

Royal Bank unmoved by SMU student demo

HALIFAX (CUP) — Charging that the Royal Bank is ignoring the needs of the handicapped, 50 St. Mary's University students demonstrated outside the institution's main branch Thursday.

The protestors, backed by the St. Mary's student union, claimed the decision to close the campus branch means handicapped students at SMU would lose access to convenient banking.

Chanting "the handicapped are people too — why can't they bank at SMU?" the students circled the Barrington Street building, offering pamphlets to passersby. Their demands called for proof of the bank's claim that it is losing money at the SMU branch and a commitment to reconsider the pullout.

Bank officials did not meet with the students during the demonstration, although one executive did check with police to see if the action was legal.

The protest followed a sit-in at the St. Mary's branch weeks earlier. Students say the Royal has been difficult to deal with and has not seriously reconsidered its decision.

The fact sheet distributed during the march charged the bank with inconsiderate practices. "We feel that it (the Royal) is neglecting its social responsibility," it said. "Pulling up roots without explaining why leaves the student population, the handicapped in particular, without a necessary service."

The protest adds that the International Year of the Handicapped makes the bank's action particularly questionable.

Facilities at SMU have been developed to accommodate physically disabled students, particularly those confined to wheelchairs, in academic buildings. The university recently announced it will host the 1982 Pan American Wheel-

chair Games.

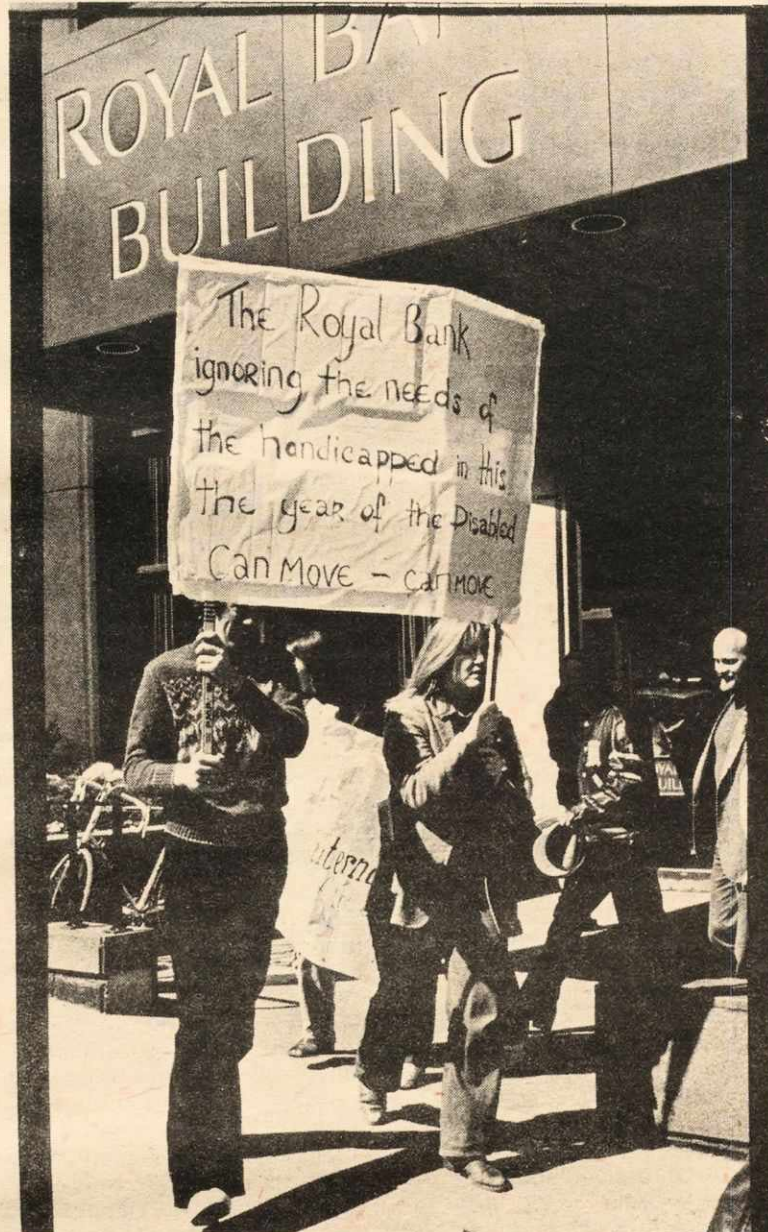
Greg Merchant, a protest organizer, said Royal Bank officials had met with SMU president Ken Ozmon. "They got nowhere, basically," he said.

"There's really not much more we can do. It's the ad-

ministration's ballgame."

The SMU administration has expressed concern over the problem and is attempting to reach a solution with the Royal Bank.

"They weren't really bothered by the publicity," said Merchant.



SMU students protest the Royal Bank's decision to close the St. Mary's branch, making life more difficult for the handicapped.

SMU firings ignites controversy

(CUP) Halifax

SMU Student Representative Council has fired two long-standing employees of the university and ignited a controversy over the ethical right to do so.

SRC Business Manager Carl McAllister and Gorsebrook Lounge Manager Harvey Mills were dismissed by a unanimous decision of SRC after a 6 1/2 hour meeting. "This drastic action is viewed by many as the first and most difficult step in alleviating SRC's current financial situation," said SRC President Mike McNeil. Arts Rep. Tim Hill said "our major moral obligation is to the students of Saint Mary's and any other decision would have been an abrogation of that moral duty."

Former SMU Treasurer Rick Reynolds, said, however that SRC employees were being used as 'scapegoats' for the economic situation. Student Bruce MacLeod, who is current chairperson of the SRC's Systems Review Committee felt that Council's decision

was poor timing, and that the SRC 'could have waited until the recommendations of the SRC committee were presented and at least try to implement the recommendations.' Reynolds mentioned also that one of the men is only two years away from retirement and another has been connected with the university for over 20 years. "I'm not saying that this is a resting home, but I ask you, if you put 40 or more years into the business community and expect to finish with a specific business only to have brand new management come in, have a 6 1/2 hour meeting, how would you feel about your right?"

Both employees were given severance pay, and the SRC is expected to fill the vacant positions this summer.



PREPARING A BOOK
ON A
WORD PROCESSOR?

SENTYPE

TYPESETTING BY TELEPHONE

425-6079

1093 Belmont on the Arm, Halifax, N.S. B3H 1J2

Jawani's Leather Tailoring

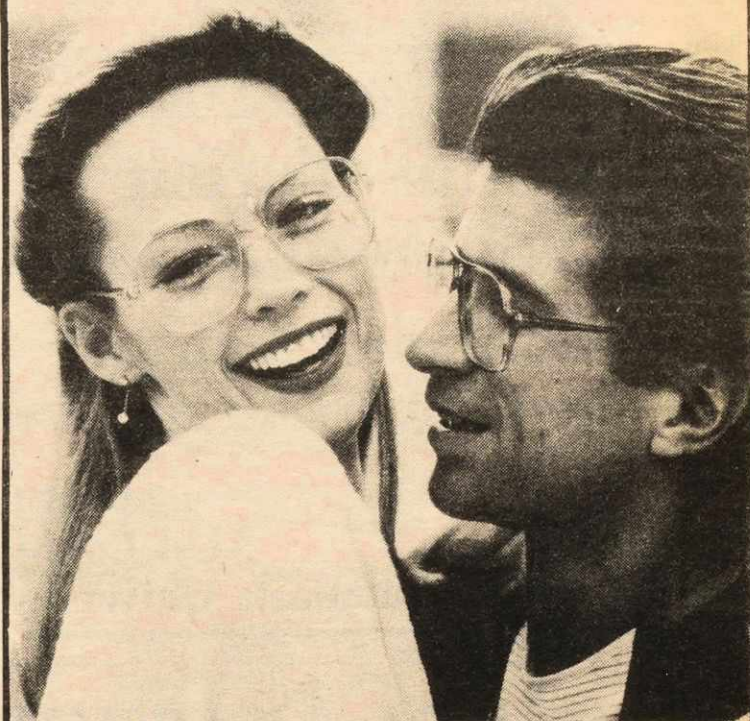
alterations and repairs
fast service and reasonable prices
Mon.-Sat. 9:30-5:30

422-6826

1335 Barrington Street
Halifax

Classic Design *optics* Ltd.

We give your eyes the Classic Look



Chris Holland Dispensing Optician

- * Free Parking
- * Open Saturday to serve you better
- * No Charge for Adjustments
- * Some Prescriptions filled in 48 Hours
- * Repairs while you Wait
- * Special Rates for Dal Students, Faculty and Staff

LeMarchant Towers 429-2937
6155 Coburg Road
Opposite corner to O'Briens Drug Mart