

Problems delay use of Dalplex

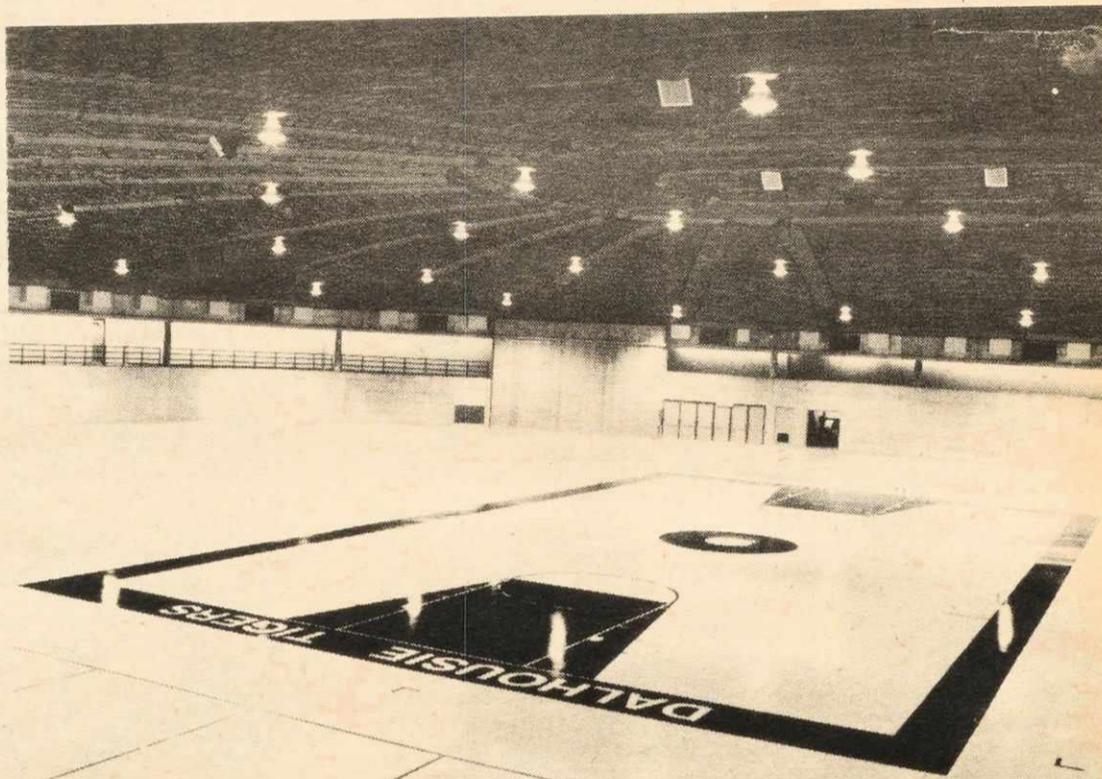
by Paul Tyndall

It has been over a month now since the official opening of the community athletic complex known as the Dalplex. And as some of you may have noticed the facilities are still not operational. During this period of time a number of rumors have spread concerning the delay. "Anything from leaks in the stainless steel air supported roof to polluted water in the pool," said Joel Jacobson, the public relations officer for the Dalplex. Jacobson said these rumors are not true.

The truth is that delays in the shipment of certain pieces of equipment have been the key cause of the holdup, he said. The truckers strike in the United States being partially responsible for the delay. There is also a problem with some of the apparatus received. Not all of it is in accordance with Dalhousie's request. The poles for the volleyball nets are not the right size. It is minor problems such as these that have forced the complex to remain closed to the general public.

The complex is functioning in a minor capacity at the moment. The pool is being used by the Dalhousie swim team and pre-arranged classes in the aquatic program. The Atlantic Tennis Tournament was held in the complex because Dal's commitment was irreversible. As were certain basketball games. But the facilities will not be open for the general public until Dec. 3. Jacobson said that the Dalplex administration has decided it would be wiser to postpone opening until the entire complex is in operation.

Jacobson also said the rumors that the Dalplex was up against foreseeable economic problems because of the registration fee were untrue. It will cost the non-alumni member \$275 a year to have full use of the facilities, including swimming, tennis, track and field, weight lifting and saunas to name only a few. Jacobson says that full year membership is already nearing 400. There are also 5000 full time students at Dal who are able to use the Dalplex free of charge.



Is Dalplex becoming White Elephant ?

Voting changes approved

by Tom Regan

A resolution calling for student senators and board of governor representative to be given voting privileges on student council was overwhelmingly approved by Council Sunday night. The final vote was 11 for, 1 against, with two abstentions.

The resolution must now come before a general meeting of the students before a final decision can be made, because the resolution involves a change in the Student Union Constitution.

Gord Owen, the senate representative who brought the motion to council, said the action was twofold.

"I think it's time that the senate reps and the board of governor rep had a vote. We have to attend council meetings and sign a form every

year that says we will abide by the student council constitution. Many members look to us for experience and leadership. It's only fair. I also brought the matter to council's attention because I thought council was growing too complacent. I'm very surprised it passed so easily."

"In the past nobody on council wanted to give up any power."

Owen said the matter has been brought before council in the past but it has always been defeated.

"I didn't want to give up any power at the time. In the past there was a sharp difference between council and the Senate and Board rep. This year the whole thing has melted together. I think it's silly that

the senate and board of governor reps can introduce a motion, second a motion, and speak to a motion and not be able to vote on that motion."

When asked if the motion might give too much power to one particular block, Owen said he couldn't see a problem like that arising.

"We might have to make some concessions in order to make sure that we don't get a whole block of people running from one particular faculty, but I really don't think that it will ever happen," said Owen.

Mike Power, former president of the student union, is one of those who is totally against the members being given the vote.

"The fact the motion passed is a sad statement on the council's part," said Power. "The senate and board reps come to council so they can give technical advice to the council on matters concerning the administration. They are in fact members of the senate and the board of governors, not the council. Why should they get the vote?"

Power also disagreed with the reasons given by some of the members in support of the motion.

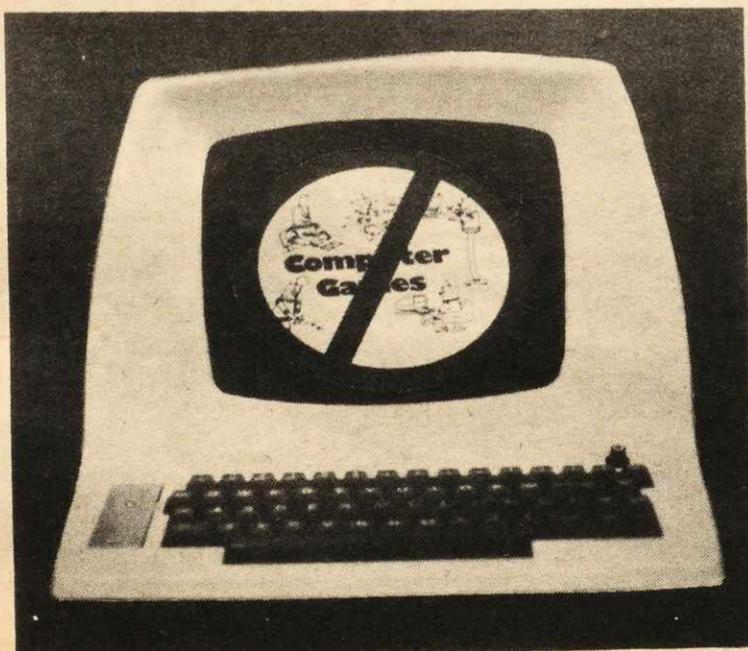
"One reason I heard was that if they give these people the vote, then council would have no trouble reaching quorum. I think it's pretty sad when you have to give the vote to others in order to reach quorum. I don't think enough consideration was given to the question. I hope someone has enough courage to rescind the motion."

The resolution will be one of many council changes that will be brought before the students sometime in January.

Andras Vamos Goldman, the board of governors representative on council, said the reason the motion passed this year was that this year's council is less pretentious than those of the past.

"In the past nobody on council wanted to give up any power," said Vamos-Goldman. "This year's council is more open-minded. People aren't trying to throw their weight around like the councils have in the past."

Vamos-Goldman, when asked why he had voted against the same measure two years ago when he was a council member, said his reasons were the same as the old council.



Dal Photo Chris Hartt

Computer Abuse at Dal

by Paul Creelman

Misuse of the Computer Center facilities is becoming a serious problem, said Assistant Director Randy Barkhouse.

One long standing conflict is the use of games by students. They tying up of terminals in the Computer Center by game-playing students is still a problem despite strict controls by the operating staff.

Not only does game playing prevent others with more important work from using the computer, but some of the games use extremely large amounts of computer time, thus costing the center Computer Centre a considerable

quantity of money.

Abuse of the remote dial-up terminals is also increasing. A recent confrontation occurred between the Dean of Chemistry and a group of students playing 'Star Trek' and monopolizing a group of terminals which were reserved for chemistry department use only. Warning signs have since been posted on these terminals, and Assistant Director Barkhouse said more serious measures are being considered to limit game playing on the dial-up terminals.

Careless waste of punched cards and printout paper is also

a problem. Alternatives presently being considered include the use of vending machines or a rationing system to encourage more responsible use of these materials, especially by computer science students.

Physical vandalism of the computer center equipment is a new problem this year. Damage to terminals and key punch machines is a constant source of irritation to Computer Center staff. The disappearance of control keys, especially the apparently popular backspace keys from keypunch machines is a particularly puzzling occurrence.