sort of offensive insert doesn't run in the Gazette again.

Keep those complaints coming. It tells us that you are concerned anyway.

