

New library will be fit for King's

by Lyssa McKee

After years of concern that its current building would collapse, the University of King's College is finally going to get a badly-needed new library.

The current facility, mostly located on the third floor of the King's administration building, was not meant to house a library. The building is not structurally equipped to handle the weight of King's extensive collection of books. For many years, it has been necessary to store a great number of these materials in other locations on the campus, making them largely inaccessible to students wishing to browse.

Much of the King's collection is made up of rare and valuable books, given to the college at various points during its two-hundred year history. In order to prevent these precious books from deteriorating, special climate-controlled facilities are required.

The project is being funded by the provincial and federal governments, and also by fundraising within the university itself. Students at King's College voted earlier this year to donate a portion of their student union fees to the library fund.

"The vote was overwhelmingly in favour of student contribution to the library," says King's Student Union President Lew Turnquist. Ninety-one percent of the students who voted supported the new library construction.

The new library will be fully computerized, and linked with the Dalhousie library system. There is already a cooperative acquisitions policy between the two schools, which prevents unnecessary duplication of materials.

The plans for the new library promise a light, airy and friendly



Scot Campbell: Dal Photo

Engineers fear that the weight of a new library will cause King's to be sucked into the bowels of the earth.

atmosphere, with convenient, open stacks, and a large reading room. This is good news to King's students, some of whom feel a certain sadness at the loss of their quaint and cozy library. Linda Frum, in her *Guide to Canadian Universities*, described the King's library as a "charming place to work," and many King's

students share this view.

Other King's students are concerned that the new building will create a cramped and segregated atmosphere on the campus, by closing in the small quad and further separating King's from Dalhousie. The architect has tried to minimize these problems,

by designing a low-standing building in which the majority of the floor space is underground.

Dr. Angus Johnston, Vice-President of King's College, and Chairman of the building committee, has great hopes for the new library. He expects that "it will really be a place for

students".

"Over half of King's students are day-students," he says, and he hopes that the new library will provide "a focus for their work."

The projected cost of the construction is \$5.2 million, and the new library is expected to be completed by September 1990.

Don't flush the toilets at Carleton

By Tracey Fyfe

OTTAWA, (CUP) — "Last chance U" may not be so easy to get into according to administration vice president academic, Tom Ryan.

"If we have to change the accessibility policy, it will come down to something like the fact that you can't go to the toilet. We have the sewer system to accommodate 15- or 16,000 people. We only have the physical space and facilities to accommodate so many people," said Ryan.

Carleton's enrolment hit 18,000 this year.

Author Linda Frum's *Guide to Canadian Universities* slams Carleton's open door policy, calling it 'Last Chance U' for students who can't get accepted anywhere else.

"Getting called 'Last Chance U' probably meant we were doing a bad job of selling ourselves. On the other hand, when you get called 'Last Chance U' by a Linda Frum, it doesn't mean much. For a lot of people, our accessible education probably meant we were first chance U."

Over the past two years, first-year student registration increased by about six per cent each year, said Ryan. A 12 per cent increase in student population over two years without a parallel expansion in space has put the squeeze on the university, said Ryan.

"Try to find a seat in the library at peak times, or a seat in the cafeteria at lunch or dinner. You can never find parking."

Funding figures fall short, again

by Erin Goodman

The Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission has released this year's recommendations for provincial funding of post-secondary education (PSE), calling for an average increase of 7.7 per cent for Maritime universities.

That's less than the 11.1 per cent increase needed to maintain current operations, according to the Atlantic Association of Universities.

The MPHEC is the government-funded body which prepares estimates on the costs of running PSE in the maritime region. This

year, their recommendations call for an 8.2 per cent increase in operating grants for Nova Scotia, a 7.2 per cent increase for New Brunswick, and a 6.2 per cent increase for P.E.I.

Royden Trainor, interim chair of the Students' Union of Nova Scotia, praises the MPHEC for its insistence that the Nova Scotia government provide a higher funding level than the other provinces. According to Trainor, the Buchanan government has allowed the funding base of N.S. institutions to erode since 1984 by systematically undercutting the MPHEC's recommendations.

Says Trainor, "The Students' Union of N.S. is pleased with the MPHEC funding recommendation. It not only recognizes the universities' need for the fiscal year, but also recognizes the need for universities to catch up on their funding."

Dalhousie president Howard Clark has said that even if the government does approve the MPHEC recommendation, Dalhousie itself could receive as little as 3.5 per cent over last year's budget.

"It would mean some further cutbacks," Clark told the Chronicle-Herald Wednesday.