

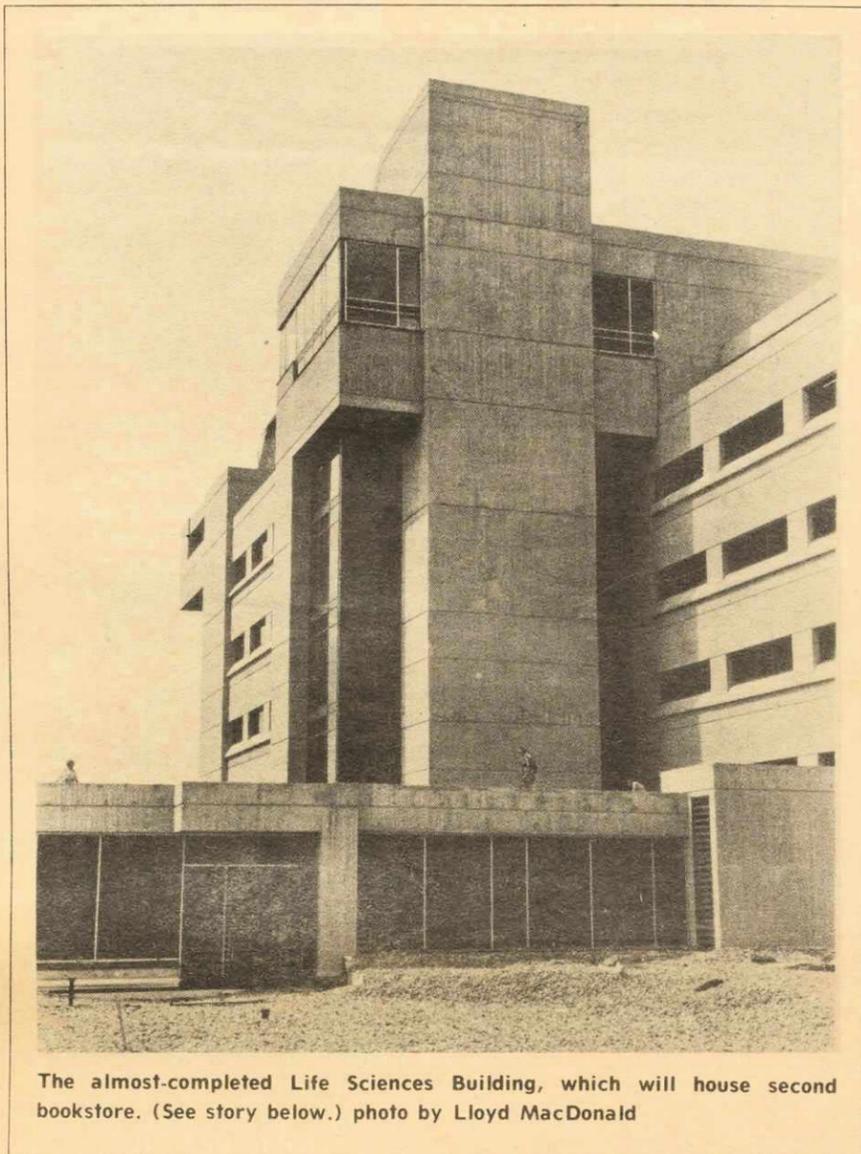
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The almost-completed Life Sciences Building, which will house second bookstore. (See story below.) photo by Lloyd MacDonald

Ombudsmen to cut red tape

by Dorothy Wigmore

Problems with a professor. Student loans that don't come through. Injustices, hassles with the administration.

These problems can now be dealt with by two law students, who were appointed university ombudsmen last week. Ian Chambers and Steve Aronson will be acting as trouble-shooters and investigators on an experimental basis this year.

"It's hoped that the office of ombudsman can help to cut a lot of red tape out of the bureaucracy in the administration and the Student Union Building," Aronson explained.

Their terms of reference are very wide, mainly because it will take some time to discover where and when the office can be useful.

"The only definition one could give, I suppose, is that it will include that which normally comes under the definition of ombudsman, a sort of trouble-shooter," Chambers said.

They will not be confined to student-faculty or student-administration problems, he explained. The terms of reference are wide enough that dif-

ficulties between faculty and administration and even inter-faculty problems can be dealt with.

"I think the first year is involved mainly in sounding out the difficult areas, and then deciding whether the ombudsman will continue, because it's only experimental this year," Chambers added.



Steve Aronson
Assistant Ombudsman

(photo by Lloyd MacDonald)

"We aren't going to wait for a complaint to come up before we take action, if indeed we decide to take action," Aronson said. Anyone on campus may come to them with problems, he added.

Both students emphasized that confidentiality would be maintained in all cases. They have access to all personal files in the university, provided the individual concerned okays it. This was one of the main points of contention before the ombudsman policy was passed by the Board of Governors.

Several difficulties may come up. "Prejudice itself is going to be one of the most difficult things to investigate, because it's a very difficult thing to prove," Aronson commented. "Most people resent being told diplomatically, or any other way, that they are prejudiced. There's really very little we can do."

If a problem is investigated and a solution suggested, the two ombudsmen have no power to ensure justice prevails. They can go as high in the university bureaucracy as the president, if no action is taken.

"I suppose in a sense we are basing our confidence on the fact that many of the people at that level in the university administration are quite reasonable," Chambers said.

If refusals are always given, though, they are only left with one alternative. They can try to rouse public opinion on

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Fenwick ready on schedule

by Bruce Lantz

Fenwick Towers, the residence facility purchased by Dalhousie last April, will be completed by the first day of official rental, September 20, according to Student Union General Manager, John Graham.

The building, which was bought for \$5,000,000 after the bankruptcy of the

Kenny Construction Co., has been fully rented since shortly after its purchase.

It has seen recent delays which have inconvenienced both tenants and building contractors.

One of these problems was the result of Hurricane Beth, which filled the elevator shafts and other parts of the building with up to 17 feet of water. This

caused a delay of approximately a week while the water was being pumped out.

A more recent hassle has been a problem in having the elevators (provided through the Otis elevator company) inspected. The inspectors, who came on the scene September 7, declared the elevators suitable for freight transportation only. This was due to a combination of minor technical errors involving several facets of the project. Since that time, both workers and tenants already in the building have had to use the stairways, resulting in discomfort and a general work slowdown.

Fenwick Towers manager Middleton has assured students that the entire problem should be solved by the end of registration. It is even possible that construction will be completed by the 16th of this month.

According to Bev Merkley of the accommodations office, the present housing situation is more desperate than in past years. At this time, the number of available apartments and rooms had decreased considerably. The acquiring of Fenwick Towers has eased the situation for the coming year, but according to informed sources this luxury will be short-lived.

Second bookstore for early rush

Two bookstores will be in operation on campus during the early part of this year, Student Union general manager John Graham announced recently. It is hoped this policy of decentralization will ease the rush to obtain textbooks.

In addition to the regular store, located in the basement of the Chemistry building, a new store will be operating in the Life Sciences centre for three or four weeks.

The second bookstore, located in the

lower level of the new building, will open during general registration. It will sell only 100-level course texts, while the regular store will handle the remaining books.

Both stores, which will be open from 7-9 p.m., have been established to handle a 15% increase in enrollment for the coming year, Graham explained. He expects that the number of first year students will equal the total of all those returning.