



Panel monitors Dal Profs

by Marlene Peinsznski

For the past year, a classroom Grievance Committee has been in operation at Dalhousie to allow students to voice any conflicts they may be having with their professors and to bring these conflicts to a speedy resolution.

Umesh Jain, committee chairperson, said the group has three main objectives, "to serve as a continuous monitoring system for teaching performance; to provide an effective avenue for students to do something about poor classroom education, and to act as a monitoring factor for professors to improve performance."

Jain said the body could be helpful for students who are shy about going to their professors with their grievances. The committee will serve as an arbitrator between the professor and his students, while assuring that the complainant will remain anonymous unless he or she indicates otherwise. To maintain this anonymity, the committee meetings and records are strictly off-limits to non-members.

The committee will only handle undergraduate complaints, but Jain pointed out that graduates can make use of the Ombudsman. The committee also refuses to become involved with personal conflicts between a student and a professor. If, for instance, you feel that a professor gave you

a D on your paper because he detests your purple sweat socks, don't go to the committee.

If there is a class consensus however, that the professor is in some way effecting the quality of the education that you are paying for, the committee will be glad to step in. If the complaint is beyond their jurisdiction, or if the professor refuses to deal with them, the committee will turn the case over to the Ombudsman. Again, the complainant will remain anonymous. Some complaints that the committee does deal with are: teaching habits, course books, office hours and tutorials.

The committee structure consists of one student council member who will act as chairperson, one other councillor chosen from the undergraduate council representatives, and one or two representatives from the undergraduate societies in Science, Arts, Commerce and the Health professions.

So how do you contact the Grievance Committee? Jain says that, "If a student has a complaint, it is important for him or her to make a written notice—preferably and forward it to a) the inquiry desk b) student council office c) various posts in the life science center and the A&A. If the student would like to verbalize a complaint, please contact Umesh Jain at 424-2146 or 865-8054."

Chem may get archives

by Paul Creelman

The old, Provincial Archives may be renovated for use as laboratories by the Chemistry Department, said Dr. Cameron of the department of chemistry.

The archives are being moved to a new location on the corner of Robie and University, and Dalhousie is presently completing arrangements to obtain the old building. The archives contain three large rooms and smaller auxiliaries, which are to be renovated into undergraduate laboratories and a small lecture hall.

The major stumbling block in the way of the planned renovation will be obtaining

the required funds from the province, according to Ralph Sykes, director of the physical plant.

"We are presently completing an application form which we will be giving to Vice-president McKay to present to the MPHEC," said Mr. Sykes.

"If the province doesn't supply funding, though, we have no plans for the use of this building that doesn't involve a great deal of renovation," said Sykes.

Dr. Cameron said the present undergraduate labs are overcrowded.

Once the funds are obtained, an eight month construction period would be required for the renovations, so that the earliest completion date for this project would be in the spring term of 1981.

"First year chemistry students can only use the labs every other week. Not that we want all of them in labs every week, but it would be nice to be able to do it. Also, the CIC society (the Dalhousie Student Chapter of the Chemical Institute of Canada) has asked us to provide them with a regular meeting place, and we've agreed, considering that all of the other science societies have their own meeting places.

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Travel with CUTS

by Pam Berman

"CUTS is more than just a travel agency, it is also a lobbying group for student-oriented programs," says Heather Crosbie, Canadian University Travel Services (CUTS) regional manager.

As part of the Association of Student Councils CUTS is a non-profit student-owned travel agency that has the right to sell travel to students.

"We're here to counsel students on the cheapest way to get them to where they want to go," said Crosbie.

CUTS is also involved, however, in other organizations and programs that can be extremely beneficial to student travellers. CUTS can sell International Student Cards, because they are members of the International Student Travel Conference (ISTC). These cards give access to student discounts, mainly throughout Europe and Asia. For example, some airlines in France give a 50 percent discount for students.

In this area, CUTS has been trying to achieve student priced flights and rail passes.

"We've only been established for 10 years whereas the ISTC has been in

operation for 30 years. But I've personally been involved in trying to get student discounts on Eastern Provincial Airways and Nordair," Crosbie added.

The Student Work Abroad Programmes (SWAP) are also a responsibility of the travel agency. Crosbie explained that overseas travel had become so expensive that students going abroad for a longer term (2 months or more) have to subsidize their holiday with short terms of employment. This job program has been established in Great Britain, Ireland, New Zealand, Holland and Belgium.

Through this program, the first two nights' accommodation is provided for, and the complex task of obtaining work visas is completed for all countries. Actual job arrangements are only provided in Britain, Holland and Belgium. In Ireland and New Zealand, job direction and help is still obtainable but no specific job contracts are arranged.

"Usually, job interviews are set-up within 5 days of contacting the SWAP office," Crosbie said.