

# Vice-president talks money

by Mike Greenfield

In an effort to learn a bit more about the current financial situation at Dalhousie the Gazette decided to talk to the Vice President in charge of Finance, Mr. McNeill. He revealed some interesting information on aspects of current university funding plans.

On new student housing Mr. McNeill does not know of any plans to finance a new residence. Nor does he even concede that there is a

need for more student housing. He has heard that there are a few vacancies in Howe and Sherriff Halls.

On the Sport's Complex Mr. McNeill did not know if the funds that were originally offered by a foundation were still available. He did say that President Hicks was in correspondence with the foundation and that hopefully if the Supreme Court rules in Dal's favor the money

will be available.

Concerning Dalhousie investment portfolio Mr. McNeill stated that the portfolio was in pretty good shape and that revenue had not declined. A large chunk of the portfolio is invested in banks which are considered to be fairly secure investments. He said that Dalhousie does not attempt any of what might be termed risky speculation.

The financing for an enlargement of the Dental School is totally in the hands of the Provincial Government And Mr. McNeill believes that Dalhousie is the only place in the Maritimes that is available for new Dental School facilities.

About Dalhousie's relations with the two year old Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission Mr. McNeill is fairly pleased. However, that judgement could turn around when this year's MPHEC allocations are released.

When asked why Dalhousie

students paid the highest tuition in the country Mr. McNeill replied that the Maritimes have traditionally had the least support from the Federal Government, as a consequence Maritime universities have to turn to their own resources and endowments. Since Dalhousie is the largest Maritime university it also has had more difficulties in meeting all its commitments. The last increase was necessary to come up with a balanced budget. However, Mr. McNeill does not see a new increase in the near future and if there was to be another raise the students would be given more of a chance to examine the situation.

Finally, Mr. McNeill said he could not tell yet what effect Prime Minister Trudeau's controls would have on the university. He said that all the details have not yet been worked out so it was unfair for him to comment.

# Political prisoners

by Catherine Young

Mrs. Carmel Budiardjo, an ex-political prisoner in Indonesia, spoke to an interested audience at St. Mary's Old Library Building last Monday night. Her lecture, sponsored by Amnesty International, indicated yet another country where repression and suspension of normal civil rights is an ongoing occurrence.

In 1965, a political death-struggle was going on behind the scenes in Indonesia. The views of the Indonesian Army and those of the members of "Nasacom" (an amalgam of nationalistic, religious and communistic Indonesian political parties) were becoming more polarized. In effect, the Army was totally anti-political fearing the popular support behind all parties, but especially the support given to the Indonesian Communist Party (which at that time, had the third largest membership of any Communist organization in the world. Popular support was behind the then head of state, Sukarno, and against the Army hierarchy. Fearing that the top generals were trying to wrest power from Sukarno, a group of left-wing Army officers tried to overthrow the high-ranking generals in a coup. Six generals were kidnapped and killed, but the most powerful general, Suharto, escaped death and seized power while Djakarta, the country's capital, was under a state of siege. Suharto, wishing to wreak revenge on his enemies (and supposed enemies),

started a reign of terror which swept through Indonesia after these events of October 1965.

Although Indonesia has one of the most well-drawn constitutions of any country in the world, human rights and freedom against unfair detention were suspended after the attempted coup in the interest of "national security and order." Formal charges did not have to be laid against any person, if there were "indications that he or she was directly, or indirectly, involved in the coup", the person could be detained indefinitely without any charge being laid. As the above would indicate, this rule could cover almost any "troublemaker" of whom the Army wanted to dispose.

Under this category came Mrs. Carmel Budiardjo, an Englishwoman married to an Indonesian national. Mrs. Budiardjo, a trained economist, was jailed in 1968 for formerly belonging to a left-wing society of university graduates, the HSI (the HSI and other left-wing political parties including the Communists, were banned after the military takeover). This "involvement" brought this woman three years in Indonesian prisons - without ever having been tried, formally charged, or permitted access to legal council (it was only through a technicality concerning her citizenship that she was released at all).

Mrs. Budiardjo was and is not alone. Although the Indonesian

government refuses to give any figures on numbers of political prisoners detained in Indonesian jails, indeed it denies that there are any political prisoners in Indonesia. Source estimate that there are from 70,000 to 100,000 political prisoners in Indonesia today. Included among these prisoners is Mrs. Budiardjo's husband who has been detained without trial for over six years. Marriage to a prisoner or being the victim of some personal vendetta is to get one placed in jail in Indonesia for political reasons. Little attention is paid to the facts of the situation in these matters.

Civil liberties and basic human rights are being denied to the detainees in Indonesian jails. According to Mrs. Budiardjo, physical torture and brutal interrogations are very common place (electric torture, knife attacks, and rapings under interrogation are not unheard of in Indonesia). Conditions in the jails are so geared as to promote despondency and despair in the prisoners - any reading material, other than the Bible or the Koran, is usually banned. Mrs. Budiardjo and

her cell-mates slept on stone slabs without any bedding in a tiny cell. Such overcrowded conditions lead to pathological mental and physical conditions. Physical illness is promoted by lack of proper food and medical care. Mrs. Budiardjo recounted how she twice personally witnessed prisoners dying in their cells from lack of medical aid.

Because of an effective cover-up campaign by Suharto's regime, little has been known about the living conditions of Indonesian political prisoners. To help the human rights of Indonesian prisoners, Mrs. Budiardjo has helped found an organization called TAPOL (an Indonesian contraction for "Tahanan Politik" or political prisoners). This word was widely used in Indonesia until 1974 when the Suharto regime banned its use.

By bringing to our attention the conditions under which the prisoners exist TAPOL hopes to promote the release of these unjustly detained political prisoners (including Mrs. Budiardjo's husband).

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