

## Rally 'round education

by Miriam Korn

Students who ignore the signs asking them to "Join the Rally" could be losing more than they think.

October 17 is National Student Day and the festivities include student protests which have been organized across Canada in order to bring post-secondary education issues to the public's attention.

Student leaders are hoping the public will see students do not have much to be festive about.

The Halifax march, beginning at the Grand Parade at 12:00pm, will feature a number of speakers, including Jeff Phelps of the Students Union of Nova Scotia (SUNS), Karen Casey of the Canadian Federation of Students, and Joel Matheson, Provincial Minister of Advanced Education and Job Training.

The purpose of the demonstration is to highlight the importance of having a post-secondary education system accessible to all.

Accessibility involves a number of issues such as increasing tuition, the inadequacy of student aid, and the general underfunding of universities, says Allison Le-

wis, Deputy Chair of SUNS. "Most important right now is addressing increasing tuition fees. Generally speaking, Nova Scotian students pay the highest tuition in all of Canada" Lewis said.

Lewis says Dalhousie's plan to increase its tuition fees to 110

percent of the Nova Scotia average is just one example of universities placing a greater burden on students.

Lewis believes universities should examine revenue sources

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## Homecoming comes home to Dalhousie

by Alex Burton and Jim Graham

It's Homecoming time! No, you don't have to pack your bags for a road trip to ST.F.X., Mount A., Acadia, or even Queen's. Dalhousie is finally having a homecoming.

October 20 is the scheduled date for Dalhousie's first ever official homecoming.

The idea was initiated by Marian Gray. Formally affiliated with Campus Activities, Gray has organized the homecoming under the auspices of the Alumni Asso-

ciation.

The homecoming will be focused around a men's soccer match between the Dalhousie Tigers and the Mount Allison Mounties.

Gray would not reveal how much is being spent on the celebrations, but said the university was hoping to break even. "It's not important, the money aspect right now" she said.

Homecoming has been a traditional celebration in many universities across Canada, which

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## Say no to hikes

by Alex Burton

On October 10, at high noon, Dalhousie students will be given an opportunity to voice their opinions on the latest Board of Governors (BOG) proposal to increase tuition fees.

The forum, organised by the Dalhousie Student Union (DSU), will be held in the green room of the Dalhousie Student Union Building.

Members of the Financial Strategy Committee (FSC) will be there to explain to students the ramifications of their final report, released last June, to answer questions, and hear student concerns.

The report calls for an average increase in tuition fees of 25 percent next year. Undergraduate arts and science students will pay an additional \$300, while professional students such as dentistry and medicine face increases of up to \$820.

Ralph Cochrane, president of DSU, stresses nothing is written in stone and there is still one year

left before the increases come into effect. "They (the FSC) are giving the impression that they want input from the university community" he said

The DSU is anxious for students to attend the forum. "It lends a lot of credibility to our position if we can show student support and concern" said BOG student representative Joe Loughheed.

Cochrane said he recognizes the necessity of a tuition fee increase, but feels a smaller amount or a gradual increase would be better. "We would prefer a staggered increase" he said.

Cochrane believes there is still time to amend the proposed increases. "If Dal students don't say wait a minute, we want some input, they (the FSC) won't wait and won't take student input" he said.

Note: a complete story on the FSC report and the increase in tuition fees will appear in the next issue of the Gazette (Oct. 18 edition)

## Parking -- a whole new sport?

by Jenn Beck

At its June 26 meeting, the Dalhousie University Senate voted to give priority to the refurbishment of Studley Field when it comes time to allot developmental funds.

Robert Bernard, Secretary of Senate, said that the decision arose in response to the Senate's belief that it was time to properly overhaul Studley field, providing a full-

length field and practice field covered with an all-weather surface.

This overhaul would effectively eliminate the parking areas provided presently on the field. Since the parking situation at Dalhousie is already greivous, the Senate has engineered a compromise which they believe will solve both parking and sports problems.

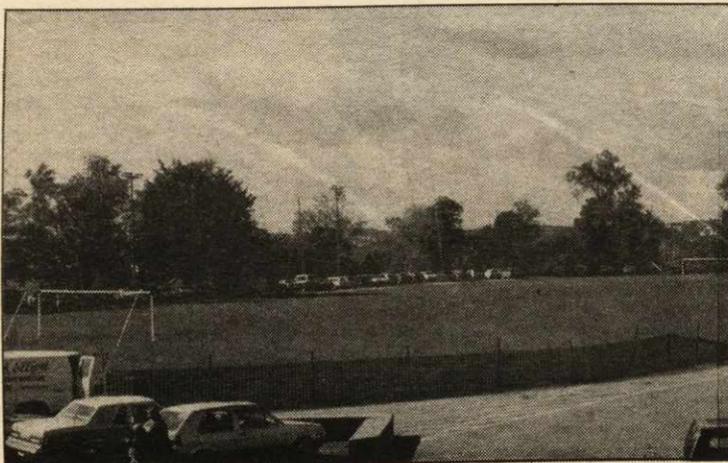
A one-story, 600-car parking garage is to be erected on Studley

Field, topped with an all-weather surface. Dr. A. J. Young, director of Physical Education, believed that this high-wear, low-maintenance surface will be a boon to most sporting teams, being an ideal surface for both field hockey and soccer.

One group not quite so pleased with the idea of switching from a natural to an artificial surface is rugby players on campus. As one player said, "Unlike football players, we wear no pads. Like football players, we spend a lot of time in contact with the turf — and if that turns out to be Astroturf, we will get burned to hell. We just can't play on that."

Studley field is presently the only field available for rugby players on campus. The development of the field and erection of the garage will force the group to look to more public areas, such as the Commons, for practices and games.

Luckily for the rugby players, even having first priority does not guarantee speedy processing. Until the building funds can be gathered, both the parking situation and Studley Field will remain unaltered.



Playing field or parking lot?

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