

Impending strike makes it

# Tense at TUNS

by Heather Hueston

It all sounds so familiar. Last year it was the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design. Faculty contract negotiations had dragged on for months. The young faculty association regretted striking and said concern for the university's quality, not for their salaries, was the reason for the walk-out. A slow-moving Board of Governors felt the union's adversarial process was not a civilized way for professors and administrators to bargain. And last but not least, NSCAD students endured a 21-day strike.

Now students at the Technical University of Nova Scotia (TUNS) are facing the same situation. The faculty association of TUNS (TUNSFA) is set to walk off the job tomorrow at noon unless a last-minute agreement is reached. Negotiations between TUNSFA and the administration broke off on Saturday after the Board's latest proposal was rejected by the union. Negotiations began nineteen months ago. The last contract ran out in June 1986.

Tom Emodi, spokesperson for the TUNSFA executive, says working conditions at TUNS must be compared to similar

faculties in Ontario and with corporations such as IBM and Lockheed, which are competing with TUNS for the same PhDs.

Chairman of the Board Bill Gates says he has no idea what corporations are paying PhDs, "but in Nova Scotia, professional working in the educational field are the highest paid in any group of professionals, including those in government or consulting work."

The Board offered Saturday to increase salaries by an overall figure of 3 per cent the first year, 3 per cent the second and 4 per cent the third. These figures would affect only the cost-of-living increment in the professors' salaries. Gates says other increments would be "over and above that" and it was all the Board could reasonably do. "Even this figure would result in a deficit position," he said.

Emodi says the union is demanding a 6 per cent increase each year for three years based solely on the cost-of-living increment because the other performance and merit increments are discretionary and can be withheld by the administration. Emodi says the salary amounts released by the administration are being used to "confuse people" because the salary issue is

"very complicated".

"We (TUNSFA) have records of 18 people who have left, and we estimate over 12 of these left for better conditions elsewhere," says Emodi.

If the strike happens, Gates says the university will remain open but he doesn't foresee any lectures being offered. As for the plight of graduating students, Gates says the graduation date "may be" set back, but refuses to conjecture about whether this might mean classes extending into the summer. "Hopefully that wouldn't happen," he says.

Emodi says full-time faculty will be off the job but says he can't predict what non-union people will do. They will be crossing picket lines if they decide to give classes.

TUNS student council president Colin Dickson says three of his six professors are non-union, and says they told him they will continue to teach during a strike. Dickson says students are being told fifty per cent of the class must show up for the class to be held.

Dickson plans to go to the Provincial Minister of Advanced Education and Job Training, Edmund Morris, to ask that some action be taken to solve the strike.



## Hong Kong hot property

by Paul Creelman

"Why does China want Hong Kong back?" asks Professor Paul Bowles from St. Mary's University, speaking at the Dalhousie Student Union Building.

"They don't want to destroy it, but they want some of the action. It's not in their interest to close it down," he said.

Referring to the impending return of Hong Kong to the People's Republic of China in the 1990s, Bowles said China would not want to kill the goose that lays the golden eggs, though it eventually wants to build up Shanghai as a financial centre in competition with Hong Kong.

Bowles was speaking on contemporary issues on economic reform in China last Friday in the Dal SUB. He outlined the Chinese economic system as it developed during the Maoist period after 1949. Communes were established in the country and work units centred on factories were established in urban areas.

This system was very good at meeting basic needs, but reforms were still desired because of low product quality, low rate of technical change, and low rate of agricultural growth. Compared to the economies of the USSR and especially Japan, China was doing poorly.

Japan held a fascination for China's economic planners because it beat out the West, said Bowles.

By introducing new technology with an open-door policy, China could catch up, said Bowles. The reforms have reduced the role of government and given more power to the market. According to Bowles, there has been more international exchange and decentralization, giving more power to managers to set prices, use new technology, and hire and fire workers.

"The state will own companies

but not manage them," said Bowles. This is leading towards a type of "managerial socialism". Rural reforms which have raised the prices paid to farmers since 1978 have been very popular, since the prices paid by consumers in the cities for food has been held constant. The new rules about selling crops have dramatically increased the income of the rural households. For instance, an urban worker in a state company may bring home 80 yuen a month, while a taxi driver in one of the urban deregulated sectors may earn 300 yuen a month. In comparison to this, a successful peasant household on the fringe of a big city may have an income of 500 yuen a month. Thus, there is currently a housing boom in rural areas.

However, according to Bowles, things which were provided collectively, such as health care, education, and irrigation, have degraded following the reforms.

The recent urban reforms in 1982 have been more difficult, since workers don't want more competition and state bureaucrats want to retain their power. These reforms have gone more slowly, said Bowles. The Chinese government has "reformed the easy bits and now it has the difficult bits to do," said Bowles. It has increased the prices peasants receive for output, and there are more consumer goods available, which is also very popular. Everyone is trying to buy a washing machine now, said Bowles.

Bowles also spoke briefly about the potential of a Chinese market of 1 billion people, saying if China is going to open up to the West, the first ones in are going to be very rich. Most of the capital currently going into China is from Hong Kong, where people have the expertise in dealing with the Chinese government and market.

## Education about AIDS

by Ellen Reynolds

The people responsible for putting condoms in the frosh packs in September have been busy since then, continuing education on Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS).

Workshops including a video on AIDS called *AIDS: Reducing the Risks* have been given at Dalhousie residences and the medical school and to some Dal societies, including Gays and Lesbians at Dal (GLAD). The video, which has also been shown at Mount St. Vincent University and the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, is available from Dr. Rosemary Gill, Chair of the Dalhousie University AIDS Education Committee.

"We have a big project just about ready to roll," said Gill. The project is an AIDS education survey compiled by the Committee, to be given to faculty, students, and staff at Dalhousie. The Committee plans to publish the survey with the correct answers in the *Gazette* and *Dal News* about a week after the survey is taken, some time around the end of January.



Tom Sinclair-Faulkner, member of the Dalhousie University AIDS Education Committee.

The Committee has recently drafted an institutional policy on AIDS which has been adopted by president Howard Clark. "This policy would come into play when some professor or student is identified as suffering from AIDS," said Tom Sinclair-Faulkner, a member of the Committee. "We are hoping to avoid another situation like the one with teacher Eric Smith in Shelburne," said Gill.

The priority of the Committee is education on AIDS to avoid hysteria about the disease. The minister of health, Joel Mathe-

son, announced this week the possibility of quarantining "negligent" carriers of the AIDS virus.

"I think that's absolutely wrong and could do more harm than good," said Sinclair-Faulkner.

Stable funding has yet to be identified by the Committee, but for individual projects it has appealed to the Dal Faculty Association, President Clark, and the Student Union. "So far we have had favourable responses regarding funding," said Gill.