

"Lady Middleton... exerted herself to ask Mr. Palmer if there was any news in the paper. 'No, none at all,' he replied, and read on."
 — Jane Austen, *Pride & Prejudice*

SUBspace: the final frontier...

by Donald MacInnis

A major redirection is expected soon in the procedure for allocating space in the Student Union Building. This Sunday's Student Council meeting will discuss a draft proposal from the SUB Operations Committee.

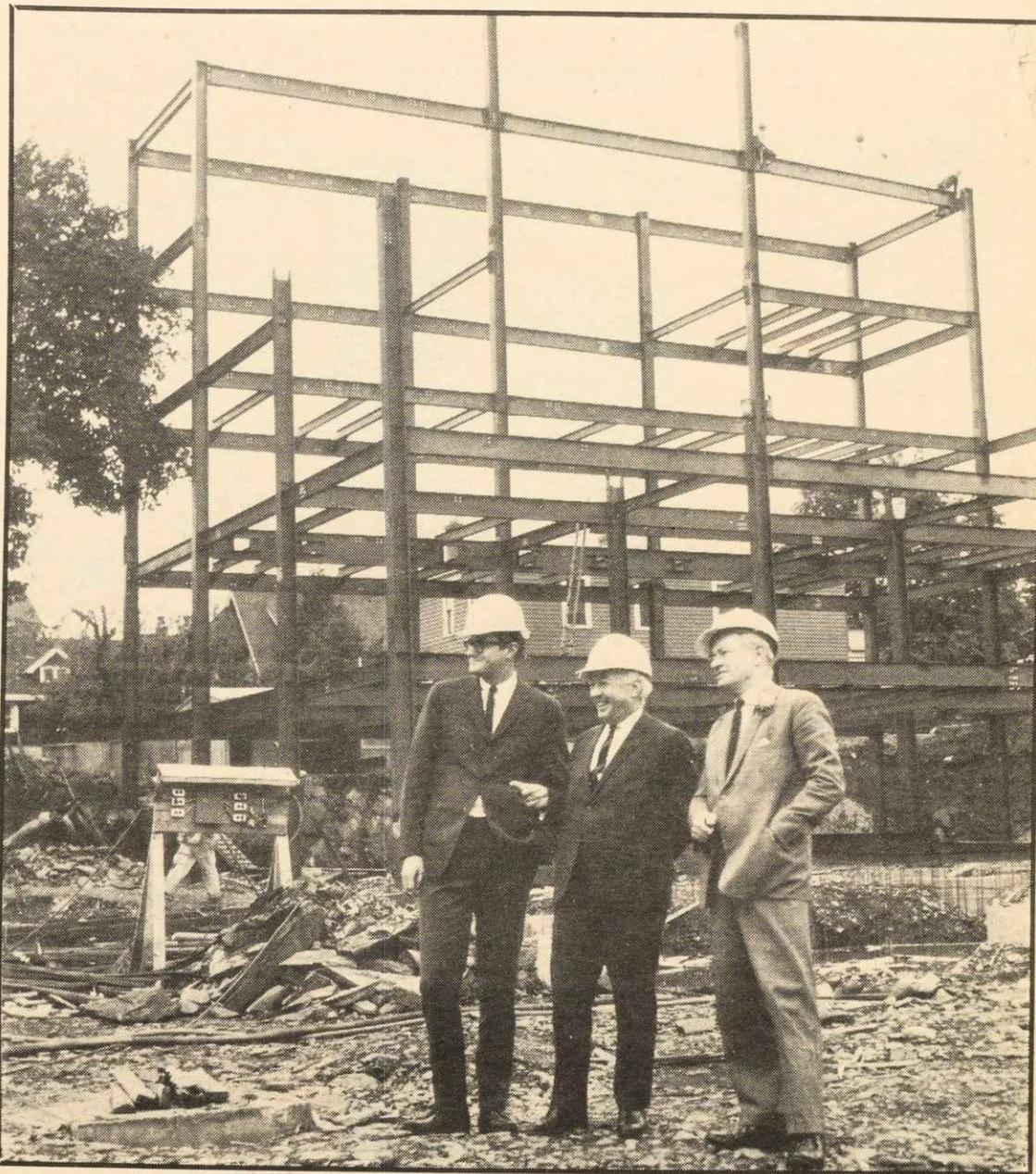
SUB Ops chairperson Terry Crawley says the concept involves "an exercise in creating a more efficient, optimum use of space available for the benefit of the student population. Presently, for example, students cannot find all university or student union services in a common area — they are spread out rather haphazardly between floors", says Crawley. The new thinking would create a more convenient arrangement where university services could all be located on the fourth floor and student union services on the third.

Student Council Treasurer and SUB Ops Technical Advisor Frank DeMont refers to this concept as "some shifting of people for spacial proximity". Vice President Crawley adds that the idea

also serves "as a framework to satisfy future demands for space allotment in the building." Organizations such as the Student Union of Nova Scotia, and groups such as Arts and Sciences societies, have indicated their interest in SUB space.

The proposal will attempt to fairly balance and accommodate those demands of existing tenants for more operating space. For example, Mark MacLeod of CKDU-FM submitted a proposal dated May 9, 1988 and entitled *CKDU-FM Space Solutions*. In it, he states that the radio station's expansion over the years in employees and resources has not been matched by additional SUB space allocation. "Lack of space has become the problem hindering CKDU's continued development. CKDU-FM requires an additional 1000 square feet in order to meet long term office space requirements for its employees, students and community volunteers (eg. a larger record library)... as a fully developed

continued on page 3



Back to the drawing board? Will space re-allocation mean stripping the SUB to its very core?

SUNS sets on MPHEC report

by Lyssa McKee

The long-awaited MPHEC funding review is being harshly criticized by the Student Union of Nova Scotia (SUNS). The report, released in January, is described by SUNS as "extremely vague" and leaves many issues open to question.

In a press conference on Tuesday, SUNS Chairperson Lara Morris outlined some of the concerns the union has with the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC) report.

SUNS' biggest objection is that the new funding formula, though changing the way money is allocated, does not deal with the primary problem of underfunding. Morris questions if the new funding scheme will work any better than the old one if the system is still underfunded.

"We are not happy with the

vagueness of the report, and we will not support change for change's sake. Dr. Adlington (the author of the report) says the present formula would work if properly funded. The Nova Scotia government should live up to its commitment to excellence and begin to fund universities better,"

says Morris.

The new funding system would be based on three- or five-year financial plans submitted by each university in the region. The commission would then evaluate these plans and assess an operating grant for each school. Universities which failed to receive the

money they needed would be forced to lobby for additional funding.

SUNS is concerned that the new funding system will become highly political, and will lead to cut-throat competition between Maritime universities. SUNS says that "the new funding formula tends to abandon the concept of regional coordination" and "will perpetuate unequal and uneven development of the regional post-secondary system."

Though SUNS is highly critical of the MPHEC report, it does recognize some positive elements. SUNS supports the recommendations made by the commission regarding increases in the financial aid system, and points out that such a review has not been done in eight years. SUNS also praises the concept of increased long-term planning on the part of the universities.

Cohn, Cohn, Gone?

by Karin Bergen

The Rebecca Cohn may soon be facing its last curtain call. Unless the provincial government begins to fund the Centre directly, current productions will become final acts.

"Dalhousie's Art Centre is the only one in Canada subsidized by a university to primarily serve the community at large", said Bryan Mason, VP of Finance and Administration at Dalhousie.

The bottom line, he said, is that the university cannot afford to continue that practice.

The Arts Centre has been subsidized by Dalhousie since it

continued on page 4

MSVU protests sexism

Angry Mount Saint Vincent students will rally Friday at 3pm outside their campus pub to protest their student union's booking of *Lambert & James*, a comedy act whose material caused an uproar last year when they played the Mount.

Rally organizers say the duo — who perform songs such as "She's 16, She's pregnant and it's not mine" — should not have been booked again this year.