

Photo human rights issue in res

By COLLEEN MACKEY

Dalhousie's policy asking for a photo with an application for a room in residence is a human rights violation, says Andy Knight, former MacMaster student union president.

Knight says that regardless of the reasons given for this policy the university is guilty of discrimination based on a person's physical appearance.

"The student union could take the residence administration to court and win," says Knight.

Dean of Women Christine Irvine says she wouldn't change the photo requirement despite the complaints that they could lead to discrimination.

"The photos are useful for the dons (residence assistants) to learn the names and faces of students," says Irvine.

Not all the dons, however, agree with Irvine's defense of the policy.

"It wouldn't really matter if they (the photos) weren't there," says Dawn Pickering. "I don't really use the photographs."

Dean of men Pat Donahoe says he uses the photos to match roommates.

When asked if he thought the policy could result in discrimination based on race, Donahoe said, "You can tell a lot about a person from a photo, not colour."

Transition year programme director Karolyn Waterson says that students' interests rather than their appearance should determine room assignments. The transition year programme is designed to provide native and black students with a qualifying university year.

Neither St. Mary's University nor Mount Saint Vincent University ask for a photo with a residence application.

Learn now, pay later, says Martin

By SAMANTHA BRENNAN

If the government decides that post-secondary education is not going to receive more public funding, then a complete restructuring of the funding system is necessary, says Geoff Martin, chair of the Students' Union of Nova Scotia.

Union of Nova Scotia.

Martin personally favours a system where no tuition fees would be charged while a student was attending university but instead be paid when a student was working after graduating. The fees would be proportional to their incomes.

"In today's society incomes of university graduates are very closely

tied to their education."

Martin says the system he is proposing will work to change inequities in the present system where students from poorer families will not take out student loans for fear of sinking into debt.

"This way there would be the promise of a good income without deterrence," says Martin. Presently the people who are the best off in society have the least expensive education because of tax deductions."

Operating alongside the present system of loans and bursaries this system would achieve two goals of SUNS to improve accessibility and the quality of education, says Martin.

Martin hopes that SUNS will endorse his proposal, and take it to the provincial commission now studying post-secondary funding.

This system, known as a "contingent liability" system is practised by some Northern European countries as well as some private schools in the United States.

Asbestos lurks at U of R

REGINA(CUP)—Students returning to the University of Regina will be exposed to cancer-causing asbestos insulation in campus buildings but the administration is not worried.

"I understand there are a few students wearing masks but there is no great danger," said Tom Tribe, U of R's physical plant manager.

The student union has bought protective masks for 70 students although enrolment is expected to be 10,000. Tribe, however, says they are unnecessary.

"There's no need to wear masks because the asbestos is on the wall and not in the air."

A study commissioned by the Canadian Union of Public Employees and released on August 15 says people on campus are being exposed to dangerous amounts of asbestos and it should be removed immediately.

Colin Lambert, the CUPE worker from local 1975 who did the contamination study, says the university will have to take airborne samples 24 hours a day to make sure people are safe.

"One in four lung cancer deaths is caused by asbestos," Lambert said. "It's the most powerful carcinogen there is—there are no safe levels."

Lambert said safety limits are set simply to prevent asbestosis, a hardening of the lung linings, and do not prevent cancer.

The student union has asked the U of R administration to cancel classes in the administration humanities building, which contains classrooms and administration, registrar's and business offices. The physical education and Luther College building are also affected.

While the student union has

posted signs and set up a booth to warn students of the danger, union vice-president John Lancas believes students will ignore the warnings.

"The crazy thing is the administration is in there too, and they haven't bought any masks," Lancaster says. "It's like they're putting on a brave front."

The student union cannot afford to buy more than 70 protective masks. The CUPE local has bought 150 masks for its support staff.

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Donahoe declines SUNS challenge

By ELIZABETH DONOVAN

This summer Education minister Terry Donahoe declined a Students' Union of Nova Scotia challenge to live on the \$300 a month provincial student bursary, allowance, while still maintaining a recent student bursary increase is adequate.

After the announcement of an increase in the living allowance from \$70 to \$75 a week, the Students' Union of Nova Scotia challenged Donahoe to live on it.

"Mr. Donahoe had neither accepted nor rejected our original challenge, but his statements in the media indicated the allowance was sufficient when three or four students could live together," said SUNS chair Geoff Martin.

SUNS extended the challenge to include two of his cabinet colleagues to live together for one month.

"In the end Donahoe did not feel it would be appropriate for him to accept the challenge because of his life style," said Judy Guthrie.

Guthrie says although some of the bursary criteria have been relaxed, accessibility is still a problem.

In an attempt to offset the costs of the improvements in the student aid program Donahoe increased the amount a student applicant is expected to borrow before being eligible for non-repayable bursary monies. Students now have to borrow \$2500 in loans, \$1000 more than last year.

"This just puts the bursary program even that much further out of reach," Guthrie said.

The expected students' contribution earned from summer employment was increased due to the most recent increase in the provincial minimum wage from \$3.40 to \$3.75 per hour.

Guthrie says this increase does not take into account that the provincial minimum wage increase does not come into effect until January 31st.

"Students this summer are going to be assessed on the assumption that they have received that increase in the minimum wage. The bursary criteria will require students to save more than they have actually earned," she said.

Guthrie says many students don't realize that a minimum savings requirement is arbitrarily set, and that it is up to the students to take advantage of the appeal process.



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