

United Equities going to demolish historic property

By MICHAEL DANIELS

United Equities is going to demolish the Philae Temple Building in an attempt to bully city council, says John Murchie, an alumnus of Dalhousie and spokesperson for Friends of the Public Gardens.

United Equities has acquired a permit this week to demolish the building, which has been vacated by Dalhousie's Nursing School. Murchie says United Equities plans to leave an empty lot there to become an eyesore for the city.

"I see it as a bullying, a flexing of their muscles," he said.

United Equities' proposal to build high-rise condominiums on the Hart-Butler property has gone through City Council hearings twice. It must go through the hearing process a third time following a N.S. Supreme Court decision that the hearings were conducted unfairly.

"Their initial proposal did not entail using the temple properly," Murchie said.

Murchie says United Equities is saying the Philae Temple building cannot be rented. They are also saying that leaving the building up would require them to pay taxes on the property.

"It's ironic because their most persuasive argument has been that their development proposal would increase tax revenue to the city."

He says he would argue that the building is internally suitable for residence.

"It's a marketable commodity as it stands," he said.

Dalhousie University, which sold the property to United Equities a year and a half ago, made \$1.5 million in the sale.

Murchie says, while he is not unsympathetic to universities needing money, he thinks the university has been negligent in its sale of the property.

"They [the administration] acted like a business and sold to the highest bidder," he said. "I don't believe the university should behave that way."

He says the university acted in what it thought was its own best interests, not bothering to take into account other interests. Now they are doing their best to keep as far out of the situation as they can.

Hart House may be the next to be demolished, says Murchie.

"After Nov. 1 they'll be fully in their rights to demolish the Hart House," he said. □



Photo: Leone Steele, Dal Photo

Pros and cons of foreign aid

By ELIZABETH DONOVAN

There are bad aid projects, but on the whole pros outnumber the cons in giving aid to poor countries, said Margaret Catley-Carlson, president of the Canadian International Development Agency. She spoke at Dalhousie on Mon. Oct. 1.

Dalhousie faculty members and students are willing to admit that the Canadian International Development Agency has problems, but they disagree about the reasons why.

Tim Shaw, director of Dalhousie's Centre for African Studies says one of CIDA's problems is the disorganization that plagues the organization.

"CIDA has many constituencies. On the one hand, it keeps many worthy non-government organizations like CUSO and Canada World Youth funded. On the other, it supports an industrial corporation division that brings skills and technology to developing countries. CIDA is not only subject to their own government pressures, but third world pressures as well."

Dr. Ian McAllister, a professor at the Centre for Development Projects, says much of the criticism waged against CIDA is unfounded. "The foundation of CIDA is built on humanitarian concerns. CIDA has been used as a public scapegoat. CIDA's mistakes are widely publicized and often the success stories are not given proper recognition."

"There is evidence of progress due to foreign aid. There have been great strides made in food production in India and Bangladesh and improvements in health and nutrition because of successful grass roots projects in desperately poor countries."

At least one Dalhousie student is not convinced that the most disadvantaged are benefiting from aid.

"Aid does not reach the poor in developing countries. The people who primarily benefit are the elite, not those who really need it," says Andy Knight, graduate student in international relations.

Catley-Carlson says criticism heaped on CIDA over the past decade is due to the misconception that CIDA creates development or even development projects. "CIDA only acts as a facilitator in linking the needs of third world countries with Canadian capabilities. And then, by recruiting the best resources—companies, institutions and individuals—we finance their work," she says.

Shaw says resourcing businesses to establish links with the third world is not new. "What should be questioned, however, is the proportion of CIDA money going towards businesses in bilateral aid. If businesses were not involved in CIDA there would be no CIDA."

MacAllister sees it differently. "CIDA exists because there are a lot of Canadians concerned about the third world."

McAllister believes tied aid is not

all bad because it can be constructive to both parties. "Tied aid helps developing countries have access to trade and technology, appropriate technology," he says.

Knight is skeptical about how much underdeveloped countries benefit from tied aid. "I personally feel foreign aid is used by developed countries to proliferate a dependency with third world countries. In the short term these countries may benefit, but in the long term they are stuck in a cycle of dependency."

Catley-Carlson says there is a misconception third world countries don't have a choice in deciding what country they will accept aid from.

"A third world government can now check out the best deals in foreign aid by referring to a computer to see what country's aid package has the cheapest goods and services," she says.

Knight says the president of CIDA has oversimplified the degree to which third world countries have a choice in rejecting or accepting aid. □

Lex and Alexa still awaiting response from feds

By SAMANTHA BRENNAN

Provincial NDP leader Alexa McDonough and Dalhousie Student Union president Alex Gigeroff are still looking for response from the federal government concerning complaints about the lack of publicity of the Interest Relief Program.

In an open letter to Secretary of State Walter McLean, McDonough complained that the year-old interest relief program was not publicized sufficiently by the student assistance directorate in Ottawa.

The program was created last September to provide some relief to former students faced with student loan debts and unemployment.

"Notification of students... has been completely inadequate," wrote McDonough in her Sept. 25 letter to McLean.

Gigeroff agrees. He also wrote to the student aid head office in Ottawa to suggest better ways to publicize the program.

"I suggested to them that information about the program be enclosed with every application for

aid," says Gigeroff. "Or that it be distributed to high school guidance counsellors."

He says information about the program is necessary to ensure accessibility to post-secondary education.

"If someone from a low-income background is contemplating going to university, they'll be more likely to go if they are aware they can defer loan repayment in the case of unemployment," says Gigeroff.

This is especially important for students contemplating a liberal arts education where there is no guarantee of future employment, says Gigeroff.

His Sept. 11 letter has yet to receive any response from the government.

Gigeroff is annoyed but not surprised.

"Let's just say I'm a little cynical about these matters."

Meanwhile, the NDP say they are giving the new Secretary of State a little more time to adjust to his position before they take further action. □

Administration expels president

BRANDON, Man. (CUP)—Brandon University has finally gotten rid of an unwanted guest from its mansion—former administration president Harold Perkins.

Perkins was evicted in July from the fashionable university-owned house because he would not leave, 10 months after he was forced to resign as president.

The university normally provides

its president with free room and board.

BU's board of governors demanded Perkins' resignation last fall, accusing him of "gross professional misconduct."

Perkins is suing the university for unjust dismissal, but suffered a setback in June when many of the charges in his suit were found inadmissible in court.

The case goes to trial in October.