

# A look at cutbacks: part one

## The Killam Library by Pam Berman

If the library receives no increase in the book budget for 1980-81 there will have to be a 18-20 percent cancellation of serials. This is needed so that some money will be free to buy books, says Dr. Gayle Garlock, a library administrator. serials include all periodicals and journals that are published on a regular recurring basis.

"If we did that, this type of cutback would have a major immediate effect on research in the sciences and the same long term effect in the humanities and the social sciences", said Garlock.

This year there has been a 22 percent cost increase of the serials subscribed to by the Library. Garlock said further allotment of the budget to serials, which are mostly scientific in nature could have an even greater detrimental effect on book resources, which involves mainly the humanities and the social sciences.

While the shift towards sciences at Dalhousie supports the emphasis on serials, in order to protect the other disciplines from serious resource shortages, Garlock maintains that no further decreases in the book budget can be allowed. Either the library gets a 20 percent increase in its' book budget or the serials will have to be cut.

Until this year the library has tried to maintain the existing level of its' serials but due to the rising costs of these serials the money allotted for the acquisition of books could not be increased. This meant for the last six years the library's book buying power has decreased, and no new serials subscriptions have been possible either.

According to Garlock the cutbacks that the library has experienced has made it difficult for new research to develop. Garlock cited the cutbacks in physics' resources three years ago as an example.

"Should an interest in this field occur a few years down the road, research would be limited because there will be a ten year gap of resources", said Garlock.

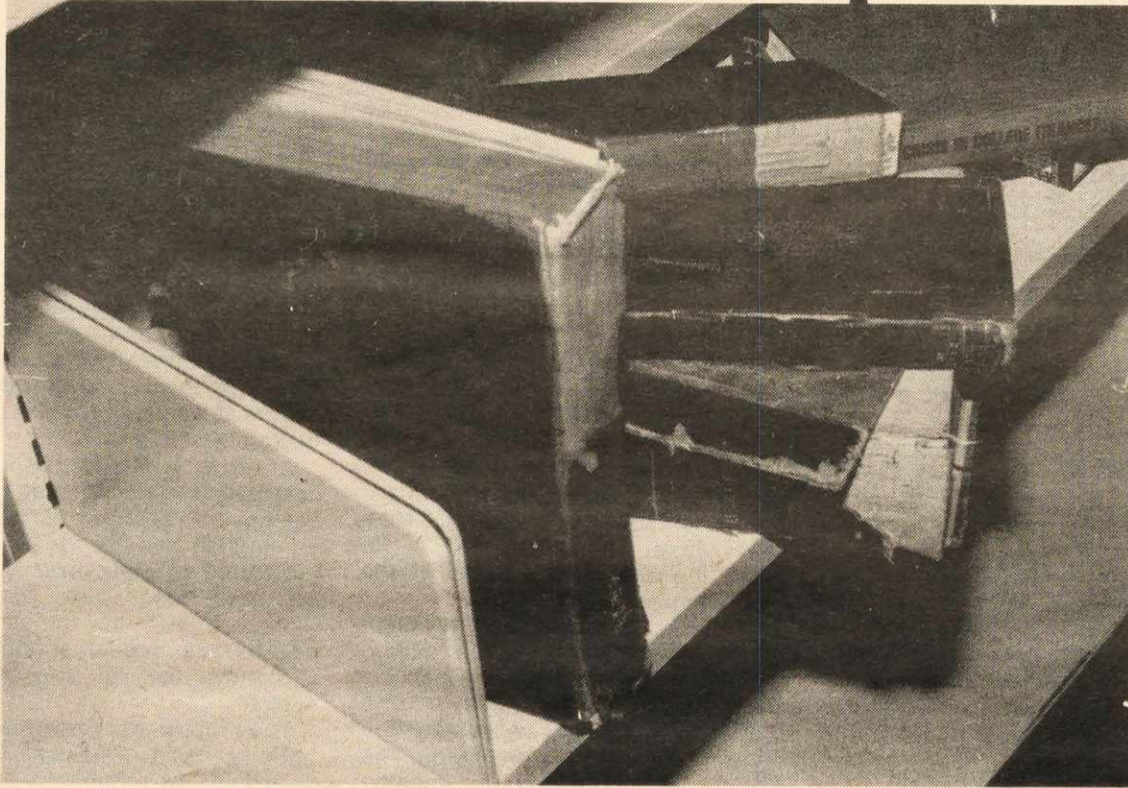
## Political Science

### by Mike Marshall

"Despite a very slight decrease in total student enrollment in Political Science of 5 percent in each of the last two years, the Department has been able to hold its own and replace any leaving professors, said Professor Dale Poel, Department Chairman.

But because that small decrease conceals an increase in Phd students, the Department's efforts are being hampered in this vital area of original research because of a long-standing unwillingness of the University to fund membership in the Inter-University Consortium for Political Research (IUCPR). For

Pat Jordan



4-5,000 dollars annually, the IUCPR allows member universities to tap into hundreds of very thorough and costly computer survey studies done in Canada, America and Europe. Without the IUCPR, Dalhousie, with the exception of foreign policy studies, is starting to become isolated from "...the mainstream of Political Science Research. Political Science Research ...", Poel said.

## Public Administration

Because the School of Public Administration, like Administrative Studies generally, just started coming into being when the current mood of university restraint hit, it could hardly be cut in anyway without disappearing altogether.

"We have even been able to add one staff member, but as we consciously decided from the beginning to keep

enrollment small, around 25 students a year, we offer a varied program on a small budget by the use of joint appointments with other departments and the use of part-time staff," said Professor Peter Aucoin

Aucoin is worried that better scholarship offers elsewhere are starting to attract highly qualified students away to Harvard and Queens, but otherwise, Dalhousie is still turning out the Masters in Public Administration (MPAs) who are generally improving our local public service.

## Computer Science by Paul Creelman

"We've done pretty well this year," says Intab Ali, director of the Dalhousie Computer Centre.

"We haven't been much affected by cutbacks," says Ali, "Even though we did lose some of our business with the

Federal offices, we have the budget held to a minimum so that cutbacks aren't really possible."

Ali adds that the completion of the Federal Computer Centre in Bedford took away a lot of the business that had previously come to Dalhousie from various Federal agencies. This was a serious blow to the Computer Centre, but paring the Computer Centre budget to an absolute minimum has enabled them to get along.

"This was something told to me by my successor when I first took my job. If you present a clean, rock-bottom budget, and justify everything on it, then when the budget cutbacks come around, you can't be affected. If I had my staff reduced by even one, I would be in trouble.

Ten new terminals were recently added to the terminal room in the Computer Centre for the use of students.

## School of Business Administration [Commerce]

"Within the overall budget, we (the School of Business Administration) have been treated pretty fairly. But we are growing rapidly—soon to total 1000 students, almost 1/8 of the student body—but Business enrollments have grown so much everywhere that the problem is that you can't find Phds in Business for love or money." Professor Scheibelhut, Director of the Business School, says its so bad that Canada alone could use all the Phds in Accounting graduating in North America.

But Number One Priority for Business now, is the need for three more large classrooms for undergraduate 'case study' classes. The University has promised them for this fall, but if they are not completed, the immense-sized undergraduate classes will simply be "hamstrung" in forced to conduct their unique case studies in ordinarily-sized classrooms, Professor Scheibelhut warned.

Like many other Departments at Dal, the Business School has never had a real budget for bringing in outside speakers and so is cut off from the current strands of thought in the discipline. This relative isolation would dramatically worsen if the Library was to cut 20% of the serials now subscribed to, because the journals serve as surrogates 'outside speakers' to help keep professors and students up with current developments.

IN CASE OF BUDGET CUTS  
... REMOVE THIS PORTION.

## students



## The History Department

The History Department chairman Micheal Cross, is more concerned with the way in which the cutbacks are being administered rather than the actual cutbacks themselves.

"Most department heads have taken the attitude of 'devil take the hindmost' and try to spend the most money that they can get away with before the Dean clobbers them or they try and negotiate for more money instead of what they should be doing which is rationally adjusting their spending", said Cross.

The History Department has not undergone a drop in staff according to Cross, but like the majority of departments in arts and science, the budget has been frozen for the last three years. This has led to a decrease in overall purchasing power and a freeze in office services, said Cross.

## CUTBACKS:

Three out of every ten first year college students in the United States probably will never graduate, according to a report on student-retention problems issued by the American Council on Education.

Researchers for the Council, after examining retention studies from around the country, came up with the following prediction for a typical group of ten first year students:

- Four will graduate from their original college within four years.
- One will graduate from that institution after four years.
- One will drop out and never go to college again.
- Four will transfer to another institution; two of those will graduate and two will not.

According to the report, students who drop out in the United States consistently cite financial problems as a major reason for leaving.

