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Go Green

The Gazette's Environmental Supplement starts on page 12.

Football sacked Dalhousie Board of Governors blows the whistle

BY AARON BLEASDALE

The drive to reinstate football at Dalhousie has been stuffed by the university's Board of Governors.

In a letter addressed to the alumni group behind the effort, the board stated that "it does not appear that the time is right to add football to the list of excellent varsity teams that Dalhousie already supports."

Wickwire Field's outstanding debt proved to be the major stumbling block to the team's return.

"There was commitment from all corners when the talk of developing this field was brought forth that there would be no football brought back until we had a field in place, and paid for," explained Dalhousie's athletic director, Tony Martin.

The turf isn't paid for; it's not even close.

The new surface was installed upon the assurance of alumni that they would contribute \$500,000 to the project. To date, only \$20,000 has been raised, and it was feared that adding football to the fundraising equation would tap the funding pool and hurt Dal's chances of paying off the balance.

Since Dal has no money to support any new athletics expenditures, \$35,000 of the projected annual budget of \$150,000 was to come from external sources. Football had hoped to raise it and the \$135,000 start-up cost through alumni donation and corporate sponsorship.

The board was unconvinced as to football's ability to raise the required money "without interfering with ongoing fundraising efforts by other teams at Dalhousie or by the capital and annual campaigns."

The financial environment for universities, and for university sports, is harsh. In the words of Dalhousie Student Union president Brad MacKay, "They're not just tight, they're ultra tight." Athletic budgets are being cut all over the country.

To the coaches and players of the Dal varsity teams already in place, the potential impact of football is no small concern. They have to raise much of their own budget through fundraising and corporate sponsorship, and the impact of throwing a program as large as football into the fray leaves them worried.

Coaches are glad of the board's decision. Speaking on behalf of the coaching staff, women's soccer coach Neil Turnbull said, "[I'm] supportive of the decision given the current situation and the present status of Dal athletics."

The university has been cautious to not repeat the mistakes made by the athletic department of the University College of Cape Breton. The Capers' fledgling football program had trouble supporting itself and ended up cannibalizing the budgets of other teams. From day one, Dalhousie stated that its main concern has been to ensure that the programs already in place not be compromised by football.

In keeping with this end, the board expressed concern for the "capacity of the athletics infrastructure to support another varsity program...at a time when pressures on management, facilities, and other services are already intense."

Football practices would potentially disrupt the practices of our nationally-respected men's and women's soccer teams.

cont'd on p.19: "Football"

Pass the popcorn Mega-classes proposed for Park Lane

BY REHAM ABDELAZIZ

Park Lane Cinemas may soon hold Dalhousie University's first mega-classes.

The Dalhousie Senate's Physical Planning Committee is proposing a pilot project that would see first-year Psychology classes moving to Park Lane theatres on Spring Garden Road.

The proposal was initially put forth to facilitate the problems associated with large classes. In addition, the pilot project could be used to determine the class dimensions and technology needed for classes in the planned Arts and Social Science Building (ASSB). Once the new building is ready to take students, the classes in Park Lane would move back on campus.

In order to determine interest in such a project, Psychology professor Marcia Ozier gave a presentation in the Park Lane theatres last Friday. The presentation demonstrated how the theatres could be used to accommodate the Psychology classes. Ozier highlighted

how the technology available could prove to be beneficial and useful for instructional purposes.

Advocates of the mega-classes argue that larger classes save professors' time by fitting up to three classes in one theatre, as well as increasing the class capacity which allows more students to register.

Critics argue that mega-classes are a quick solution to a larger problem stemming from a shortage of available professors. They argue that the quality of education in a mega-class is not the same as the quality of education found in smaller classes.

One member of the new Dalhousie Student Union executive views the problem on a more basic level.

"The biggest problem is the location," says Kevin Lacey, incoming vice-president academic/external.

"We need to try to keep people as close to the campus and the residences as possible."

Lacey adds that another problem involves the credibility of us-

ing a movie theatre for academic purposes. Such an act could harm Dalhousie's reputation as an academic institute.

An alternative to using the Park Lane movie theatres would be the McInnes room.

"The McInnes room is the best compromise to keep students on campus. In addition, it will increase student flow into the Student Union Building which is a good thing," says Lacey.

This possibility is still being investigated. A problem associated with using the McInnes room is that it is not available on Fridays due to various functions such as concerts. Lacey said that other alternatives have still not been investigated.

The physical planning committee is meeting to discuss the proposal again on March 27th at which time a decision will be made to either abort the proposal or send it to the vice-president finance. Costs have still not been discussed and negotiations with Famous Players, the owners of Park Lane Cinemas, are ongoing.

Summer jobs hit the Web

BY ERINN ISENER

The Dalhousie Student Employment Centre is branching into the World Wide Web.

In an effort to reach more students, summer jobs will be posted on the Web.

Catherine Cottingham, manager of the centre, said the new site will be up and running in two to three weeks. Students can access the site using dal.ca addresses.

Cottingham said that only jobs received after the site is operational will be posted, so students should still come into the office to look at old postings.

Overall, Cottingham said that summer job prospects are good. There have been no major increases or decreases in the amount of jobs

available to students this year.

To date, there is a broad range of jobs available. Posting listed in the office on the fourth floor of the Student Union Building (SUB) include summer camps, painters, and the Halifax Regional Municipality Recreation and leisure services.

Cottingham said students who haven't already started to look for summer employment should start thinking about it. The applications for government grant jobs (Federal Summer Student Employment Program) have been available since November, and the National Research Council deadline has passed.

Although some deadlines have already passed, Cottingham said that new job offers come in on a daily basis.

In order to attract potential em-

ployers, the Student Employment Centre solicits, advertises and directly markets companies and small businesses. The centre has handouts, magazines and advice for all students.

The Volunteer Bureau and Counselling Services are also located on the fourth floor of the SUB. The Volunteer Bureau is good for community involvement and Counselling Services provides interview sessions, where students can tape themselves and review their interview with a counsellor.

Cottingham said that it is important for students to take the initiative and approach companies themselves because it is not good enough to just want a job — you have to know the company or small business and want to be a part of it.

Fee fumbled

BY AARON BLEASDALE

The Board of Governors terminated football's bid to return to Dalhousie, but the fate of the student money already collected to help establish the program remains in question.

In the referendum held last spring, students voted 1122-930 in favor of a \$10 football fee. The money was to be collected annually as part of student union fees. This year's first instalment has amounted to \$100,000, but there's not going to be a team. So who gets the money?

"Clearly, if there's no longer a football team then that money won't be allocated to football," Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) president Brad MacKay said.

Although there was no policy put in place to dictate where the money would go un-

der these circumstances, MacKay said there are a number of possibilities.

One potential use for the funds is to help take care of some of the deferred maintenance that needs doing in the Student Union Building.

MacKay rejects the possibility that the funds would be shuttled into the new Arts and Social Sciences Building, to which the DSU voted to contribute \$1 million last term.

"Students have already made a massive contribution to that project; the money could be used elsewhere," he said.

Another question mark is the fee itself. It may not necessarily be eliminated. There has been talk around the DSU of redirecting it into other areas. If there is a referendum this year, it should address this issue.