

## DSU appoints Ferguson

By **KIMBERLY WILLIAMS**

DAVE FERGUSON IS THE new vice-president (academic) of the Dalhousie Student Union.

The choice of the DSU nomination committee, Ferguson faced a challenge from Bill Jeffery, a student member of Dalhousie Senate.

Despite the competition, Ferguson was elected by student council on Nov. 17.

The position became open on Oct. 24 when Greg Hardy, former vice-president (academic), announced his intention to

resign, effective upon finding a suitable replacement.

Hardy, a law student, gave outside commitments and lack of time as the reasons for his resignation.

"When the position became open I saw an opportunity to get closer to academic people at the university," says Ferguson.

Ferguson says he sees shrinking budgets as a threat to university education, and says he plans to work closely with Barney Savage, vice-president (external) to ensure the best use of provincial and federal funding.

"This position is an opportunity to take a more direct approach to academic concerns; the quality of education relating to finances and their use," says Ferguson.

Ferguson plans to meet with Dr. A.M. Sinclair, academic vice-president of Dalhousie, to begin opening the lines of communication between the DSU and the administration.

"One of my main goals is to work closely with the academic departments at the administration level, to share concerns of the quality of education at Dalhousie," Ferguson says.

## Computers evaluate university courses

By **MARY ELLEN JONES**

THE DALHOUSIE STUDENT Union is putting its computers to work evaluating university courses.

The DSU will randomly select the courses it will evaluate. The Union will send questionnaires to the chair of each faculty of undergraduate studies today.

"The new system may help in upgrading the standards of education at Dalhousie University," says Reza Rizvi, DSU executive vice-president.

A computerized system for course evaluation was started last year but the plan fell apart because the DSU was disorganized, says Rizvi. "It was close to being finished but unfortunately, it fell flat on its face," he says.

The DSU plans to publish the

results of the course evaluation in time for next year's registration.

The last student-sponsored course evaluation was in 1978. It was called the "anti-calendar" and students felt it provided a better detail of classes offered at Dalhousie.

"The calendar does not do an adequate job (describing courses). Students do not know what they are getting into when they sign up for a course," says Rizvi. "Our calendar will provide academic advice for students choosing courses which the university's lacks."

Rizvi says he hopes professors will treat the evaluation questionnaires seriously.

"This thing won't work if professors refuse. It's a voluntary system."

In order for the project to work,

it needs the support of students, faculty and the administration, says Dave Ferguson, the new DSU vice-president (academic). He will be speaking to A.M. Sinclair, Dalhousie's academic vice-president, today to seek approval from the administration.

"If we look at the past effort taken in organizing a course evaluation system, I anticipate some uncooperative deans," says Ferguson.

"We are by no means trying to make the professors look good or bad. (We want to) pinpoint the areas of weakness and bring them to the attention of the heads of departments. Hopefully they will take necessary corrective measures," says Rizvi.

Although Rizvi admits the process is complicated, he says "it is well worth the effort."



The housing crisis does not stop at the SUB's housing office, but this student hopes the board will give her an answer. Photo by Mary Sykes, Dal Photo.

## Apartheid

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expenses, and cancelling subsidies for transportation and essential services.

"As a result, bus fares went up. And then the rents went up. And then the government added a twelve per cent sales tax, on everything."

While the cost of living steadily increases in South Africa, businesses can still keep blacks' wages low because of the high demand for work.

"Kids are coming out of school and they can't find work. People who had jobs are laid off," said Gelb.

Young people are at the front of the opposition movement in South Africa and face the most severe repression, he said.

"Young kids in the streets are getting beat up, arrested and tortured in prisons by the police. Schools are invaded regularly. Police go onto the campuses with whips."

But the economic crisis is making it more difficult for the government to stifle the uprisings.

"They've essentially lost control. They can't reassert any control in the black urban centers. People, other than the government, are setting up their own agendas."

Gelb puts his hands behind his head and shrugs when he talks.

He doesn't want to predict when apartheid in South Africa will end, when the blacks there will gain their freedom.

But he doesn't mind recounting stories.

"A favorite answer to that comes from one of the black leaders. Someone recently asked him when it all would be over. And he said that in 1963 he had predicted three years would be all it would take. He said he saw no reason to change that estimate now." *of Canadian University Press*



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