

The facts on IBM

BY JANET FRENCH

The Indigenous Blacks and Mi'kmaq (IBM) program was established in 1989 at the Dalhousie Law School. The program was created to make law school more financially and socially accessible to members of these two minorities. The program was also implemented to increase the representation of Indigenous Blacks and Mi'kmaq in Nova Scotia's legal community.

IBM students are assessed and prepared for law school by their participation in the Pre-Law Programme, an intensive four-week course offered prior to their first year. The Pre-Law Programme introduces students to the Law School curriculum and allows them to sharpen necessary academic skills. Along with the successful completion of this program, IBM students must also write the Law School Admission Test (LSAT) to facilitate their admission into the Dalhousie Law School.

Once admitted to Dalhousie Law School, IBM students complete the same program as all other law students.

Regardless of their enrollment in the IBM program, all first year students have access to academic enhancement sessions in specific subject areas. However, IBM program participants have student tutors who can provide one-on-one help upon the request of the student.

Financially, the program provides students who were not eligible for funding from the government with bursaries. Students who pass a means test will receive these bursaries to cover the cost of books, tuition and living expenses.

IBM program participants have a solid foundation of support to assist them. Carol Aylward, the IBM Programme Director since 1991, is available to students for tutorials, student services and assistance with financial aid.

Are LSATs unfair?

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"Is this method fair?"
[LSATs] do not accurately predict someone's ability to succeed in law school."

But Phillip Saunders, chair of the Dalhousie Law School admissions committee, says LSATs are only one of many tools in determining who is admitted to Law School.

"We give more weight to [a student's] Grade Point Average than we give to LSATs because it seems

to be a better predictor. We also look at personal statements, references, community experience and work experience."

To alleviate the problem of possible bias in LSATs, Aylward suggests they should be eliminated from Law School admissions criteria altogether.

Others, like Jones and Saunders, say less importance should be placed on test scores with more weight placed on interviews, academic achievement and community involvement.

The Dalhousie Law School receives approximately 3000 applications yearly for the 110 available positions.

MacLellan "uninformed"

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would have to be concerned about what effect his words would have on the graduates of the IBM program."

Jones says he is alarmed the Premier hasn't made any significant attempts to correct his mistake.

"A lot of people may be under the false impression that the IBM program is a chance for Blacks and Mi'kmaqs to get law degrees which are less credible than the degrees of their white counterparts," Jones said. "This is very dangerous to the students."

Cora States, an IBM student in her second year, agrees.

"If the Premier makes an [uninformed] statement like that, what does the rest of society think?" she asks.

States says comments like MacLellan's do not help to bring down the racial barriers which exist in law.

As for the IBM program itself, students and graduates alike give it rave reviews.

Gillian Grant, a third-year student, is impressed at how the program makes law school more accessible.

"I think that it gives people who might not otherwise consider law school a chance to check it out."

In the end, Aylward says she would like to see more action come from the Premier's comments.

"The question [about minority hiring at law firms] put forward, the premier would never answer. I would like to see that question answered," says Aylward.

Aylward would also like to see more lawyers from the Black and Mi'kmaq communities in the Nova Scotia Barrister's Society, the organization responsible for negotiating the contracts between law firms and the government.

Currently, about 30 people are in the IBM program and 52 students have graduated from Dalhousie Law School through the program.

Campus residences not covered under act

BY KELLY PEDRO

TORONTO (CUP) — Students living in residences at Ontario's colleges and universities should be protected under the province's tenancy legislation, student activists say.

Presently, Ontario's Tenant Protection Act does not cover students living in undergraduate campus residences, leaving them with no formal protection of their housing rights.

While most universities have their own tenancy policies in place, critics say the fact students aren't covered by provincial legislation leaves them in a vulnerable position.

"Tenancy depends on student status and there's quite a gap there because [universities and colleges] can pretty much do what they want," said Debra Ram, director of the community and legal aid services program at Osgoode Law School.

Although graduate apartments fall under the Tenant Protection Act, undergraduate residences are excluded because they lack self-contained bathroom and kitchen facilities. This leaves Ontario universities with complete discretion over undergraduate residences.

For example, the provincial legislation requires landlords to give tenants 30 days notice before an eviction. Ontario universities, on the other hand, are not required to give students living in undergraduate residences any notice.

"It gives universities and colleges too much power and sets up an unfair situation," said Joel Harden, chairman of the Ontario component of the Canadian Federation of Students.

Harden believes a single set of rules governing students is needed to ensure they are treated fairly.

Student advocates also say they're worried that universities who aren't bound by the Tenant Protection Act can charge whatever they think the market will bear.

But not all students see the lack of formal guidelines as problematic.

Kevin Baker, a resident tutor at York University, says government legislation isn't necessarily the best way to protect students' rights.

"The university is preoccupied with its reputation, so it works to protect students in some respects," he said.

Yet Baker concedes that students could be easily victimized if they found themselves in a negative scenario while living in a university residence.

York University says that student tenants aren't covered under the provincial legislation, but the school follows its guidelines anyway.

"We operate as if we were completely under the act," said Norm Noddle, manager of York's apartments. "I feel we're bound to operate under those guidelines, and that's what we've done."

But Noddle admits the guidelines are not enforceable. "Believe it or not, we don't have to do anything," he said.

It's not clear why dorm-style housing isn't subject to Ontario's Tenant Protection Act.

According to Kevin Sullivan, manager of existing housing policy for the Ministry of Housing, student groups didn't lobby to have

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20 years ago this week

NSCAD council fights apathy?

In a move described as protest against student apathy, all but one member of the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design student council resigned their seats. A spokesperson for the quitters asked not to be

identified, but said the apathy of the students hindered any representative form of government. "If the apathy was just too much to continue working with the students," he said. Elections for a new council were set for the following week. Few were expected to vote.

Chronicle Herald and Mail-Star accused of discrimination, censorship
 20 people held a protest outside the Halifax office of Canada Customs to fight censorship and discrimination against gay people. The demonstration was organized by the Gay Alliance for Equality (GAE) and protestors demanded changes to Canada's Human Rights

Code that would outlaw discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. GAE spokesperson Robin Metcalf accused the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) and Halifax's two daily newspapers of discrimination against the gay movement. "CBC radio refuses to run public service announcements for gay groups, and the Chronicle-Herald and Mail-Star even refuse to put our announcements in the classified advertising section," he said.

Burn baby, burn...

The widespread popularity of disco dancing was reportedly responsible for a rash of ailments

which disabled thousands of disco patrons. Foot specialists reported that many women who frequented discos were running the risk of chronic foot problems because they insisted on wearing platform shoes or spiked heels while dancing. Disco-goers also suffered from what was called 'disco ear' — long-term hearing loss resulting from the excessive noise levels in many clubs. And growing participation in disco roller-skating was blamed for a gaggle of bumps and strains classified as 'disco butt'. Plastic surgeons were also reporting an increase in the number of patients requiring reconstructive nasal surgery due to problems caused by excessive cocaine use — a condition dubbed, of course, as 'disco nose'.

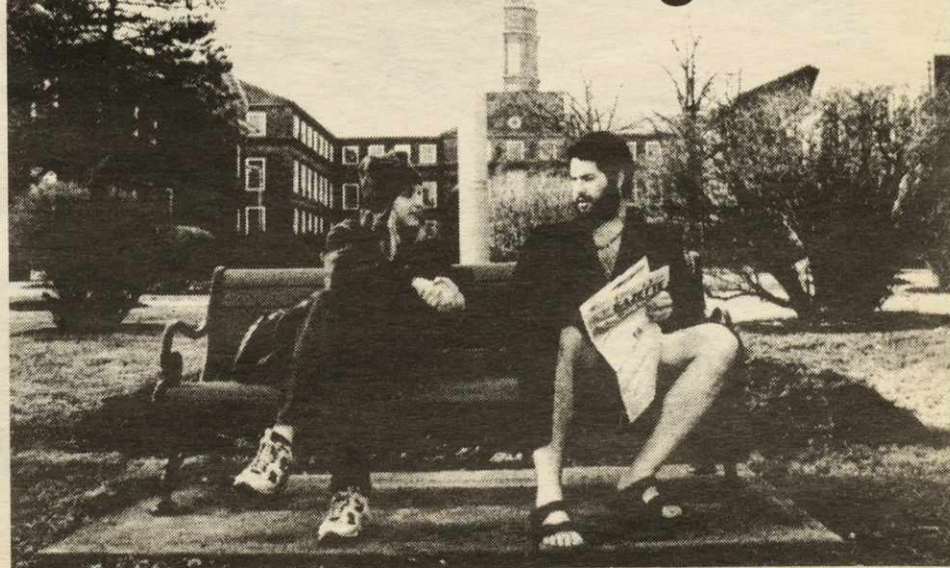
Get in the fucking car

Thirty-six Dalhousie students crammed into a Datsun Model 310 in front of the SUB. The students were participating in the *Datsun 310 University Championships* — a travelling contest to see how many students each university could cram into the tiny Japanese car at once. Dalhousie's 36 passengers reportedly broke the standing record in Eastern Canada, with only one school left to compete. If students at Queen's University in Kingston failed to top 36, two Dalhousie students would be heading to Toronto for the *National Datsun 310 Championships* where, if victorious, they would win their very own Datsun 310.

The naked truth.



Reach out and grab it.



THE GAZETTE

The student newspaper that keeps Dalhousie decent.