

# THE GAZETTE

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## Chancellor's comments shock Dal faculty

BY SALLY THOMAS

An article in which the Dalhousie chancellor is quoted as referring to professors as "inmates" has upset faculty who say the comment is inappropriate and representative of the university's attitude towards profs.

The article "Password for university leaders is 'change'" was in the October issue of *University Affairs*, the publication of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada.

It quoted the chancellor, Sir Graham Day, as saying "regardless of the institution one cannot have

the inmates in charge." The comments were drawn from a speech Day reportedly gave to the Association of Commonwealth Universities in August.

Dr. Ismet Ugursal, president of the Dalhousie Faculty Association, said Day's comments were "most depressing."

Dr. Margery Stone, a professor in the Department of English, agrees. She says the chancellor's remarks are outdated and, given his role, seem to represent the philosophy of Dalhousie management.

"It makes Dalhousie look bad. The goals he sees are different from the other chancellors [at the conference]. He's out of sync."

"A university is not a corporation," she said. "It's a huge public investment which suggests that faculty, students and staff need input in how the university runs."

"No one should be referred to as inmates. They need to be participatory members."

**"regardless of the institution one cannot have the inmates in charge"**

In a note left with his secretary, Day stated he didn't know where the quote came from.

"I have no record of the alleged comment and do not recall speaking at the conference," his secretary read from the note.

Day was eventually reached, but he refused to comment further.

The position of university

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Musical influences from around the globe were a highlight of Drumspeak. See story on page 15.

## Student wants sign language taught at Dal

BY KATIE TINKER

Angelic Mccarron is a third-year health education student. Like all students, she has tests, assignments and late nights. But unlike the majority of students, she is hearing impaired.

This is one of the reasons Mccarron is trying to get Dalhousie to offer a course in American Sign Language (ASL). If offered, students would be able to use sign language as their second language credit — one of the requirements of a Bachelor of Arts degree.

Although she isn't personally affected by the requirement, Mccarron is concerned that arts students who have hearing disabilities may find it difficult to learn spoken languages.

"[If] you were hard of hearing, how would you learn something like French?" she asked.

She also says a course in sign language would be a good opportunity for students without hearing disabilities to get credit while learning a new way to communicate.

"Signing is fun — it's really fun. It would be nice just to have as a general interest course for everyone, and it would certainly be a useful course for people going into fields like social work," she said.

Eric McKee, vice president student services, agrees that students with hearing disabilities shouldn't have to struggle through courses in which they are at a definite disadvantage. But he says this is the kind of thing the university usually handles on a case-by-case basis.

"It would have to be the decision of the faculty," he said. "A couple of years ago there was

someone who wanted to know if they could use a course in Mi'kmaq offered at UCCB as their second language credit, and the answer was 'yes'."

As for Angelic Mccarron's suggestion that the university actually offer the course itself, McKee is uncertain.

"[The university] would have to look at whether there is sufficient demand for the course... if it's offered somewhere else in metro, it may not be necessary to offer the same thing here," he said.

"It's just like any other field of study — there's lots of specialized courses that Dal doesn't need to offer because they're available at Saint Mary's or [Mount Saint Vincent University], and vice-versa."

Currently no other

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## Grad students join rival organization

BY JANET FRENCH

While shopping around for a national advocacy group, Dalhousie grad students joined the rival of a group they already belong to.

On Oct. 14, the Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students (DAGS) council voted in favour of obtaining a one-year prospective membership with the National Graduate Council. The council is a caucus of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS).

The DSU left CFS in 1994 and was one of the founding members of the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) — which means DAGS already belongs to CASA too.

Unlike many graduate student associations, which are separate from their undergraduate student unions, DAGS is run like any other society under the Dalhousie Student Union (DSU).

CASA does accept graduate societies as members, but national chair Hoops Harrison says his organization is primarily concerned with undergraduate issues.

Lisa Underhill, a DAGS student advocacy committee member, says she felt the society could benefit from a membership in a national organization of graduate students.

"[During] the threat of a teaching assistants' strike, and the Dalhousie Faculty Association strike, we felt that it could have helped us to be better informed," she said.

So last year a committee was formed to investigate which federal organization of graduate students could best meet the needs of DAGS.

The two major organizations

representing Canadian graduate students are the CFS' council and the Canadian Graduate Council (CGC). The CGC is an independent association dedicated solely to the interests of graduate students, whereas the National Graduate Council is a caucus of the largely undergraduate CFS.

DAGS councillor Mark Laflamme was the only member who voted against the motion to join the CFS' group.

He says the advocacy committee appeared to have "issues" with both of the organizations, and he questions how necessary they are.

**"[It's] not to be taken as a sign of discord or a threat to the DSU"**

"[The question has become] which of the two organizations is the least undesirable, rather than which one is better," he said. "National lobbying can be done without the help [of these organizations] at the campus level."

Kelly MacKenzie, DSU vice-president student advocacy and a graduate student, says graduate students have more to gain by provincial lobbying, especially for research funding. But she also says she recognizes that "DAGS should be looking for the group that best represents the interests of graduate students."

But MacKenzie, who is also Dal's CASA rep, says she isn't worried about poor relations between the student union and the grad student society, as long they "don't encroach on each other and establish barriers."

Brent Powers, DAGS president, agrees.

"[DAGS will] keep working on a [good] relationship with the

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