

# Dalplex delayed

by Daniele Gauvin

The opening of the Dalhousie Sports Complex, originally planned for this September, has been re-scheduled for the end of 1980. According to Jim Sykes, Director of Planning and Development for the university, the completion date has already been adjusted twice. Last spring, a January opening was slated for the complex and then quickly changed to March following contractual difficulties with one of the sub-contractors.

The project's general contractors, Fraser Brace Maritimes Ltd., are presently embroiled in a dispute with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. The electrical union has been picketing a number of construction sites throughout Nova Scotia, including DALPLEX. According to Sykes, one of the union's grievances involves the right to decide which workers will be chosen for particular tasks. The union wants to maintain its present practise of sending whatever men are available to work on a project, while contractors want the right to choose particular electricians by name. Other grievances concern security and wages, according to Jerry Landry, assistant business manager for Local 625 IBEW.

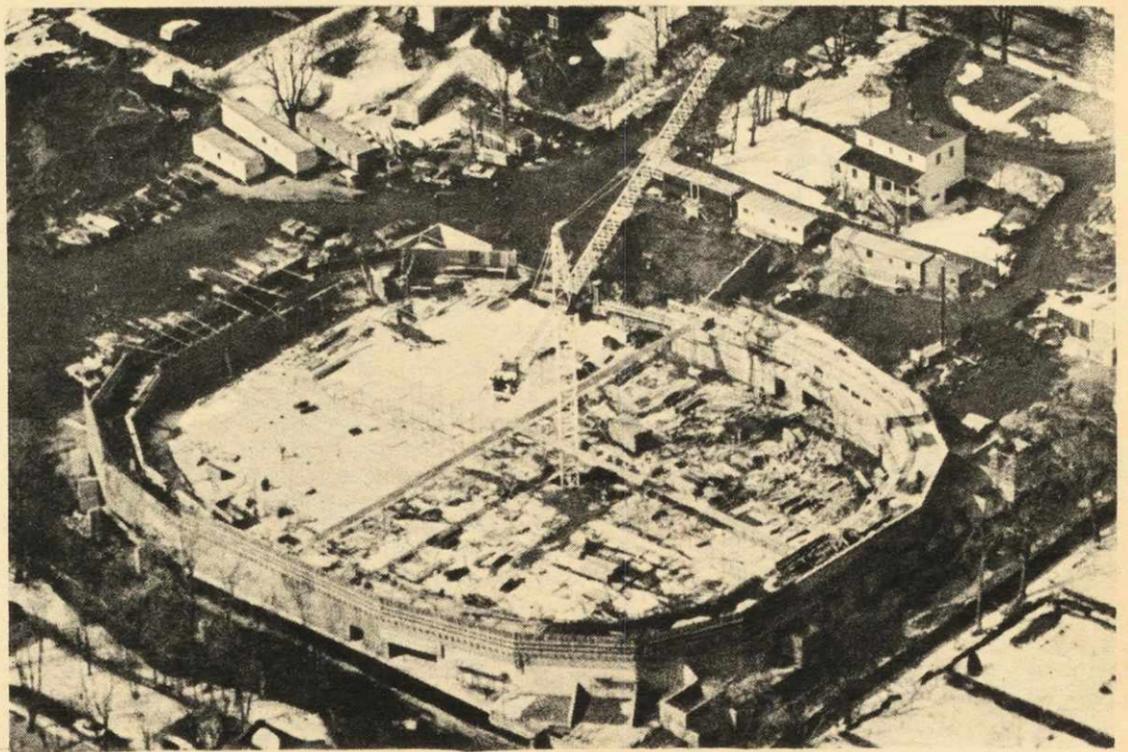
The union has been on

strike for nine weeks and although work hasn't stopped at DALPLEX because of it, there has been a general slowdown in activity, according to Roger Jollimore, an engineer at the Physical Plant.

The nearly completed swimming pool can't be dried out because giant fans haven't been available since the strike began. Other work areas haven't been as affected by the labour problems, according to Sykes. He said that the suspended roof, one of the most striking features of the complex, is now halfway through completion and the last shipment of steel for the structure is expected next week.

What can we expect once DALPLEX is operational? The Planning Department, in co-operation with the Phys. Ed. department and the architects, has included an Olympic size swimming pool, a giant gymnasium and modern facilities for the Phys. Ed. department within the complex. The new gym, twice the size of a football field, can be used as a playing surface for several different games at once. It also includes an indoor track and tennis/badminton courts. DALPLEX will also hold squash courts, ultra-modern changing rooms and coaching offices, according to Jollimore.

The cost of the completed



Dalplex from the sky.

Dal Photo/Morris

project, including the land, furniture and equipment, architect's fees etc., is expected to reach \$10,500,000, according to Sykes. Furniture alone involves an expenditure of half a million dollars, while the architect's fees (L.R. Fearn Ltd.) represent 6% of the total bill.

One person directly involved with the financing of DALPLEX is Irving Burke, director of the Alumnae Office. In the past year, Burke and a group of volunteers, including President Hicks, have raised

\$2,287,000 for the complex. The group hopes to raise another \$1,088,000 during the next two years to meet their fund-raising objective of \$3,375,000.

Other financial sources include the Federal government (\$200,000 towards the Olympic pool), Dalhousie students (\$350,000) and the alumnae themselves (\$300,000). The Provincial government is carrying the bulk of the costs with a contribution of \$6,925,000 under the University Assistance Act.

The price tag for the new facilities does not include a new rink. The location of a rink to replace the one which burned last spring is likely to be a priority topic at tonight's meeting of the Board of Governors.

The far away day when President Hicks will cut the ribbon to open the new DALPLEX is not getting any closer but with luck, the worse delays are behind and work will continue to progress towards that magical date.

## Varsity hockey rookies impressive

The Varsity Hockey team is already training hard in preparation for the November 10 opener against UNB in Fredericton. A total of 15 veterans and 27 newcomers have reported for the training camp. Most players had been advised to work on specific programmes during the summer and it seems to have paid off.

Among the 15 returning

players, high scorer and 1977-78 M.V.P. Shawn MacDonald heads the list with linemates Earl Theriault and Dan Cyr. Other returning forwards include Adrian Facca, Rick McCallum, Rick Gaetz, Jim Bottomley and Linus Fraser. On defense, the Tigers welcome back the 1977-78 AUAA all-star defenseman Allie MacDonald, along with sec-

ond year Peter Aldrich, Dan Mongeon and John Carter. Ray Off, the top plus and minus player over the last 2 years, will be working out on the right wing once again after a very successful year as a defenseman.

Goaltenders Ken Bickerton and Darrell Young return as two great local prospects who should give Dal the necessary

protection between the pipes. Glen O'Byrne and Eric Eisenhower, both with the Tigers early last season, are back with the team.

A welcome addition includes right winger Earl Jessiman, Coach Page's assistant instructor during the 1977-78 campaign. Earl has decided to concentrate all of his efforts at playing a real important role

in the Tigers' drive for a championship. He plans to leave his coaching role for one year and return to it for the 1979-80 season. Earl previously played under a full scholarship for 4 years at Penn State. He also played Jr. B hockey for the Halifax Centennials along with Mickey Ball and is well known in his hometown of Dartmouth

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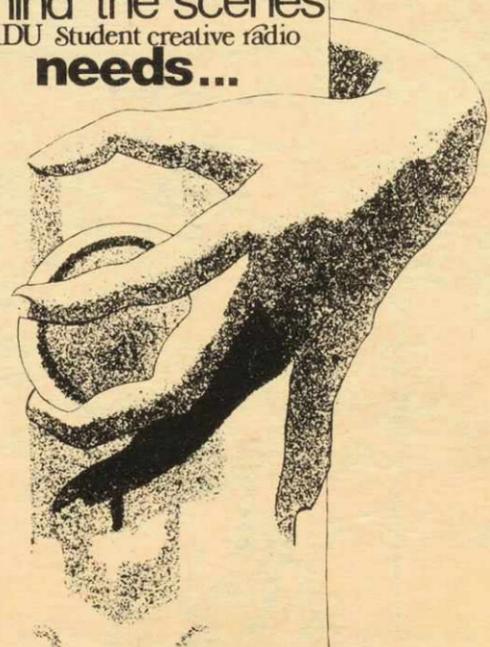
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