

# Board secrecy is necessary says Dal admin prez McKay

By MICHAEL DANIELS

The Board of Governors makes all the long-term decisions at Dalhousie University, and they do it in complete secrecy. But there is a reason for that, says Andrew McKay, university president.

The Board of Governors holds all its meetings in closed sessions. Since 1945, the minutes of those meetings have also been closed.

McKay says the meetings are closed because of concern that individual members would find people observing the meetings intimidating.

"It is necessary to discuss important issues and that involves stating personal views," he said. "It's not fair to the individual or the group if that view is taken as if it were a view of the entire group."

Geoff Martin, a student representative on the Board of Governors, disagrees.

"Board of Governors secrecy is an ill-advised policy and is very destructive," says Martin. He says the danger is "it perpetuates this ivory tower image of universities."

"The Board of Governors is more secretive than the Cabinet," Martin said. "I can see where it would be necessary in sensitive matters, but most of the Board's business is so trivial that it would be of public benefit to have open meetings."

In 1983 there was discussion on the Board of holding open meetings. It was decided instead to provide capsule coverage of meetings.

In the past month Board meeting minutes up to 1963 were made open, but it still required a letter of permission from the president to see them.

McKay says the secrecy of the minutes is required to protect the interests of persons referred to in the minutes.

"It is possible, if someone wished, to take something said in

the minutes out of context.

"All businesses have concerns about their papers being open," McKay said, comparing Dalhousie to other business interests.

The Board of Governors was created in 1863 as a corporate body, responsible for making all the financial and administrative decisions at Dalhousie. Its membership includes 25 persons appointed from public circles, 12 persons appointed from the Alumni Association and four student representatives.

The Board has been criticized in the past about members of industry being appointed to university positions.

McKay attributes the criticism to activist groups on campus, rather than any problem within the Board of Governors. He did not say to which groups he was referring.

"To the best of my knowledge, Board members have always acted in the interest of the university, despite any connection with industry," he said.

McKay denies reports from groups like the New Democratic Youth that certain individual members have been biased toward companies they were connected with when awarding contracts.

Geoff Martin says as far as he knows, the Board of Governors ultimately approves all financial matters, and that would include the awarding of contracts.

McKay says the Board has been making efforts to appoint some leading businessmen.

"We [the Board] felt they could be helpful," he says, "and they have been helpful."

One area of improvement on the Board has been student representation, says McKay.

"Of the four students nominated, two are elected at large," said McKay.

In the past only one student representative was actually elected. □



## Graduate student centre in limbo

**VANCOUVER (CUP)**—The fate of the graduate student centre at the University of B.C. is still up in the air.

Last spring the administration took over the centre, citing a graduate student society deficit of more than \$100,000 as a reason. The graduate student society argued that the administration had violated a previous contract.

Now the graduate society has rejected an administration report recommending that the two groups manage and operate the centre collectively and is considering legal action against the administration.

Graduate society president Micheal Ramesh said the society does not want the administration to have any control over the centre and wants to be compensated for lost revenue due to the takeover.

## Frat rats deny they promote violence

**CALGARY (CUP)**—Some students at the University of Calgary are upset by a poster for a frat house party depicting a woman being chased by a man on a horse with a whip in his hand.

"The ad depicts a female as the potential object of a male directed violence," states a letter of protest to the student union from the social welfare students society.

The poster advertised a Sept. 14 party at the Zeta Psi fraternity house sponsored by a group calling itself the Thoroughbred Racing and Breeding Society, and was posted around campus.

No one from the society could be reached for comment, but the fraternity was quick to disassociate itself from the group.

"I saw it and I didn't initially see the cartoon, let alone its content," says Zeta Psi president Joel Brown.

"The ideas that have been put forward by this poster are repugnant and we don't agree with them," says Brown. "The event itself has happened and we would like it not to be blamed on us." □

## High costs keep third world students from attending Dalhousie

By ELIZABETH DONOVAN

"International students from poorer countries are finding it increasingly difficult to study here in Halifax," says Karanja Njorogé, Dalhousie's International student coordinator.

Njorogé says the number of international students from Africa, the Caribbean and the Indian Subcontinent has decreased, while the number of students from more affluent countries has increased.

Njorogé receives notices from qualified international students accepted by Dalhousie. A greater number of students from poorer countries were admitted but have not come. 50 per cent of the students accepted from Africa could not afford to come.

Most students from developing countries depend on scholarships from either Dalhousie, Commonwealth or the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

"If it were not for scholarships there would be no students coming from the poorer regions of Africa and the Indian Subcontinent," says Njorogé.

A student on a CIDA scholarship receives \$550 dollars a month. Although the scholarship covers tuition and differential fees Njorogé says these students still cannot afford the rising cost of living in Halifax.

Patricia Brooke, Atlantic CIDA representative, says CIDA scholarships do not account for regional differences in cost of living.

"It would be too difficult to administer these scholarships if they were to vary according to region," says Brooke.

Dave Phillips, Saint Mary's student union president, says international students from developing countries can't cope with the strain of differential fees.

"Transportation costs, differential fees and rising cost of housing often don't give third world students a chance," says Phillips.

Njorogé says Halifax's expensive housing and differential fees could drive students away from studying at Dal.

"Students are starting to go to Memorial University where there is no differential fee," says Njorogé.

Yvette Webster, a Caribbean student at Dal, says international students also contend with discrimination from landlords.

"I called to inquire about a place and I was told there was no place available," said Webster. "I got a Canadian friend of mine to call the same place and she was told there was a vacancy." □



Dalhousie's Board of Governors holds all its meetings in closed session. Mary C. Sykes was able to sneak in and take this photo.