

Business hours only when ill

Students coming to Dal next year will have to confine medical emergencies to business hours or endure waiting in the VG's emergency ward five blocks away. The night nurse at Student Health Services may no longer be there to help if grim budget predictions for next year prove true.

"We would hate to have the night nurse go completely," says Dr. Johnson, Director of Student Health Services. "They're here until midnight, and this is the only place students have to go if they are sick or upset." Four years ago the all-night infirmary was closed with the first of successive budget cuts.

"To a large degree we are self supporting," says Johnson. Most of expenses incurred by Health Services is recouped through MSI, the provincial health plan. The university currently funds part of Johnson's salary, support staff and office supplies, and of course the night nurses, he said.

Most sectors of the university faced budget cuts last year, and will face ones of similar magnitude in the coming fiscal year. Health services budget was reduced by \$50,000 last year from the year before. Johnson says his operation has been limited to the least amount that can be managed without seriously affecting the service.

When asked to project what might result from a large decrease in funding, Johnson paused and shook his head. "We'd be severely limited with what we could do" he stated simply. "There's really nothing else we could reorganize. Perhaps the secretarial pool." He continued it would be difficult to see patients without someone to check them in.

The service is well used. Johnson says that the staff there see about 25,000 visits per year, but insists students are not pampered. "It would be extremely difficult for students to be able to get problems sorted out within their lecture schedules if we didn't have this service available to them," he says.

Dalplex toes the line

There will be no user-pay system for students at the Dalplex next year so long as there is a nine per cent funding increase from the provincial government, says university Vice President (Finance) Robbie Shaw. Beyond that it's difficult to say.

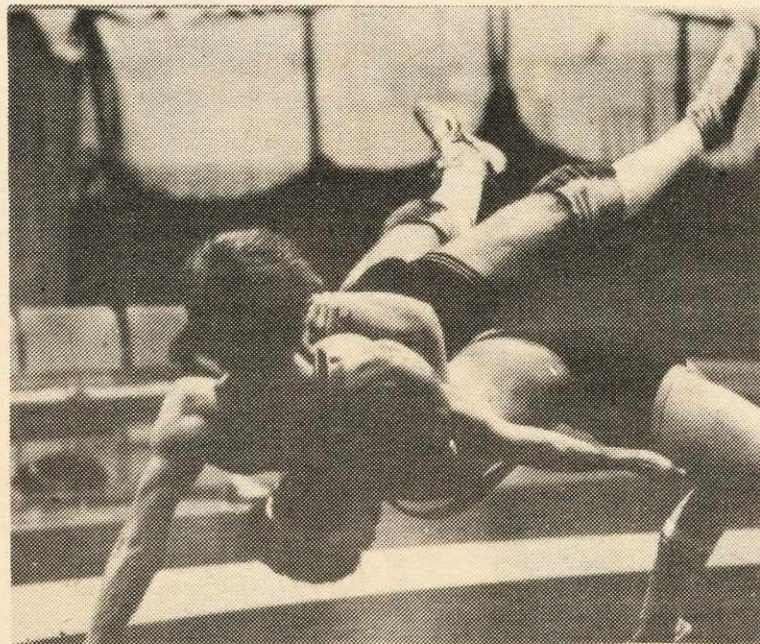
"The Dalplex operations have been undergoing an intensive budget review this year," he said. And the results proved fruitful. Dalplex reduced its deficit by \$200,000 for the 1982-83 fiscal year and hopes to reduce it another \$150-200,000 for 1983-84.

Lorne Ferguson, Manager of Administration for Athletic and Recreational Services, says the Dalplex operations have "worked closely with the administration" to improve revenues and efficiency. The target for next year is to reduce the deficit by \$183,000, he said.

This will be accomplished by continuing a more focussed advertising campaign to attract commun-

Compared to the general population, students in fact use health services a little less than the norm because they are on the whole younger and healthier. "But you'd be surprised at the number of elderly students we see," says Johnson.

Dalhousie can be described as a



Tigers to lose stripes

Picture a lonely football lying in the middle of a chewed-up Studley Field. That's how the football team's demise was depicted in a Pharos yearbook some years ago.

Next year's Pharos might have a deflated basketball, or a broken hockey stick or a volleyball net thrown carelessly in a corner. Varsity sports are going to be affected by the university's efforts to eliminate the deficit next year.

Lorne Ferguson, Manager of Administration for Athletic and Recreational Services, says the entire Dalplex organization has been instructed to maintain the budget for varsity sports in the

ity and corporate memberships at a higher fee rate, expanding the hockey camp program for youth, expanding fitness assessment and recreational programs and increasing rentals of the Memorial Arena and Studley facilities. Ferguson aims to increase revenues by 52 per cent over last year.

Ferguson said administrative costs will be curtailed and staffing will be reorganized and reduced.

Although security costs will increase, Ferguson is confident that recouping money lost from non-paying users and an improved quality service free from non-members will more than make up for the cost.

Students use the Dalplex "fairly heavily" Ferguson said, adding a just completed market study shows nearly 66 per cent of Dal students go there regularly. An interesting trend, he noted, is that upper year students tend to frequent the sportsplex more than newer ones, and says this is "probably a matter of being around the university".

large medical/industrial complex says Johnson, with chemicals, animals, drugs and gases all posing health risks which may create emergency situations. "Right now we're open evenings and weekends, 365 days a year. No other service stays open like that. And there's always someone on call."

coming fiscal year. That means inflationary costs will simply have to be absorbed. He says the options are to either trim "across the board" or eliminate one or more varsity sports. "I will have to consult with the people involved very shortly," he says.

Travel costs take up a significant portion of the budget, and transportation costs have been rising. Ferguson says these costs are necessary because "If one does not participate in league commitments, then it would weaken the whole system." A less than satisfactory level of participation would also weaken Dal's image in relation to other universities, he says.

Effectively, monies from one or more teams will have to be diverted to allow the other teams sufficient funds to attend their regularly scheduled tournaments. "The decision is whether a particular sport is to be offered," says Ferguson. And that is going to be a difficult choice to make.

Art Gallery to get it in the budget

The future of the Art Gallery may look fractured and fragmented, something like Picasso's "Nude descending the Staircase."

Last year the Art Gallery figured prominently on the chopping block as an "expendable" item in terms of university funding. With the rallying of Dalhousie and community support, it was spared, although it was granted \$5000 less than the previous year.

At the April 3 council meeting Vice President Finance Robbie Shaw announced the university would be looking for \$75-80,000 savings on the Art Centre, which includes the Art Gallery, the

Dal goes shopping

articles by
Catherine Ricketts
and Cathy McDonald



Rebecca Cohn Auditorium and the Dunn Theatre with a provincial nine per cent increase.

Director Linda Milrod said the Art Gallery "came back from last year's budget setbacks with the most ambitious program yet." She is pleased to say the Art Gallery will finish this year under its \$120,000 budget from the university despite a cut in real terms of 40 per cent of money available for exhibits and programming.

"We've worked hard to increase our visibility and have been very successful in maintaining a high profile," she said. One way to judge the efficiency of the operation is to look at the cost per visitor, she

said, and attendance has been up, meaning costs have gone down.

A contribution box has been placed at the Gallery entrance but Milrod said if funding decreases again the Gallery may have to charge admission. "The public expects to have the service — and free of charge," said Milrod. "And students pay the fees, its not an option, so they should have the service available to them."

When asked what would happen if the funding were decreased for next year, Milrod said the Gallery would endeavour to make "invisible cuts" by using volunteer staff, and reducing evening hours, or by float-