

Athletic Complex not in near future

South St. residents evicted

by Mike Donovan

During the opening ceremonies of the Dalhousie Rink in the fall of 1933, the President of the University remarked that the rink would "soon" be followed by the "construction of a swimming pool" and Athletics Centre. Thirty-nine years later a site has been set aside on the south end of LeMarchant Street.

Plans in the Engineering Office at the Thermal Plant project a building which will cover the area behind the S.U.B. extending across LeMarchant Street to the rink. (This would, of course, necessitate the blocking off of LeMarchant Street). The Director of Planning and Developing at Dalhousie, Jim Sykes, argues that this site is essential because of its location near the focus of student activity on the Studley Campus.

The Athletics Complex would include a swimming pool and a gymnasium or a field-house plus a service centre for the Physical Education Department. The entire complex is estimated to cost \$5,000,000, of which \$500,000 has already been pledged from an outside philanthropic organization.

Considering the moratorium on University construction and

its extension until the Spring of 1973, it is apparent that the balance will not be forthcoming. Also considering the decline in student enrolment and the growing trend of governments to withhold public money from the 'seedbeds of revolution', the Universities, it seems possible that Dalhousie will not receive financial assistance for the purpose of construction for a long time to come.

Nevertheless, Dalhousie has proceeded to issue notices of eviction to the tenants of the four buildings it owns along South Street. The student s residing in house #6169 were out Sept. 1 and the house now sits empty. One former resident of this house, Scott Proudfoot, regretted leaving the house partly because of its convenient location but also because of a sentimental attachment he shared with the other residents towards the house. He is now living in Howe Hall which he describes as a "hole."

South Free School, which occupied another house, was relocated and has already moved. Earth Household, a halfway house and winter hostel for transients, has received notice to be out by Nov. 1.

Camelot, home for boys under the directorship of a priest,

John Bosco, has also received notice of eviction. The homes will be torn down and the area will be used as a parking lot until construction on the Athletic Complex begins.

This also serves the purpose of focusing attention on the house of the "hermit", 6171 South Street. The elderly occupant of this house lives alone and refuses to sell out to the University. Since the house is in an advanced state of disrepair, it is hoped that it will be condemned and destroyed by the City of Halifax.

Despite the need for parking and considering that it may be another thirty-nine years before the Athletics Centre is constructed, it seems immoral to destroy four perfectly habitable homes, especially in light of the housing crisis both around Dalhousie and throughout the City of Halifax.

It is clear that the Administration of Dalhousie lacks a social conscience to the community and blatantly exhibits a total disregard for the cries of students demanding decent residences. The priority should not be an expansion of the Physical Education Department but rather the development and preservation of pleasant housing within the focus of the University.



gary szulewicz/ dal photo



Election Special next week