

French courses overcrowded

by IAN MACLEOD

MANY DALHOUSIE STUDENTS eager to learn French have been left out in the cold this year due to a chronic shortage of French classes at introductory levels.

The department's shortage of class space has been ongoing for the past three or four years, according to department officials. About 150 students a year, the equivalent of six large classes, are being turned away due to overcrowding.

"Many students arrive at Dal after working very hard all summer to get here, to find the courses they wanted already full and they never seem to get warned about the problem," says Dr. Michael Bishop, head of the French department.

Bishop says the basic problem is the department's shortage of instructors, which reduces the number of class sections available. He says the French faculty now face the ethical problem of educators who must either turn away eager students or teach overcrowded classes of students who cannot possibly get the individual attention necessary in language courses.

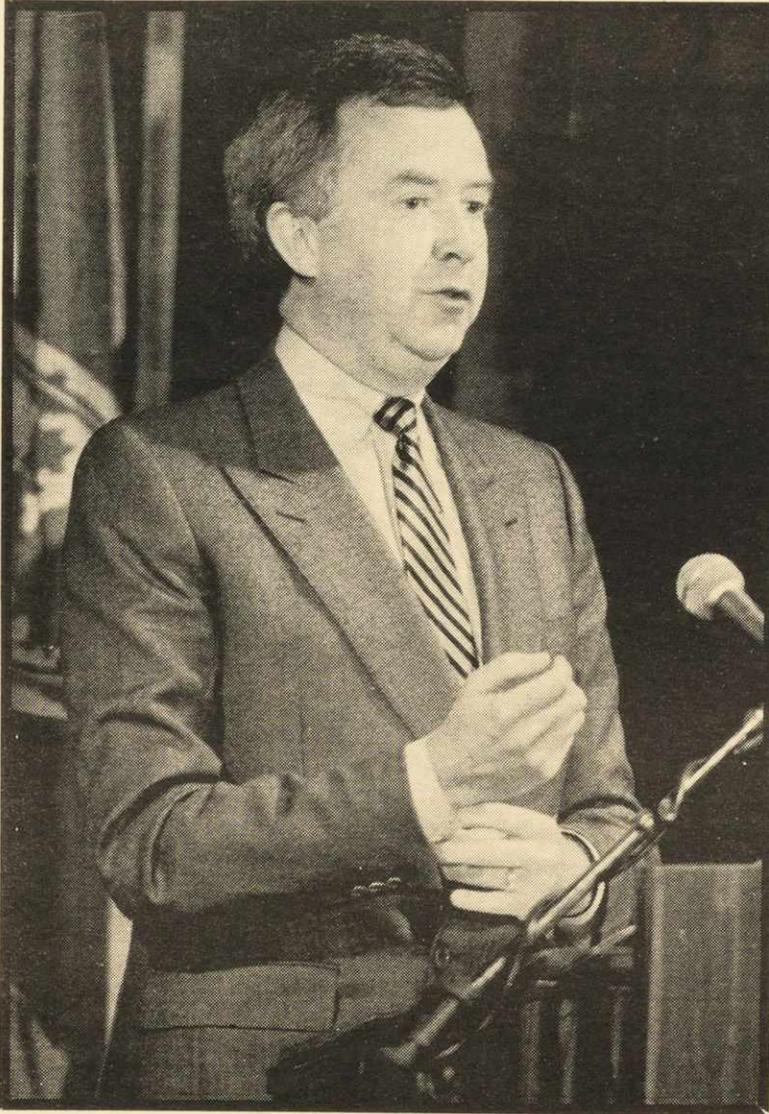
"Language skills and communications courses could deteriorate into lecture-style courses where the calibre of spoken French will most likely suffer," says Dr. Edward Gesner of the department, "yet the administration keeps expecting us to increase class sizes every year."

"They (the administration) do not recognize the demands of students in this regard," says Bishop. "They seem unhappy to have new students to the extent that they will not accommodate the number of students trying to enter certain programs. There could at least be an official letter warning new students to register as early as April."

"When such patterns of overcrowding exist as they have here over the last few years, the administration should open some positions for one or two years to aid understaffed departments," Bishop says. "At present, they only approve extra-staffing as late as August or even September, when it may be too late for many students."

One professor in the department is currently on extended leave of absence. The position is still vacant because under its collective agreement with faculty the administration does not have to fill positions under such circumstances.

Other departments are also faced by faculty shortages. Some students of Psychology and Sociology have been sitting on floors during lectures in required courses because of overcrowding.



Joe Clark spoke at the Killam Library Sept. 14 on Canada's technological opportunities in the Arctic. Time to get our act together, suggests the external affairs minister. Photo: Russ Adams, Dal Photo.

\$500 million not too much

HALIFAX (CUP) — If Canada does not stake out a firm claim to its north, countries with more "technological" ability will exploit opportunities there, federal external affairs minister Joe Clark says.

Speaking at the Killam library on Sept. 14 to a meeting of the Halifax branch of the Canadian Institute of International Affairs (CIIA), Clark repeatedly referred to the threat to Canada's northern sovereignty as a contest of opportunity and technology.

"If we don't seize the opportunities that are now ours there, we might lose those opportunities because they will be taken away by the practice of or by the claims of others," says Clark.

Clark says the "others" include the United States, Germany, Japan and the Soviet Union, countries that "already have or are developing the technology to operate in Canada's north."

The US demonstrated its technology this summer when its coast guard icebreaker Polar Sea sailed through the Northwest Passage without seeking permission from Clark or prime minister Brian Mulroney. The Canadian government was advised of the Polar Sea's voyage in advance and invited to put observers on the vessel.

The US says it did not have to ask permission because the Passage forms part of international waters.

Last week the federal government introduced a series of measures to reinforce Canada's

claim to the waters surrounding its arctic islands, including plans for the construction of a Polar Class 8 icebreaker capable of year-round patrols in the arctic.

The icebreaker will cost \$500 million, but Clark says that's not too much.

"This government is not about to say Canada cannot afford our arctic," he says.

Susan Ralston, chair of the Halifax branch of the CIIA, says while the Institute did not ask Clark to travel to Halifax to address its meeting, it jumped at the opportunity when Clark's office called and offered his address.

Ralston says the CIIA is a non-profit organization that wants to provide a forum for discussion of international affairs.

By Lois Corbett
for Canadian University Press

Law school heats up

By JAMIE GLAZOV

DESPITE MAJOR INCONVENIENCES facing students and professors this year, things are getting back to normal at the Weldon Law school.

Four weeks after the fire, which resulted from a lightning strike and the destruction of the fifth floor of the 19 year old building, activities and studies are solidly under way.

The law school's administrative staff has moved to the fourth floor of the Killam

Student Union miffed at Registrar

By CHARLENE SADLER

WHAT'S GOING ON?! \$1025.00 down just to register as a student at Dal?! That's what a lot of students who are registering late are asking and student council is angry.

Catherine Blewett, student union president, knows of one case where a student registering after Sept. 7 was able to pay \$600 cash to the registrar plus the remainder in post-dated cheques but the payment was not accepted and, consequently, the student could not be registered.

This case, one of many, is a result of Dal's new fee payment policy whereby a student registering late (after Sept. 7) must pay not only a \$25 late fee but their entire first term instalment of \$1000 in order to be fully registered. No less will be accepted and any person unable to raise the entire amount is not legally considered a student at Dal.

"It's not that the students don't have the money," says Blewett. Some students are still awaiting their final pay cheque, back-pay, or vacation pay. For a foreign student it can take 20 days to transact a bank note, she says.

Reza Rizvi, student union executive vice-president, agrees with Blewett's statements.

"There are reasons why students can't be at university during the first week," says Rizvi. "Some students have just gotten off the plane and have other things to worry about. And interbranch banking is not available to everyone," he says.

Rizvi agrees that students should register before the deadline and sees the fee as an incentive for them to do this, but says, "if that's the point they want to make why charge such a ridiculously high fee?"

"If the university decides to penalize students, imposing financial punishment is not a good thing because students don't have many financial resources," says Blewett.

If the university is going to impose this policy they should have their own act together, says Rizvi. He says he knows of cases where people have received letters of acceptance from the university after the registration date.

"What will the university do in those cases?" Rizvi asks.

Long line-ups are another indication that the system isn't working. There were cases of people waiting in line two days until the deadline for registration had passed.

"At 4:30 they cut the line off," says Blewett. "At least in banks they'll finish the line," she says.

Another complaint about the new policy is the lack of publicity the university gave to it. Neither Blewett nor Rizvi knew of it until they began to receive student complaints. It's not making the policy known that really angers Blewett.

"They should let the students know of changes, if they want to make registration more friendly and conducive to good relations," she says.

Though university officials say the new policy was spelled out on the reverse of this year's fee schedule, included in all registration kits, Rizvi says this announcement was clearly inadequate.

Heather Sutherland, chair of the Council of Student Life and director of alumni relations was also not privy to the changed registration policy.

"It came out of the blue. I don't understand it myself," she says. "The big point is that it wasn't published. Students didn't know it was happening. The last thing they need to hear is that they have to pay more money."

Sutherland is also concerned that it will hurt alumni relations.

Blewett and Rizvi both know of students who have left Dal for other universities because of the problems facing them.

There are other complications with students not being fully registered.

"You aren't a student until you're registered," says registrar Mary MacGillveray. "You're not on the class list without paying and there are waiting lists to get into classes." The university likes to know who's in class, she says.

In an effort to voice their complaints the Council of Student Life is sending a letter to the Dalhousie business office and alumni are being encouraged to do the same.

"We're going to stop it," says Blewett. "They can't just change a policy." But numbers are needed to give the protest strength, she says.

Library, also home to a vast law library collection.

"We're moving right along, settling in quite smoothly," says Mildred McDonald, administrative assistant Dean to the law school.

The law library collection in the Killam is expected to remain in its place for at least the next two years, until an annex is built next to the Weldon building.

The Weldon building itself will be ready for occupation by Christmas of this year. This,

however, has not prevented students from attending classes. Law classes have already begun in other locations on campus, including the SUB and the Institute of Public Affairs.

"Things are going better than expected," says Brent Cotter, associate dean to the law school. "The students have adjusted amazingly well and there has been almost no complaining. Many of the students have even helped and volunteered their services to help everything get

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