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\$12 million Arts building planned for Dal



Mystic from Toronto's Bass is Base throws out the funk at the Halifax stop of the 1996 Kumbaya Festival in the McInnes room at Dal. For a complete look at the Multi-Artist show see p. 8-9

Howe Hall Set to Re-elect Executive

BY GAZETTE STAFF

It is only September and yet some Dalhousie University students will be going to the polls this weekend.

Residents of Howe Hall will decide in a by-election this Sunday who will fill several vacant seats on Residence Council. All of the major executive positions — president, vice-president, and treasurer — are up for grabs as well as the sports representative spot.

The campaign period and the election period are both shorter for this by-election in comparison to the regular elections in the spring. Jeff LeGrow, voted in last spring as Vice-President, said the quick process was necessary.

"We want to get the year started," said LeGrow.

The need to re-elect the council came about because the treasurer and president of the council did not return to residence this fall. Matt Ringer, who was elected to council's top position last spring, did not come back to Howe Hall. Treasurer Dan Leblanc was similarly absent from residence when school began three weeks ago.

LeGrow has been acting as President since the last week of August, when Ringer decided not to return to residence. He took over the presidential duties during Frosh week in addition to his VP responsibilities running the Orientation.

When the by-election was called, LeGrow, Secretary Natalie Ward and Sports Representative Andrew Ferns decided to step

down in the interest of running for different positions. The Howe Hall constitution does not require that a candidate running for a new position must resign, only that they cannot hold two positions at the same time.

LeGrow is the only person running for president while Ferns is the only vice-presidential candidate. There are two candidates for treasurer: Natalie Ward and Chris MacLeod. For sports rep, the



choice boils down to Francis Compton, Derrick West, and Jamie O'Neil.

The Secretary will be appointed by the reformed council.

In order to keep the Res Council running while they ran for positions, the three remaining executive were given the power to collectively make decisions in a motion before council earlier this month. Also, the DSU executive has been accommodating in terms of the Residence Council's Society status. The deadline for applying for status is Monday, the day after the elections. Vice-President Katherine Hannah allowed LeGrow and Ferns to apply earlier this week as President and Vice-President. If they are confirmed in these positions, the application will be put through.

The election in charge of run-

ning the election smoothly, Elections Returning Officer (ERO) Brian Wade, was appointed to his position by the six voting members of Council not running in the by-election — the five house presidents and the DSU rep.

The campaign, which started yesterday at 12:01 a.m., runs until midnight Friday. All campaigning, including the display of posters, must cease at that time. There will be a public candidates forum in the Howe Hall dining room at 6:30 p.m. on Friday. The candidates will speak and be available for questions.

The elections will take place this Sunday in the Howe Hall dining room from 10:30 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. Only Howe Hall residents are allowed to vote.

And over here we have...

Howe Hall isn't the only residence casting their ballots in the next few days. The 84 students in Eliza Ritchie Hall will vote Monday to fill the vacant positions of president, vice-president, treasurer, and secretary/food representative. Elections will also determine the section reps for the residence.

The only contested race this election is the Vice-Presidential one. Kendra LeBlanc will be going up against Todd Hickey for the number two position.

The candidates for president and treasurer are running unopposed while there is no one vying for the secretary/food rep position. Brent Van Buskirk will be asking for the students' nod as President, with Megan Power hoping to slide into the role of treasurer.

The campaign period began yesterday and will run until Sunday. Polls will open Monday and close around 10 p.m.

Traves asks students for a cool \$1,000,000

BY JASON JOLLEY

In a presentation to the Dalhousie Student Union Council (DSU) last Sunday, Dalhousie president Dr. Tom Traves announced plans for constructing a new Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences building.

The new building will be located across the street from the Dalhousie Student Union Building (SUB) in the Seymour St. parking lot. It will provide 127,000 square feet of space for new lecture halls, language labs, and offices.

The project is expected to take about three years to complete (one year fundraising, one year design, and one year construction) and will cost in the \$12-15 million range.

The provincial government has already agreed to throw in \$6 million for the new facility with the remaining money to be raised by Dalhousie. Traves hoped that \$1 million of this sum could be donated by the DSU through the Capital Ideas Campaign.

Last year, students agreed by referendum to donate \$25 through their student fees for the next five years to Dalhousie's Capital Campaign for a total of \$1.3 million. Originally this money was to go towards better labs, security, and computers on campus (i.e. the new Campus Copy and the campus blue light system).

Traves suggested that helping to finance the new building would be a worthy third project. In his presentation he emphasized the lack of lecture halls that can accommodate more than 100 students, the need to adapt to the "multimedia revolution", and the inefficiency of having faculty

members dispersed among many small houses.

The proposed building would tackle each of these problems.

"It will become one of our nicest and best buildings — in an educational point of view — on campus," said Traves.

Traves is not the only one to recognize the need for better facilities at Dalhousie.

The Maritimes Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC), responsible for recommending which universities should receive funding for their capital projects, saw the need for a new facility in its April 1996 report, *Responding to Financial Challenges 1996-97*.

"The majority of the University's Arts and [Social] Sciences departments are located in 27 aging wood frame houses which are deteriorating rapidly," said MPHEC. "They are old structures, not properly accessible, expensive to heat, do not meet today's safety standards, and are not capable of providing the large classrooms required today...The most economic and effective solution is a new building."

While support from Council was obvious at Sunday's meeting, student representatives were cautious.

Daniel Clark, one of four council representatives to the Senate, questioned Traves about operating costs as well as the costs of equipping the new building. Traves replied that the new building would cost approximately \$3.50 per square foot while the older houses currently cost about \$5.00 per square foot.

"Our plan is to cover costs and essentially save money in the end," said Traves.

For equipping the building, Traves said, "The \$12-15 million will have to cover the furniture and equipment".

Alix Dostal, an Arts Society representative asked: "What do you plan to do with the houses which will no longer house these departments?"

Traves replied that there are several possibilities. The buildings could be renovated and used as [students] residences, for another academic use, or they could be sold to private interests — an option Traves did not favour. A fourth option would see the buildings knocked down and the space used for parking.

The President addressed the loss of over one hundred parking spaces on campus by saying that no plans are in place to accommodate the loss.

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