

No money to fix residences

By CHARLENE SADLER

WHILE DAHOUSIE RESIDENCES are in a state of general disrepair, revenue raised from the residences is used to support financially depressed academic budgets.

Although the problems may not be immediately apparent, Jamie MacMullin, Howe Hall representative on student council, says it is important to remember that students living in residence must put up with conditions every day.

"It's the wear and tear over the years," says MacMullin, who lists broken chairs, curtains and paint, washers and dryers, "and even broken tiles on the floor" that all have to be replaced.

"Another problem is leaky roofs," says MacMullin. "Cameron House's roof has been patched, but not fixed, and they're finding more and more work needing to be done," he says.

Studley House is one residence that is more prone to damage.

"It was cheaply built and needs repairs more often," MacMullin says.

In the past three years, it has become obvious to the Dal community that the residences are suffering.

One thing that transpired over the summer is the lay-off of maintenance people due to cut-backs.

"Someone has to be called in especially to change lightbulbs," says MacMullin.

Catherine Blewett, president of Dal Student Union, says she is annoyed that the annual one million dollar profit from residence fees isn't going to the ancillary budget which supports the cost of maintenance on the residences. Instead, much of the profit is being diverted into the general operating budget which supplies monies to academic departments.

"With the 3.5% cut to the



Yusaf Saloojee, chief Canadian representative of the African National Congress, spoke to Dal students on Oct. 8. See last week's Gazette for the story of his speech at St. Mary's. Hmmm, guess we have to get our act together. Photo by Todd Miller, Dal Photo.

departments, there is even more pressure on the ancillary to create a surplus," says Blewett.

She says poor academic and financial planning created these budget pressures.

"Making students make up for that is not fair," she says.

John Graham, assistant vice-president (university services) agrees that the residences presently operate at a surplus.

"Dal residence fees are the same as or less than most comparable institutions in the area," he says. "Were they paying the highest fees they would be justified in lowering them."

"I do think some monies should be put into a reserve fund for maintaining the buildings, which I don't feel is being done as

well as it should be," says Graham.

"A few years ago, about 1972 or 1975, the residences operated at a deficit and were supported by the academic budget," he says.

Jamie MacMullin would like to see the general living conditions improve in the residences.

"If the budget can give more money I would like some maintenance, as any human being would like to see conditions improve or stay the same at least, not decline," he says.

He expects the problem to be brought to the attention of the Board of Governors at their next meeting.

"When it comes to something as dear as living space, people will stand up for their rights."

Campaign ties one on

By DAVID OLIE and BILL OVEREND

Trees, lampposts and power poles in Halifax are sprouting ribbons of cloth and plastic as a group of concerned citizens try to make an impact on this month's civic elections.

The "Tie One On" campaign, launched on Oct. 4 in front of Halifax City Hall, is intended to draw voters' attention to the issues of development and planning, says Jon Murray, local architect and a coordinator of the campaign.

"The election was slipping away, and we needed a gimmick," says Murray, who came up with the ribbon idea. Murray says volunteer crews covered most key

areas in the city by Oct. 7.

Murray says the main objective of the campaign is to persuade voters to back candidates who intend to follow the Municipal Development Plan (MDP). The MDP, first adopted in 1978, is a comprehensive zoning plan designed to preserve the character of existing neighbourhoods and protect the environment and cultural landmarks of the city.

"We want people to vote for the Plan," says Murray.

Murray says he has been frustrated over the last three years by the "lack of respect" given to the MDP by the current members of City Council. He points to the United Equities proposal for the Hart House property, the proposed development on the Edmonds Grounds in Armdale and the proposed hotel develop-

ment on Barrington Street on the Green Lantern building site as examples of this "lack of respect."

On the other hand, Murray says public protest over these issues has not been as effective as it could have been.

"Concern has often been polarized around certain interest groups, but it's not just the concern of the few," he says. "We don't want to get involved in the emotions of the situation; we want results."

Murray says his group wants to increase public awareness of the MDP through the media and public hearings, and is backing candidates who are willing to follow the Plan.

"We are hoping to expose the records of the incumbent council-

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Women's society comes to life

By MARY ELLEN JONES

AN ATTEMPT TO BREATHE life into the dormant Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) women's committee has fostered debate among council members and has forced some female committee members to break away and form an independent student society.

Nancy Cameron, DSU community affairs coordinator and the woman who spearheaded the revitalization of the women's committee, says the controversy started when she brought an all-women membership list to council for its approval.

Some councillors were upset by men's exclusion from the committee, says Cameron. When it became apparent the DSU would insist men be allowed to join the committee, Cameron and some other women abandoned the council committee and formed an independent society.

"To save time and to stop unnecessary infighting, we decided to form a women's society with restricted membership," says Cameron.

"People are not going to stick around for the hassle," she says.

While Catherine Blewett, president of the Dalhousie Student Union, disagrees with an all-women committee, she questions the sincerity of the male councillors who nominated themselves for positions on the committee.

"I honestly think that anyone should be able to go but after two meetings if the men don't like it they wouldn't go. (They) wouldn't be interested other than the token first time to cause trouble," says Blewett.

Susan Sinclair, DSU arts rep., says men should be allowed on

the women's committee.

"Men on campus are defensive enough about 'feminists' and if they sit on the committee they will realize that feminists don't hate men but that they are very concerned about equality," she says.

Sinclair says a student union committee should not have "the exclusive clubbiness an all-women's committee would have."

Sean Sweeney, one of the male councillors who wanted to sit on the women's committee, says he offered because he "wanted to get a better understanding about women's issues."

"If the objective for the women's committee is to find solutions for women's problems then a man can play an important role on the committee," says Sweeney.

"You are talking about half the population of the world...if you deny entrance of men into the committee, you deny understanding of what the problem is all about," he says.

But the women who formed the new society disagree.

Cameron says women need support groups and a mixed committee does not meet that need.

"Women are looking for a private place to go to talk," says Cameron.

Cameron says the main goal of the society is to set up a women's centre on campus.

The society doesn't want the DSU women's committee abolished, says Cameron. "The society will be more active but on issues like campus security, it will be important for the two to work together."

Bus passes closer

By VALERIE MATHESON

A POSITIVE RESPONSE from students and the organized and cooperative efforts of Metro area student councils have brought student bus passes a step closer to reality.

The Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) met with the senior management and board members of the Metro Transit Commission and outlined their proposal for cheaper bus rates for students.

Reza Rizvi, executive vice-president of the DSU, says, "the bottom line, however, is that Metro Transit is losing money right now so there has to be some incentive for them to consider taking part in this proposal."

Metro Transit is worried it will lose revenue by granting student passes.

"The people we talked to at Metro Transit are not politicians; they couldn't give a damn about student unemployment. They just care about dollars and cents," says Barney Savage, vice-president external of the DSU.

The DSU lobbied unsuccessfully for student passes three years ago. This year, however, they feel they are properly prepared.

At this time there are eight

institutions in Halifax participating in this proposal. The Atlantic School of Theology, the Nova Scotia Institute of Technology, King's College, Mount St. Vincent University, the Technical University of Nova Scotia, and the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, and St. Mary's University.

The Students' Union of Nova Scotia has also decided to aid in the cause.

For the past two weeks the DSU has circulated a questionnaire survey to find out students' opinions concerning the passes.

"We don't have any income and it's our only method of transportation," says Kathryn Galey, a resident of King's.

"I think it's a good idea — I find it inconvenient to have to carry change — I travel on the bus at least ten times a week and I think I should have a discount," says Katie Smith, a Dalhousie student who travels from Clayton Park every day.

The issue has taken on greater urgency since rumours began circulating about a possible increase in regular bus fares from 65¢ to 75¢. Rizvi says the time to take a stand is now.

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