

Students last to know

HALIFAX (CUP) — Administrators at the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design (NSCAD) want to keep students in the dark about a possible faculty strike.

The NSCAD student council tried to send its members information on a salary dispute between professors and administrators over the summer, but college officials nixed the idea.

"It didn't seem appropriate," said Scott MacDougall, dean of academic affairs at NSCAD.

The Registrar's office also refused to give the Student Union a mailing list of their members.

Administrators called the strike memorandum "too stressful" to include in an information package, said Margaret Boyle, president of the college student council.

Boyle charges officials are afraid enrollment will drop if news of a possible walkout is released. About 70 per cent of the 500 students attending NSCAD reside outside of Nova Scotia, she said.

"(College president) Garry Kennedy said there wouldn't be half as much enrollment if there were a possibility of a strike. That's the reason they wouldn't

want the letter sent," Boyle said.

"It doesn't damage the students to know about the strike, it damages them not to know," she added.

The Student Union is working on receiving the addresses of all Student Union members by January. Information on the strike and special meetings on the Faculty negotiations are being organized by the Students' Council.

Alvin Comiter, past president of the Faculty Union, said the issue under negotiation by the faculty and administration is salary levels.

Comiter said NSCAD faculty wages are below all other faculty wages in the province, especially in terms of wage increments. "We are trying to achieve salary equity in the region," he said.

Comiter sees the issue of money as being important to the quality of education at NSCAD. "Profs will leave for better money somewhere else. We are having trouble getting people to apply for vacancies. People won't take a \$10,000 cut in pay to teach here."

The bargaining unit for the faculty has done budgets to

show that the administration can afford the increase. "By our calculations, they had already budgeted enough money for the proposal we had made," said Comiter.

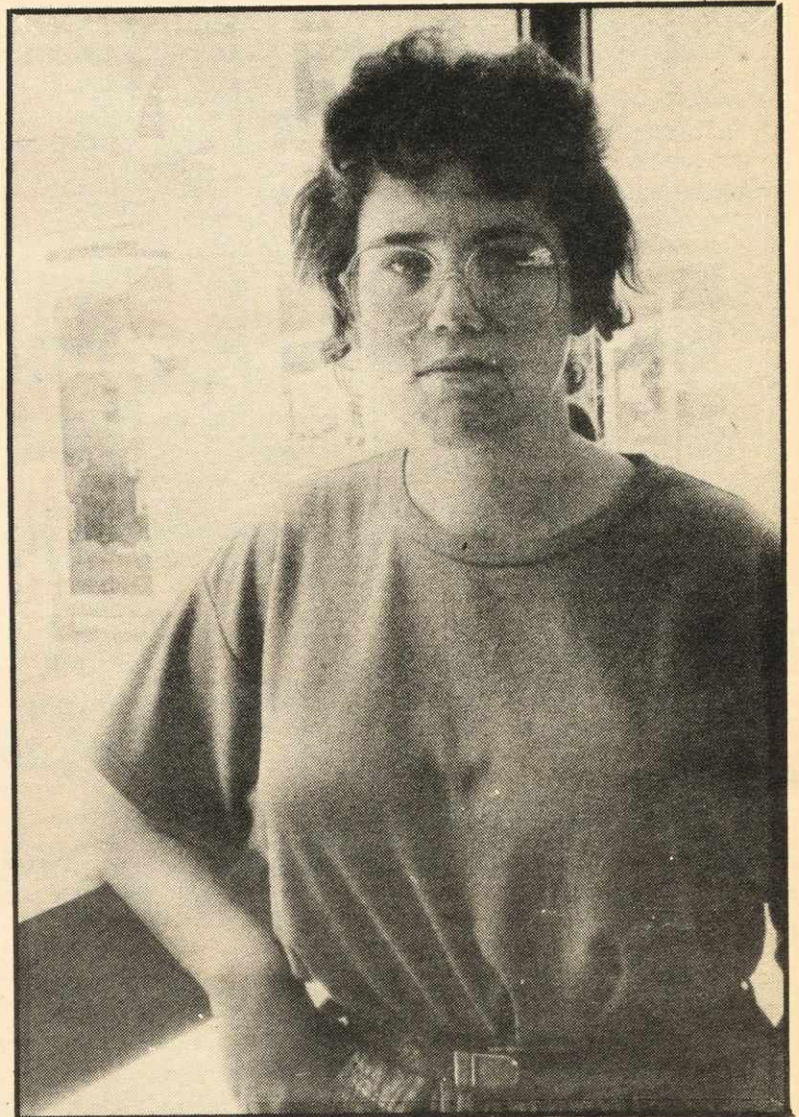
After conciliation, the Administration did not apply for a conciliation board to resolve the dispute. "I think the administration are waiting to see what the student action will be."

Comiter said the Administration certainly would not wish students to know about a strike before they come. "The administration would risk losing students if there were a rumour of a strike. I'm sure they are trying to protect enrollment," said Comiter.

A 20-day walkout last October won professors at NSCAD a contract which included job security, faculty grievance procedures, and the right to consultation over academic matters.

It was the longest strike ever held at an English-speaking university in Canada, said Comiter.

Comiter said a full professor at NSCAD takes home an average of \$15,000 less a year than her or his counterparts elsewhere.



NSCAD student union president Margaret Boyle Photo: Geoff Stone

Dal adds AIDS info

by Ellen Reynolds

Information on Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) and a condom are included in the frosh packs which Dalhousie students received during orientation this year.

The package, put together by the Metro Area Committee on AIDS (MACAIDS) and Dalhousie Health Services, is part of an effort to increase AIDS awareness at universities. MACAIDS contacted many colleges and universities in Nova Scotia about making this package part of orientation. Dalhousie, TUNS, Universite Ste.-Anne and Acadia are the only universities which accepted the complete package. Others took only general information on AIDS, if any.

MACAIDS, a non-profit organization formed in 1985, and Dalhousie's AIDS Education Committee, formed this summer, co-operated on the package, which contains a condom, information on condom use from Health Services, general information on MACAIDS, a "safe sex" bookmark, a pamphlet put out by Health and Welfare Canada, and a Red Cross pamphlet with AIDS information for blood donors.

"I think the big fuss in the media about the condoms is the

best thing that happened and served its purpose whether the condoms went in or not. At least everyone will realize that condoms have something to do with (the prevention of) AIDS," says Rosemary Gill, Director of Student Health Service and chair of the new committee.

Dalhousie's AIDS Education Committee has met twice over the summer and is still in the planning stages of an AIDS awareness campaign on campus. "We have yet to identify sources of funding," says Gill.

Initially, the committee is planning a needs assessment. "Polling students on their level of knowledge would make a good job for somebody," says Gill. "What we want to do is see what the education needs are and try to fill them. We don't want to sensationalize or do what everyone else is doing," she says.

The aim of the committee is to educate both faculty and students. Other plans include a public forum, more condom machines on campus, workshops given at orientation, and possibly an AIDS hotline.

Madeline Comeau, Co-ordinator of MACAIDS along with Jo-Anne Simmonds, Assistant Co-ordinator, is setting up a volunteer workshop, and over 60 people are ready for orientation and training. "After these pack-

ages (in the frosh packs) we want to maintain a network with Dal Health Services," says Comeau.

The emphasis of MACAIDS is on the gay community, and Comeau says, "The danger is to try to do too much. To try to reach the gay community, though, you must reach the general public."

One difficulty is finding a language that will be understood by different target groups. "We hope the language is explicit enough so they know what we're talking about," says Comeau. Technical language like "exchanging bodily fluids" is vague, and sometimes material put out by groups like Safe Sex in Toronto is offensive to the general public. "Halifax and Toronto aren't the same audience," she says.

The need for groups like MACAIDS and the AIDS Education Committee is growing, as shown by responses to workshops, lectures and packages like the one in the frosh packs. "The Committees are taking off and pretty well every university we contacted is asking for more information for AIDS workshops," says Simmonds.

"Right this very second we're not in grave danger, but it's going to be a much bigger problem. We want people to start thinking about it and acting as safely as they can," says Gill.

No Condoms Please

By Eleanor Brown
Canadian University Press

HALIFAX (CUP) — While most first-year students at Nova Scotia universities will be handed AIDS education packages at registration or orientation tables, some of the schools involved in the blitz are removing the free condoms and explicit safe-sex explanations included in the packets.

"This is a Catholic university — there's no way (we'll hand out condoms)", said a secretary employed by the Mount Saint Vincent's University student council. "It's fine to tell people how they can get it, the basic information. But not condoms."

Ten of the province's 14 universities, colleges and technical schools are participating in the publicity programme, coordinated by the Halifax Metro Area Committee on AIDS. Only four schools are accepting the safes.

The legal-sized, pale blue envelopes to be distributed are emblazoned with the grim message, "AIDS: What you don't know can hurt you". In addition to a free prophylactic and a bookmark with guidelines to safer sex, the giveaway includes a blood-donor brochure from the Red Cross, a pamphlet from Health and Welfare Canada, and instructions on the proper way to use a condom.

This is the second attempt by AIDS educators to reach a mass

student audience and inform Canadians about AIDS, an incurable, sexually transmitted disease which has claimed the lives of 635 Canadians. Two years ago, the Federal Centre for AIDS placed advertisements in a nationally distributed student coupon package.

Two universities — including Saint Mary's in Halifax — have refused to allow students access to the bookmark, which lists safe and risky sexual activities.

Metro Area Committee on AIDS co-ordinator Madeleine Comeau is concerned the loss may hurt students.

"I don't quite understand why they would make such a fuss," says Comeau. "We want them to read the printed material. The brochure from Health and Welfare Canada says AIDS is transmitted through bodily fluids. That's not enough for 18- and 19-year-olds. They want to know whether it's safe to kiss someone, whether it's safe to have oral sex, whether it's safe to hug someone with AIDS."

Meanwhile, in Hamilton, Ontario, McMaster University's student council is backing a series of "safe sex versus no sex" ads in the campus newspaper. The announcements are being forwarded to the 46 newspapers represented by Canadian University Press through its cooperatively owned advertising agency, Campus Plus.