

cross-canada briefs

U.S. wants less Canadian medical students

BY ALAN HARI-SINGH

TORONTO (CUP) — Canadian medical students could be barred from training in the United States if the American government follows a recommendation to stop subsidizing the residencies of foreign medical students. The recommendation was handed down in early February by the American Institute of Medicine, a committee of medical experts appointed by the U.S. government.

According to Don Detmer, committee co-chair and senior vice president of the University of Virginia, the recommendation was made after the panel concluded that the U.S. had enough doctors. The group concluded that stopping the subsidies would prevent a potential surplus of physicians in the country, he said.

"If there's an abundant supply of doctors now, and that's leading to an excess, then we should stop funding the education of graduate international students," he said.

Detmer says the influx of foreign medical residents into the U.S. has increased 80 per cent since 1988 and 75 per cent of those have stayed in the U.S. to practice.

The main sources for foreign medical residents in the U.S. are India, Pakistan, the Philippines, the United Arab Republic, the United Kingdom, Israel, and Italy. About 250 Canadians are also currently training in the U.S., according to the American Association of Medical Colleges.

Smoking can kill you

BY SAMER MUSCATI

OTTAWA (CUP) — For 26 years, Debbie Schraa's addiction to nicotine was so strong that she had to smoke a pack of cigarettes every day. The drug acted as her "tranquilizers" and provided her with a momentary escape from her stressful world.

But then in October, Schraa's world came crashing down. Like thousands of other smokers every year, she was diagnosed with having lung cancer.

After completing six weeks of intensive chemotherapy and radiation treatment, her cancer is in remittance. However, her doctors don't know if, or when, the disease will re-surface.

"If anything happens to me, my kids will be alone," said Schraa, whose two children are aged six and 10.

"I'm 44, my life should be just beginning," she said.

Lung cancer will kill more Canadians this year than any other form of cancer, according to a Statistics Canada study released Feb 13.

Dr. Kaegi of the Canadian Cancer Society says that cigarette smoking is responsible for approximately 85 per cent of all cases of lung cancer, and contributes to the development of at least eight types of other cancers in addition to heart disease.

Student claims discrimination by prof

BY DAVID COCHRANE

ST. JOHN'S, Nfld. (CUP) — When Nancy Parsons registered for a 20th Century History with Dr. Ranee Panjabi, she never thought her hearing impairment would stop her from completing the course. Unfortunately for Parsons, that is exactly what happened. Parsons has hearing loss classified as moderate to severe and she wears hearing aids in both ears. She also uses a device called the Phonic Ear/FM System which helps her hear lectures. The device consists of a microphone, which the professor wears, and a receiver Parsons connects to her hearing aids. She has been using the device since she was six years old and has never had any problems before, but when Parsons asked Panjabi to wear the microphone, she refused.

It was this that prompted Parsons to drop the course and file a complaint with Memorial University alleging that she was treated unfairly by Panjabi because of her hearing impairment.

"I feel discriminated against," said Parsons. "I feel that I was judged on [my impairment]."

But Panjabi said that she never wore the microphone because it violated certain religious principles. Panjabi practices a form of mysticism which springs from Hinduism.

She says this faith places great emphasis on the balance of a person's spirit and that wearing a microphone would compromise this element of her faith.

"[The microphone] would interfere in the harmony I must always feel between my inner self and my outer person," said Panjabi.

Dr. Srinivas Tilak, a retired instructor of Hindu studies at Concordia University, said that there is nothing in the Hindu scripture that would prevent Panjabi from wearing the microphone.

"By nature, Hinduism tends to be open-ended because it is not a religion rooted in history," said Tilak. "I don't see any reason for not using modern technology or applications."

But Panjabi said that there are many different forms of Hinduism that are not necessarily rooted in scripture and her faith is only one example.

Parsons' complaint is currently in the hands of Memorial's dean of arts, Dr. Terry Murphy. Murphy said that normally a professor refusing to wear this device would be unacceptable, but given the specific nature of this complaint, he is having some difficulty making a decision.

Africville debate continues

BY JENNIFER MACISAAC

The Black United Students Association (BUSA) and the History Society of Dalhousie sponsored a discussion entitled "Africville Revisited" in the McInnes room on February 27.

Kofo Gill, president of BUSA, said that the topic of Africville was chosen because it is still in the media and it is important to black students. She explained that although it happened about thirty years ago, the relocation of blacks from their community of Africville by the City of Halifax is still a very hotly debated issue.

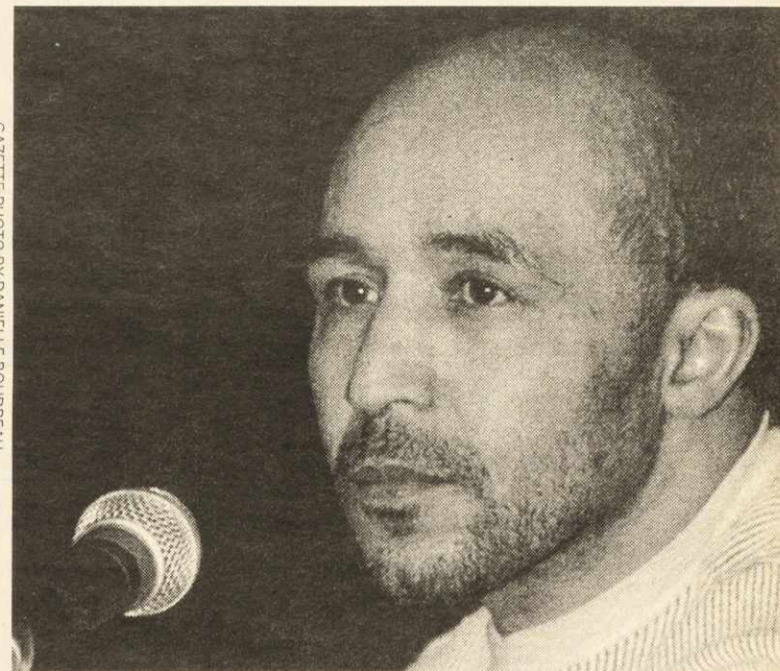
Panelists included Allen O'Brien, alderman and the former Mayor of Halifax; Irvine Carvery of the Africville Genealogy Association; Dr. Don Clairmont from the Department of Sociology at Dalhousie; and, Chris Riou, a graduate student in the history department. Each panelist represented different players in the events that occurred.

Riou said that his research showed that the community seemed to have no choices regarding the move. He disagreed with the city's decision to destroy the community of Africville and its unique identity and history "in the name of beautification, urban renewal, and progress."

Dr. Clairmont argued that the relocation of the people of Africville was not an issue of race or industrial development.

The main reason was that "relocation was definitely the order of the day," he said.

He backed this up with the statement that of all the people that were relocated during this time period in Halifax, the people of Africville only accounted for 10 percent.



GAZETTE PHOTO BY DANIELLE BOUTREAU

Irvine Carvery of the Africville Genealogy Association

"The only time it differed was when it came to dealing with black people."

— Irvine Carvery on the lack of consideration for Africville's history and culture

Former mayor O'Brien also added that at the time, the city was acting on the counsel of employees and the Human Rights Board. He explained that the option of moving the whole community to its own area was quickly discarded because "this was argued to be government-enforced segregation."

Carvery then addressed the

assembled group and stated that history shows that blacks have been given very little consideration, so in this way they have been segregated from the very beginning. Also, he said that the people of Africville and the owners of the land they lived on were not given legal representation; and, although there were examples of the city considering preservation of history and culture, the "only time it differed was when it came to dealing with black people."

It was the goal of BUSA and the History Association to clarify some of the mechanisms that were in place and the reasons behind the relocation of the community.

Gill was very happy with the turnout and hoped that people realized that it's not a simple black and white issue.

"More than anything, I wanted it [the discussion] to be informative," she said.

U of T condemns human testing in China

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ticularly in the way of health."

Nipp points out the Chinese government does not have a stellar human rights record, and cites the example of the removal of human organs from executed prisoners.

"China does not inform families that they are going to remove the organs and sell them, so why would they inform people that they are going to be subjected to a medical test that may have serious medical consequences?" Nipp said.

NIPP feels the Chinese government may have been too hasty in granting approval for the clinical trials on human subjects. "If a country was really concerned about it's people, it would not so readily grant that kind of permission without having a thorough understanding of what is going on and what the possible consequences could be," she said.

Transplants of animal tissue into humans is a relatively new area of research, and the risks include the transmission of dis-

eases from animals to humans.

Bernard Dickens, a medical ethicist with the U of T faculty of law, said moving a study to another country to avoid stringent ethical standards can be a problem.

"It is clear that you shouldn't do studies amongst vulnerable populations in developing countries that you could do with the same scientific and ethical validity in developed countries," said Dickens.

"China does not inform families that they are going to remove the organs and sell them, so why would they inform people that they are going to be subjected to a medical test that may have serious medical consequences?"

— Dora Nipp of the International Coalition for Human Rights in China

"That is, if you do risky things you shouldn't export them to people who can't defend themselves."

But Dickens also said opposition to the testing procedures of another country can be based on incompatible ethical standards.

"If you are going to say that you can't do a study in Canada, that it is premature or too risky, and that you can't do it in another country, that would be ethical imperialism, saying everyone must conform to our standards."