

CROSSCANADA

Trekkie enterprise vetoed

MONTREAL(CUP) A McGill University senate advisory group has quashed a student initiative to officially name the student centre after Star Trek's William Shatner. Last spring, students voted to name the building after Captain Kirk, who studied commerce at McGill in the 1950s.

Derek Drummond, director of McGill's School of Architecture and a member of the advisory committee said the Toponomy Advisory Group's decision was "cut and dried." He said the group could only name buildings after people who have either given the university lots of money, or both contributed in some other way to the school and died. "William Shatner's problem is that he breathes," he said.

The grassroots support, marshalled in favour of the name-change, would ensure that students call the building the Shatner Building regardless of the university's decision. McGill students voted 51 per cent in favour of changing the name of the building last year in a referendum that had the largest voter turnout for any decision in 15 years.

Monique Shebbeare, a students' council vice-president, was mandated by a student referendum last spring to lobby the administration in favour of the name change. When asked if she thought the decision meant she should have Shatner killed, she said, "I don't think my mandate goes that far."

Shatner, himself, could not be reached for comment

Upper Canadians stingy

TORONTO(CUP) Ontario universities receive significantly less provincial funding than universities in other provinces. The Council of Ontario Universities (COU) report on the financial position of universities in Ontario shows only Nova Scotia universities receive less provincial funding.

In 1989-90, the Ontario government was ranked ninth among the provinces, granting \$6,774 per full-time student, while Newfoundland ranked first, granting \$8,233.

"Ontario is unique in that the level of operating grants from government was far below average... and declined faster and further than in most other provinces," the Council's report states.

But Alison Hagerty, Ontario Universities and Colleges Grant Administration Officer, said the COU's numbers are misleading because they compare the provincial funding on a per student basis, and Ontario has a high number of students compared to other provinces. COU argues that no matter which indicator is used, Ontario universities are among the most poorly funded in the country

Honours not just for elite

ST. JOHN'S(CUP) More Memorial University students will pursue honours degrees if the school's Dean of Arts has his way. Only eight per cent of Memorial's full-time undergraduate arts students pursue honours degrees. Elsewhere in the country, between 20 and 50 per cent of undergraduate students complete honours degrees.

Dr. Michael Staveley, the Dean of Arts, said the length of the program is one of its obstacles. "Students here are placed at an immediate disadvantage. Instead of having to complete a four-year program, students must complete a four-and-a-half year one," noted Staveley.

Mary-Kaye MacFarlane, the University's Assistant Registrar, said many students think the honours program is elitist. As a result, she said they underestimate their academic abilities and don't enrol in the program. Both MacFarlane and Staveley said the program hasn't received enough promotion.

Staveley said he hopes the proposed changes to the honours program will encourage more people to enrol in it. He said he hopes to see the percentage of student involvement rise to twenty or thirty per cent.

Rebirth of course evaluation

by Lilli Ju

Every year, each Dalhousie student pays \$1 to the Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) to have a course evaluation done. But for the last two years, this service has not been provided.

This year will be different. Since this past summer, a significant effort has been made to reinstate course evaluation, and to make it better than ever. This work is spear-headed by the Course Evaluation Coordinator, Danielle Foley, along with DSU's VP Academic, Mausumi Banerjee.

Efforts were initially concentrated on designing an evaluation form that would be effective and comprehensive. The questions from the past have been changed and updated to reflect the current and relevant educational issues challenging students and instructors today. The evaluation design has also been based on research and input from other universities, DSU Council's direction, and feedback from the Dalhousie Faculty Association, Office of Instructional Development, and several interested faculty and students.

The questions proposed for the new evaluation are broken down into various categories: communication skills, attitude towards students, knowledge, organization, enthusiasm, fairness in grading, willingness to experiment (flexible), encourage-

ment to students to think for themselves, lecturing ability, workload, and materials used. The questionnaire will consist mainly of scaled close-ended questions, but also include some open-ended ones to provide students the opportunity to expand on their responses. Scaled responses will be statistically analysed, and the comments section will supplement the statistical data.

In the end, the written summaries and statistical data will be published in a guide that will be made available for both students and instructors.

In spite of Dalhousie's insistence that it is committed to quality of education, there is still resistance to the project.

The main objectives of the DSU with regards to course evaluation is to "allow students to gain from the past experiences of their peers who have already taken a class and to allow the DSU to gather data that reflects the quality of education on campus, thereby giving the DSU a stronger voice regarding educational issues," states Foley. Banerjee adds that the course evaluation is also intended to "provide instructors with

constructive feedback."

However, DSU's goal to evaluate every course in the undergraduate course calendar may not be realized, since it is not mandatory for every instructor to allow her/his course to be evaluated. In spite of the insistence from the university that Dalhousie is committed to quality of education, there is still resistance to participate in this project. In fact, the faculty council of Health Professions requested that they be exempt from participating.

Currently, the final questionnaire is being designed by the Computing Office. Scanning technology will be used for efficient reading of the responses. Student volunteers are desperately needed to sit on the Course Evaluation Committee, administer the course evaluation, help with the editing, and various other tasks. Council recently passed a motion stating that all councillors will be required to implement the evaluation in the courses they are taking. Anyone else interested should contact Danielle Foley at 494-6575 or Mausumi Banerjee at 494-1275.

Course evaluation will take place during the end of November and the end of March. To make this work for all of us, make sure your voice is heard - whether it is by working with the Course Evaluation Committee or filling out the questionnaire when it comes to your class. *Every student's voice counts!*

Dishing out dollars and sense

by Adam Newman

The Dalhousie Student Union and Beaver Foods have set aside space for a dishwasher in the basement kitchen of the Union Market. The move followed a petition of 1,000 student signatures presented to Council members last spring.

Students complained that the cafeteria used disposable tableware. Permanent ware dishes, they said, would be better for the environment.

"It began as a project," said Judy Davis, one of five students who started the petition. First-year biology students of professor Dick McBride were given an environmental assignment. "We circulated a petition to put real dishes in the cafeteria, instead of disposable ones that fill up our landfills, and are never really disposed of," she said.

The students presented their petition to Student Union representatives, who were negotiating renovations to the SUB's cafeteria with Beaver at the time.

According to Dominick Maichuk, Regional Director of Beaver Foods, the cost of installing a dishwashing system would be prohibitive. "The

cost has to be passed on somewhere along the line, and that would mean increased prices for the students," he said.

Another reason why Beaver did not act is that "real" dishes have never been proven to be more environmentally-friendly than disposable tableware. The DSU hired a student to clear up the controversy. He was paid with a Summer Employment-Experience Development (S.E.E.D.) federal grant.

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pleted, said Denis MacNeil, vice-president of the DSU, and active member of the Ad-hoc Environmental Committee, formed last spring. "It (the committee) is not working too well because our Council representative resigned, and the CEAG (Campus Environmental Action Group) representative is not here this year."

"Now we are trying to co-ordinate a building review with an environmental consulting company, and

members of CEAG and NSPIRG. (the Nova Scotia Public Interest Research Group)." MacNeil says he hopes students will become more involved in environmental improvements with the company, Griffiths-Muecke Associates.

There is a meeting planned on November 14 "to hopefully continue where the (Ad-hoc) Committee fell short," he said.

The renovations which were paid for by Beaver have since been completed. There are still no "real" dishes, and there is no dishwasher in the Union Market kitchen. There is an empty space that appears to be just waiting.

"It will be the DSU's responsibility to finance" the eventual possible instalment of such a machine and dishes, said MacNeil. "We can't ask Beaver to invest any more money."

"Tens of thousands of dollars worth of china are lost every semester in the residences... they are stolen by the students," said Brian Cuvelier, Director of Food Services at Dalhousie. "I think that research would have to be done collectively before we can change the system." We are still waiting for the fruit of last summer's SEED.