

Halifax howls against cuts on Noise Day

HALIFAX (CUP) -- Halifax students hoped that city winds would take their message to provincial legislators on March 11.

Students at colleges and universities in the provincial capital held an outdoor "make noise" session for one minute, protesting government underfunding and the threat of spiralling tuition costs.

In terms of media coverage, Noise Day was a success. "We didn't have much time to plan it," said Dalhousie student union president John Logan, "but along with the 'labour intensive' student demonstrations across the country, it was covered on both the local and national news."

At Dalhousie University and St. Mary's University, students competed for higher turnouts, honking horns, blowing whistles, taking stereos to residence windows and shouting in the streets.

The noise festival was part of the National Week of Action activities, spearheaded by the Canadian Federation of Students as part of its "Stop the Cuts" campaign for 1981-82.

Faced with impending increases in tuition and residence costs, and cuts in college programs and services, students are pushing the Nova Scotia government to accept the

recommendations of the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission, a three-province group that suggests education policy to the provincial governments. This year, MPHEC recommendations are urging a 16 per cent increase in government support for education.

However, student leaders are not optimistic.

Caroline Zayid, a Dalhousie student councillor, said the overwhelming vote received by the governing Tories in the last election makes them less swayed by public pressure. She added the province would gain needed political leverage with the federal government if it implemented the full funding levels the MPHEC has prescribed.

Nova Scotia has joined the other provinces in claims that educational cutbacks could come only from the federal government. The long-term prospects are still indefinite, with sluggish federal-provincial negotiations on transfer funding.

Premier John Buchanan's Conservative government isn't receptive to anything, according to one student. Commenting on next year's tuition increases, he said "Yeah, I'm worried. It was hard enough this year."

FOR SALE: Student housing

by C. Ricketts

Residences, houses used as offices and family housing will be up for sale within the next two to three months, said Robbie Shaw, Vice President, Finance and Administration. Should all of them be sold at prevailing prices, he hopes \$250,000 can be generated to offset the university's capital deficit.

Although housing shortages in Halifax are critical for university students, Shaw said the sale of Ardmore Hall, the International House, the Nursing Home and two other houses currently used by students should not add to the problem. "We have had to make a tradeoff between the deficit and property holdings, but not one which we think has been detrimental, par-

ticularly with regards to female students."

Ardmore Hall, housing 57 women, will be sold with the proviso it be leased back to the university for the next three years. International House and three other properties house about 42 more students, mostly female, but will be sold without this guarantee. Shaw believes the new owners will likely rent the houses to students, as is now the case with buildings in the area. "Before they were university holdings, these houses were rented out by students. They are so close to the campus that this is about their only function," Shaw said.

The loss of International House will mean more problems for some of the foreign students living there. A single room costs \$161 per month this year. If



Dalhousie will sell the picturesque Ardmore Hall, residence for women, on the condition that it be leased back to the University.

converted into separate apartments, a distinct possibility once sold, the residents could be facing upwards of \$250 per month, the going rate for a bachelor apartment. International House has traditionally kept places open for foreign students who do not have the opportunity to look for accommodations on arrival in Canada.

The Nursing Home will not be sold until its facilities have been relocated in the Forrest Building, currently undergoing renovations. The other offices now in houses will be moved either to houses to be vacated during

the upcoming summer or areas to be designated by a space study to be completed on April 1.

Greg Fitzgerald, the student rep on the President's Housing Committee, disagrees with the proposed sales as it means Dalhousie will be made even more inaccessible. "The administration has to realize that without students there could be no university. With such a low vacancy rate in Halifax, it should be safeguarding housing for students. Instead of selling student housing, offices should be moved into the old Archives

Building or the Dentistry Building where there is lots of room for them. Then the houses could be sold."

Fitzgerald suggested there were other ways to cut the capital deficit. He asserts the student houses "break even" while the Faculty Club could be made to cover its \$75,000 deficit by using it for more functions. "Administrative and Faculty expenditures account for 70 per cent of the operating budget. You can't expect cutbacks to the remaining 30 per cent (including housing) to be able to balance the budget."