

Haligonians going bald

Radiation fogs computers

by Alan Adams

Radiation emissions from naval vessels in Halifax harbour have been linked as a possible cause for disruption of computer terminals in downtown Halifax offices.

The Nova Scotia Power Commission has had serious problems with its terminals since re-locating its offices to a waterfront office tower. Technicians from both the navy and the NSPC have conducted tests on the effects of the radar system on the terminals. The tests showed that when the radar was functioning the terminals had problems.

The emissions are believed to originate from the 280 class destroyers which carry radar equipment more powerful than that used by the U.S. to track satellites and other

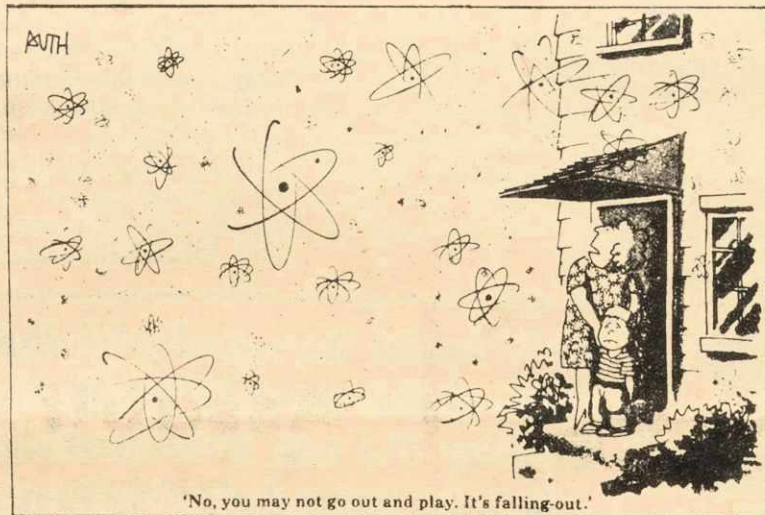
systems. Commander J. Maloney, the Public Affairs Officer for the Department of Defence, said the same radar system has been in use on Canadian ships for over 20 years. Maloney cited a report on the effects of emissions saying "even with the highest power, no effect would be felt on a human being unless he stood directly in front of the system."

Om Kamra, a Dalhousie geneticist, said the effects of the radar system haven't been documented well enough to gauge the effects of the emissions. Kamra said the radiation produces heat that "has reported to have effects on brain functions and cell membranes." He added "it is known to have produced birth

defects in animals under laboratory tests." Kamra referred to an incident at the American embassy in Moscow where employees were exposed to heavy microwave radiation. He said the Americans complained of sickness and inefficiency after the initial dose of radiation.

The Radiation Health Officer for the Province of Nova Scotia, T. Dalgleish, said the radiation emissions have virtually no effect on the local population. He said the standards "are not near the limits proposed" for that particular type of radiation and added "we know that you could not relate any health problems to the radiation levels we are receiving here." He described the matter as "highly uncontroversial" and reputed a statement that appeared in the Mail Star on December 22 saying "it (the levels) is almost enough to fry a guy" as coming from someone who knows little about the properties of radar.

The emissions have had little effect on the computers at Dal. Jim Laskin of the Dalhousie Computer Center said there have been "no problems whatsoever" and seriously doubts if there ever will be. He said the computers are located in an area where 3 feet concrete walls above and 2 feet on the sides provide adequate protection.



Fees could be impounded

by Nigel Allen

The executive of the Dalhousie Student Union will ask student council to impound the money owing to the engineering society at the council meeting Sunday night.

The decision is primarily because of an incident Nov. 23 in which two Gazette staff were injured, but was also due to the defacement of most of the copies of the Nov. 23 issue with the words "Engineers Ball Gazette Sucks", according to council.

He said that three of the four executive members present at their Jan. 4 meeting wanted council to withhold \$425, all that remains of the \$1.50 that each engineering student pays annually to support the Engineering Society. Although council doesn't have the power to transfer this money to the union itself, according to Murphy, council can withhold it until the Engineering Society agrees to certain conditions.

Murphy said these conditions might include apologizing to the two Gazette staffers and posting a bond that would be forfeited if a similar incident were to happen in the future. "We want to get them to conform to the general standards of behaviour in the SUB," he said.

On Dec. 3, council narrowly

defeated a motion to bill the engineers for \$425 as damages for the defacement of the Gazette.

Gazette staff members had kept about 3000 copies of the Nov. 23 issue from being stamped by hiding them in a small office inside the Gazette's suite. At about 5:25 p.m. that day, a number of men, including Engineering Society president David Bolivar, rushed in to try to take these papers. In the process, Gazette photographer-reporter Mark Simkins received a blow to the head, and staff member Gail Picco was

knocked to the floor. Later that night, she learned that she was suffering from concussion. Her vision was severely impaired for about two weeks afterwards.

The Gazette staff have referred the incident to the university senate's discipline committee and Picco has hired a lawyer in order to sue Bolivar. The other attackers have not yet been identified, Picco said.

The council meeting Sunday will also discuss whether to remove Bolivar from the SUB Operations Committee, on which he now sits.

ZAPATAS



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CUP briefs

NUS in McMaster

HAMILTON (CUP)—Graduate students at McMaster University have voted to join the National Union of Students (NUS).

But there wasn't much interest in the vote, with a turnout of only 25 of the campus' 1,100 students.

NUS will join 11 other groups to meet with members of the federal cabinet late in January to outline its position on government funding and cutbacks.

No UI for Ontario TA's

OTTAWA (CUP)—The federal government's decision to unilaterally cut people working less than 20 hours per week off unemployment insurance has effectively cut graduate teaching assistants off UI.

Since graduate TA's in Ontario are prevented from working more than 10 hours per week by the Ontario graduate commission, Lee Walker, president of the University of Toronto's Graduate Assistant's Association, said no Ontario assistants will be able to claim UI over the summer, an important time for thesis work.

Unemployment brief endorsed

OTTAWA (CUP)—"High unemployment rates result primarily from a lack of available employment", not from lazy or choosy workers, states a brief attacking the proposed changes to the Unemployment Insurance Act (1971) and endorsed by a group of six unemployment organizations from across Canada.

The six groups, the Ottawa Coalition for Full Employment, the Newfoundland Association for Full Employment, the Halifax Coalition for Full Employment, the Parallel Institute (Montreal), the Kingston Committee of the Unemployed and the Saskatchewan Coalition for Full Employment, told the Standing Committee on Labour, Manpower and Immigration December 6 that "we believe that the federal government is being totally irresponsible by continuing to implement policies which attack the unemployed rather than the problem of unemployment."

Quote of the year

OTTAWA (CUP)—"My goodness, if a person gets an education and they cannot broaden their horizons beyond Cape Breton, (they should) try Toronto, try other parts of the country, try other parts of the world," employment minister Bud Cullen said recently when questioned on a television program by an unemployed graduate Cape Breton student.

Cullen told the House of Commons December 7 that it is "just too bloody bad" that high levels of regional unemployment were forcing young people to move around the country in search of work. This migration of jobless youth "is the best thing that could ever happen to the country," he added.

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