

Women's centre gets the boot

By Ellen Reynolds
with CUP Files

The community women's centre, housed on the Dalhousie University campus, must vacate its rent-free office in three months' time.

"We're partly to blame," said Erin Goodman, a member of the Patchwork Collective. "We never got a contract signed. No contract, no case. Now we have until January 1 to get out."

The Centre is located in the basement of the building operated by the Henson College of Public Affairs and Continuing Education, a university affiliate in charge of community relations. Patchwork members helped clean the unfinished basement once they moved in.

When Patchwork vacates, the space will be reserved for community group meetings. Mary Morrissey, Director of Community Development Outreach at Henson College, said, "Patchwork can still book the space like any other group."

Doug Myers, the dean of Henson College, said the institution

simply doesn't have the space to spare any more. The college was established in 1986, he explained, but its priorities had yet to be set.

"There's been a lot of change over the last two years. We simply are bursting at the seams in that house."

Myers said the board which advises Henson College over the funding of community projects is now placing other groups above Patchwork. With only so much money to go around, the college isn't able to afford the

\$5000 allocated to the centre, he said.

"The space is very important but a women's centre is last on the priority list," said Goodman.

Myers said no commitment was ever made.

Henson College represented one member of Patchwork's advisory board, and Morrissey said, "We don't want them dependent on us. We're not their mothers."

Patchwork, established in March 1986, is the only community support and information centre for women in Halifax.

Goodman is concerned part of the problem may be Patchwork's insistence on serving the whole community rather than university students. The collective turned down the offer of a space in a new women's residence.

Patchwork has no budget and no external financing since their government grant expired a few months ago. The collective is now looking into the possibility of more government funding, but as yet nothing has come through.

Without the space or the fund-

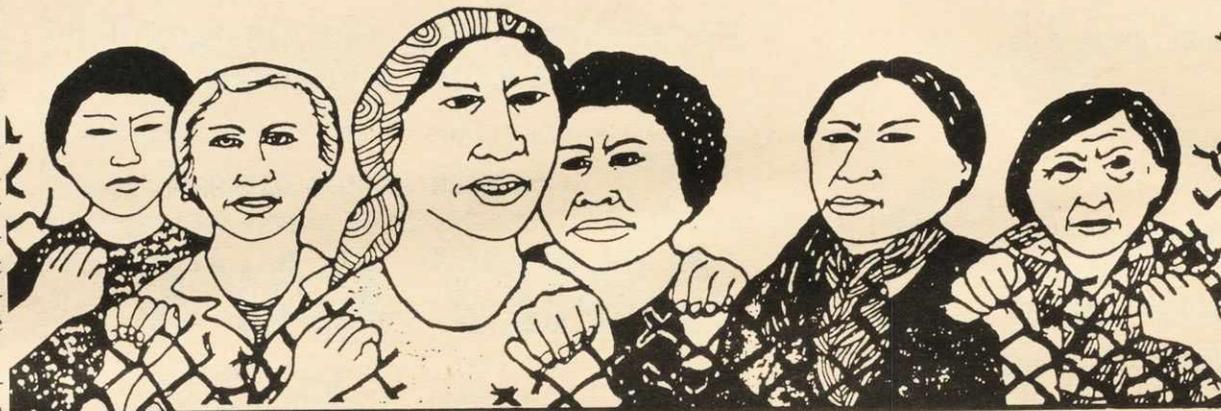
ing, said Goodman, Patchwork "will be history".

Toni Laidlaw, a professor in Dalhousie's Education Department, was a member of the Patchwork advisory board, which was dismantled over the summer. Laidlaw said both Henson College administrators and Dalhousie president Howard Clark have recently emphasized the need for university involvement in the community.

She is upset that this commitment doesn't extend to Patchwork. "I understand they were not supported and I think that's awful."

Three other groups have been relocated off Dalhousie property in the last three years.

The Ecology Action Centre, an environmental issues group established on campus since 1971, was booted out three years ago. The Canadian Books Information Centre and the Atlantic Publishers' Association were ordered off campus in December 1986.



Free trade debate will be loud

by Paul Creelman

The public debate on free trade promises to be a loud one, with those both for and against deeply entrenched in opposing viewpoints.

The debate, to be held Friday, September 18 at 7:30 p.m. in the Dal SUB, will involve six debaters, three for and three against free trade.

"In all that has been said and written about free trade, there is agreement that our everyday lives will be affected," said Douglas Myers, dean of Henson Col-

lege. "What is not clear is whether the overall result will be good or bad."

Henson College is sponsoring the debate along with the Halifax/Dartmouth Labour Council.

Paul Bergwin, a member of the Labour Council, is worried about free trade costing the working people their jobs.

"The way Mulroney is putting things across, increased trade means increased employment," said Bergwin. "However, if you look at the period from 1978 to 1983, trade increased and unemployment increased, too."

Bergwin says free trade will affect Canada in general and hurt the working people. He believes that once there is one large market instead of two national markets, the more efficient and productive U.S. plants will overwhelm the Canadian ones.

Elizabeth Beale, an economist and consultant who will debate on the pro-free trade team, disagrees. "I did a study a year ago, and the study was quite positive." Beale believes Canadian manufacturers are going to be

competitive, and that free trade will open up the U.S. markets.

"I think what our side will focus on is the general importance of trade contributing to the economy," said Beale. She said these trade factors have been important to the economy since the second world war. Beale is looking forward to the cross-examination style of debate, saying, "I think it'll be fun — a nice way to debate."

Marjorie Cohen, who will be debating on the team opposed to free trade, says the end result of free trade will be free trade for

the Americans, but not for Canada. "Americans claim a lot of things we do are unfair trade practices," said Cohen, saying such social programs as unemployment benefits to self-employed fishermen are considered subsidies. "The Americans have trade remedy legislation if they think we have subsidized our products," said Cohen. Thus, Canadians would have restrictions on their products, while under a free trade deal, the Americans would have free access to Canadian markets, she said.

Education by wallet size

by Geoff Stone

International student enrollment is up at Dalhousie, but the coordinator of the International Students' Centre says the increase does not mean a greater participation by students from underdeveloped countries.

Karanja Njoroge said the number of international students should be above the 550 from last year, but "the numbers are still skewed to people from developed countries."

Traditional sources of international students at Dalhousie are Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore, and mainland China.

But, said Njoroge, these students are able to come because of special programs with money from Canada or their country.

"If you are a private student from Malawi, to be able to have

the resources is almost impossible," said Njoroge.

He said the students coming in on assistance programs are almost half the number of international students at Dalhousie. He also said the system of differential fees has denied a wide range of students from many countries the chance to attend university in Nova Scotia. "We are concerned that because of the lack of provincial policy on international education, and because of a lack of federal policy on international education, it seems we are making education harder for those who can't afford it."

The system of education should be more universal, said Njoroge. "We are hurting the poorest. Instead of just opening our doors to wealthy families, we should also invite people of

other countries."

He said the system of education is excluding a large part of the world's resources by putting up financial barriers to students from underdeveloped nations, and that the quality of education

will suffer for all Canadian students. "We are advocating a parochial education system — we will not accept you if you can't afford it," he said.

The percentage of international students at Dalhousie has

been below an acceptable level, said Njoroge.

"We are still taking around five per cent international students, not a reasonable mix. A reasonable mix would be above 10 per cent," he said.

Council skims CFS fees

ST. JOHN'S (CUP) — The student council at Memorial University is collecting an extra \$2 membership fee for the Canadian Federation of Students — but the money is going right back into council coffers.

The student council produced posters listing the three items in the student union fees: health plan, student union fees, and CFS fees. The CFS fee for the spring semester was listed at two dollars.

Since the council is collecting two dollars for the third semester, year-round students are paying two dollars more than CFS charges the council.

The CFS fee of four dollars per year is collected from more than 400,000 post-secondary students across the country.

Council president Ann Marie Vaughan said that the \$4,900 total collected during the summer for CFS fees has been added to the general revenue of

the student union for the spring semester. Since fewer students enrol in the spring semester, this revenue subsidizes the cost of operating CSU services, which usually run a deficit.

"I don't think we have done anything unethical," said Vaughan.

Simon Fraser University in British Columbia is also run on a tri-semester basis, but collects only four dollars per year, as required by CFS.