

Students want elevator repaired 'Now'

by Susan Edgett

About 20 History Graduates gathered at noon last Monday at 1411 Seymour St., to demonstrate their united support for a fellow student's cause.

PhD student Bill White wants to have easy access to the History House. But as long as the outdoor elevator is out of order, he will not be able to come and go as he pleases.

When the lift is functioning, it hoists White up to porch level of the house where he can steer his wheelchair to the entrance. It's not the first time the machine has broken down since it was installed in 1976.

According to its principal user, "the elevator has been intermittently on the blink for the last two years."

"Without the elevator, my independence is impeded," he said. "When it isn't working, I have to rely on others to lift me up the stairs in order to go to class."

In a booklet titled "Steps towards Campus Accessibility" published by the Association of Physical Plant Administrators, Washington, D.C., Dalhousie is cited as one of four Canadian universities with adequate facilities for the handicapped.

Dalhousie has maintained the policy that as the need for facilities for the handicapped arises, older buildings are equipped with ramps or elevators, where possible, and plans for modern buildings include such facilities. It was only last week that Dr. Henry Hicks, retiring President of Dalhousie ceremoniously opened the new elevator for the handicapped in the Dalhousie Arts Centre.

Michael Cross, chairman of the History Department and Dr. Bala Pillay, chairman of the Graduate Committee of the History Department have contacted the Administration on "numerous" occasions about the elevator problem. "Last week they said they'd show up," said Cross. The

machine is still useless. One graduate suggested "they must have a tape recording to play every time the History Department calls."

"If the University is serious about providing facilities for handicapped students, it should take on the responsibility of keeping the various devices in repair," said Bill White.

"The University is hypocritical. They advertise their facilities for the handicapped internationally but cannot be relied on to keep them in working order," said White. To say the least, he is frustrated.

As a last resort, John Graham, general manager of the Student Union was asked to bring up the grievance at the Board of Governors meeting. On January 31, 1980, Ted Brown, chairman of Dalhousie Building took note of the problem but no action has been taken to date.

The elevator problem was brought to the attention of Jim Sykes, Manager of the Physical Plant this week by the **Gazette**. A spokesman for Mr. Sykes, Alice Giddy, said, "the matter does not really concern us. Maintenance is responsible for repairing equipment on campus."

"It had a full check-up one year ago," she said. According to maintenance workers, children in the neighborhood have damaged the machine by tampering with it.

Whatever the excuses are for delaying the repair of the elevator at 1411 Seymour St., the fact remains that Bill White cannot get in and out of the building when he wants.

White added that not only would an elevator that operates fulltime be beneficial to himself but it might encourage other students from different departments to participate in seminars and other activities the History Department offers.

spoke to the **Gazette**, the elder Boudreau said Forster refused to let her enter the kitchen and made her stay in the cafeteria.

"He had me crying in the cafeteria", she said.

She accused Forster of playing favourites and picking on employees.

She said she has requested to move to another work area and is considering quitting.

"I used to enjoy coming into here to work, now I don't know what's ahead of me in a day when I come in. We have never had a manager as bad as the one we have now."

Diana Edmiston, a third year math student, said there are a lot of students who would regret seeing the elder Boudreau leave.

"She's so cheerful, such a pleasant person to be around."

She said about 25 students contributed to buy her a Christmas present last year.



Paul Dayal

Liberal Vote soft

by Pam Berman

The national Liberal lead has dropped seven percentage points according to the results of a Dalhousie **Gazette**-King's School of Journalism Follow-up Poll.

In the first poll conducted in the Halifax riding during the week of January 21 to 28, 48 per cent of the voters said that they felt that Liberal leader Pierre Trudeau would be the best national leader.

The second poll done during the week of February 5-12 showed Trudeau with 41 per cent of the vote.

Prime Minister Joe Clark's percentage went up slightly, changing from 20.3 per cent to 22.7 per cent and NDP leader Ed Broadbent polled 20.8 per cent, an increase of 3.4 per cent.

Halifax Liberal candidate Gerald Regan still would have a margin of 14 per cent if the election were held today, a decrease in his vote from 44 per cent to 41 per cent.

Conservative incumbent George Cooper polled 27 per cent, an increase of 2.3 per cent, while Alexa McDonough remained the same with 19 per cent of the vote.

As in the previous poll, eligible voters were selected on a random basis according to standard polling procedure. The poll was designed to have a statistical accuracy of plus or minus 6 per cent, based on an enlarged sampling response of 501 voters.

Thus, the small changes in voting support—particularly at the local level—could be attributed to standard sampling error and not to a significant change in the local vote.

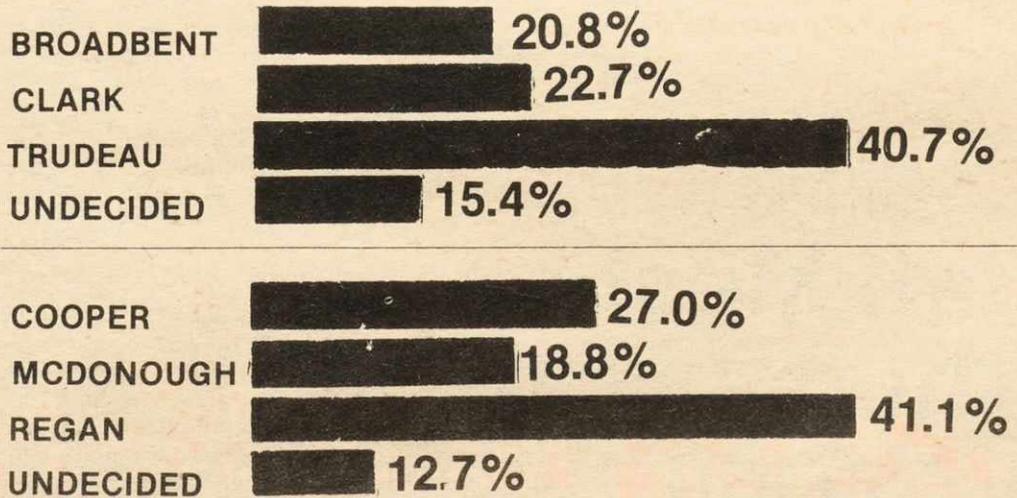
The drop in support nationally for the Liberals could indicate a softening in their support. Alexa McDonough, when contacted for a comment just before press time,

indicated she hoped to capitalize on this soft Liberal vote. "I said last time that I suspected the Liberals' vote was soft and the drop you show in Trudeau's support indicates that is true. I will continue this week to try and win over this vote."

The other two candidates could not be reached for comment.

Phone interviews were conducted by twenty students from Dalhousie University and King's College who asked voters who they felt would be the best national leaders and who they would vote for in the riding if the election was held tomorrow.

Trudeau polled 204 voters, Clark 114, and Broadbent 104, with 79 voters as yet undecided. Regan received 208 votes, Cooper 136, and McDonough 95, with 64 voters still undecided locally.



with a sampling error of 6%.

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stand behind the letter 100%".

"There's nothing to hide, we followed all the proper procedures in terms of dismissing an employee. She did not fulfill her responsibilities as an employee. There are no personalities involved."

Machek said Boudreau was the second employee he has had to dismiss in two years.

Labour Standards officer Patrica McNeill said she has not yet contacted Beaver.

"There are always two sides," she said.

If McNeill cannot settle the dispute, it will go to the Nova Scotia Labour Tribunal.

Boudreau said her mother, who also works in the Garden, had called Forster to inquire why she was fired and "he told her she would be next and gave her a read bad time".

The day after her daughter