

News in brief

Memorial leads marketing competition

Memorial University business students were top winners at a marketing competition in Halifax last weekend.

Atlantic Canada's top university business students competed in the second annual Bristol Group Marketing Case Competition on Saturday, Jan. 31.

The winning team included Jim Hand, Nancy MacDonald and Brad Scott, all fourth-year business students at Memorial University in St. John's, Newfoundland. Two teams from the university of New Brunswick came second and third.

Students were given four hours to prepare a marketing case for presentation. Each team was given 30 minutes to present, with a 15-minute question-and-answer period.

Gold Bow Week at Dalhousie



Gold bow: a touching sentiment

Students may have noticed many gold bows have been attached to furniture and fixtures at Dalhousie this week.

The bows reveal all the items that have been donated to Dalhousie over the years.

Dalhousie placed the gold bows on the items to show the University's appreciation in a tangible way to all of those who have donated gifts either through the annual fund or the capital ideas campaign.

Local charities may lose tax break

If the Halifax Regional Municipality has its way, charity organizations in the region may soon begin paying tax.

The tax-free ride for non-profit organizations has gone on long enough, mayor Walter Fitzgerald was quoted as saying in the *Chronicle Herald*.

The mayor wants all organizations, except churches, to begin paying a minimum tax. He adds that if they don't, the general tax rate will have to go up.

A proposed bylaw, which will come back to council later this month, would allow some organizations to remain tax-free while requiring others to start paying either the applicable residential rate, or all or half of the commercial rate.

DSU referendum asks for more money

BY PHIL E. LEWIS

Students will have the power to voluntarily increase their student fees by voting on four referendum questions during this year's student union elections.

During the Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) elections, there will be four proposed referendum questions. Three of the questions pertain to the possibility of raising fees given to three societies, and one will be a vote on whether to continue the current levy for the Nova Scotia Public Interest and Research Group (NSPIRG).

The Dalhousie Women's centre is looking for a 35 cent increase in their levy from \$2 to \$2.35 so that it can continue to operate. The centre is an invaluable resource to women in the Dal community.

With the amalgamation of TUNS there is a "new" student paper on campus. *The Sextant*, Daltech's student paper, is proposing a 50 cent levy.

The *Sextant* was previously funded by the Technical University of Nova Scotia (TUNS) Student Union, but the DSU does not want to continue such an arrangement. Now *The Sextant* must campaign to receive its money directly from Dalhousie students.

The Dalhousie Gazette, and other Dalhousie societies with student levies, will have their budgets rise next year due to former TUNS students who will begin to pay DSU fees.

Initially, it was thought that The Gazette would provide its share of this money to *The Sextant*. But this idea was dismissed because if the funds were to be granted by The Gazette, *The Sextant* would lose editorial autonomy.

Students will also be asked if they wish to continue paying a \$4 levy to NSPIRG, which runs several different work groups focusing on a wide range of issues of social and environmental concern.

The final referendum question is to propose an increase in the levy for the World University Service of Canada (WUSC). WUSC is an organization that supports two refugee students each year to attend Dalhousie. The students pay 50 cents per year to support this cause, but due to the increase in inflation WUSC wants the levy to increase to \$1.

Dalhousie unveils new plans

Public finally allowed to see specifics of new Arts and Social Sciences Building

BY PAUL MANSFIELD

Dalhousie has unveiled plans for its first erection in over 20 years.

On Friday, Jan. 30, the school released details for the new Faculty of Arts and Social Science Building, expected to be up and running in the fall of 2000.

In total, there will be two new auditoriums (one seating 300 and the other seating 500 with a stage), 24 seminar/lecture rooms capable of accommodating up to 40 people, more than 150 offices with security cards instead of keys, six separate faculty lounges with kitchenettes and student lounges with plug-in sockets for lap-top computer users.

There is an outside courtyard in the center of the building where students and faculty can relax. The building will have a centralized air-circulation system inside and every room will have windows that open.

Graham Taylor, dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS), thinks the new building will have a significant impact on his faculty.

"There are two main benefits of the new building: it unites the Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences into one building instead of being isolated and scattered all over the campus as they have been up to this point, [and] the new auditoriums and additional classroom space."

Dalhousie president Tom Traves began the unveiling with a few brief words and then turned the meeting over to Jim Cowan, a member of Dalhousie's Board of Governors.

"[The building] will not only accommodate the needs which have been identified by the Faculty of Arts and Social Science," said Cowan, "but it will provide state-of-the-art teaching space and public space for the rest of the university and for the community."

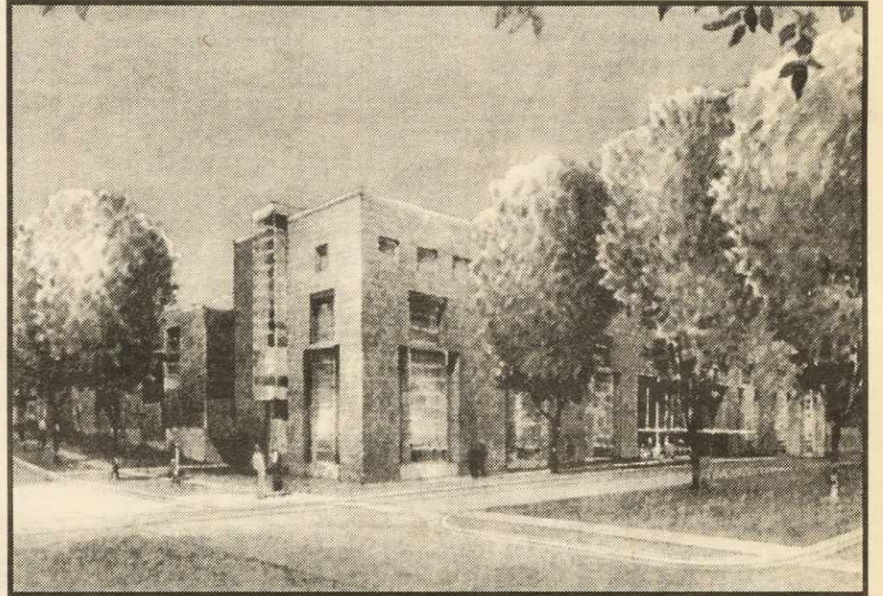
The presentation was then turned over to the one of the

architects who worked on the design of the new building — Jack Diamond.

Diamond spoke about how his team came up with the design and some of the concerns it addressed. The team examined

process working with all of the various groups involved with this building," he added.

Diamond said that sometimes groups might make it almost impossible to operate, but not in



The FASS Building: An artist's rendering of what will be Dalhousie's first erection in over 20 years.

the current set-up of every department, the fact that families lived in other houses around the area, and how a new building would affect all of those involved, including Dalhousie's own surrounding buildings.

Diamond went on to address other concerns such as parking and security. Currently, the parking lot across from the Student Union Building (SUB) holds 120 parking spaces. The new building will have an underground parking lot that will hold 114 spots. He adds that security should not be a problem with the new building. The parking lot will be under surveillance and Dalhousie Security will be moving into the new building in a location that allows them to look into the parking lot at all times.

"We are very much finished the schematic design phase. The next phase of this will be to revisit the individual departments and get the exact specifics of what they will require in their office," said Diamond about where the design process is at present.

"It has been a very encouraging

this situation.

Bill Lord, Dalhousie's director of Facilities Management, recalled a member of the French Department considering it a miracle that everything everyone wanted has been accomplished in this one building.

However, not all of the departments of the Arts and Social Sciences will be moving into the new building. Members of the Theatre, Music, and Political Science departments will not be joining their fellow colleagues in the transition. Theatre and Music wish to remain in the Arts Centre and Political Science chose to remain in the A and A Building.

Taylor said these decisions was based on the needs of the individual departments, and were not the result of the departments being difficult.

"They really are happy where they are and really, they don't need to move. The other faculty houses are deteriorating and cannot be maintained so the need is greater for them right now," Taylor said.

DSU offers no guarantees on course evaluations

BY PHIL E. LEWIS

The Dalhousie Student Union promised to have course evaluations done in time for students to choose classes, but there are no guarantees.

"The course evaluations for this year are right on schedule and should be finished in early summer," said Kevin Lacey, Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) vice-president academic/external.

The DSU ran a platform during last year's election to have the course evaluations completed in time for students to pick their courses for the following year. However, while Lacey seemed optimistic, he did not confirm that

they would be ready for course selection.

"It is my understanding that the system implemented by [DSU president] Chris Adams last year, [means] that the processing takes a very short time. I don't know the exact date, but it may even be up and running by summer time."

The course evaluations will take a different form this year. In past years, the DSU hired students to distribute the evaluations to as many classes as they could. Upon completion of the evaluation, the students would have to write a short paragraph summarizing their comments. The students would then receive

an \$11 honorarium for each one completed, with a maximum earning of \$140.

This year Lacey expects to get the student body to voluntarily fill out the survey. There are approximately 40 questions to fill out on this year's model.

"At the present time we are working to shorten the survey because it is taking on average about 20 minutes and that is too long," Lacey said.

In conjunction with the written survey, the DSU is also trying to put together an Internet version.

"We are trying to see what method would be easiest for students," he said.

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