

Departmental cuts looming?

"I believe that theatre will be on the block again,"
— DSU president David Cox.

BY DANIEL CLARK

It has been almost two-and-a-half years since former Dalhousie president Dr. Howard Clark announced plans to cut the Music, Theatre, Information Studies, Public Administration, and Costume Studies departments.

The unilateral closure suggested by Dr. Clark was averted when Daniel Soberman ruled in favour of the Dalhousie Faculty Association (DEA) in their arbitration suit with the university. Mr. Soberman agreed that the proposed cuts violated the collective agreement of the DEA.

However, that may be a temporary solution — there are some people who believe that these departments still aren't safe.

"I believe that theatre will be on the block again," said Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) president David Cox. "I think with the amount of cuts that are coming down, that anything is up to go. This is just an opinion of mine, but with the kind of numbers the President's Budget Advisory Committee (BAC) are talking about..."

Dalhousie president Dr. Tom Traves agreed that no department is safe.

"We don't know what the cuts will be," said Dr. Traves. "BAC has made recommendations based on the projected economic situation, but until we know what that situation will be like, I won't deal in hypotheticals."

The most recent BAC report — released last November — predicted budget shortfalls totalling \$11.2 million, or 10.8% of the operating budget.

"The university is trying to spread it around as much as possible," said Cox. "I don't know if we will see departments vertically cut, but you have to believe that

some departments are at their bare bones now."

The university has only been able to prepare the outline for next year's budget — anything beyond that must wait until the final numbers are in from the government, said Dr. Traves.

Cox agreed. "Right now we just have to sit and wait," he said. "I can't complain that there won't be an arts department, because I don't know that. I hate it. We only have very limited access to information."

But if cuts are deemed necessary, the marked departments will not be fighting alone, said Theatre Department Chair Lynn Sorge.

"The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences have said that they do not support the cutting of these or any departments," she said.

The support the Theatre, Music, and Costume Studies departments received when the cuts were announced on September 22, 1993 was overwhelming. Letters arrived from all across Canada, the United States, and even Great Britain. A press conference organized in the Dunn Theatre turned into a rally.

"They packed the theatre, the wings, the aisles, and even out into the hall; 25 speakers from the community gave their support to these departments," said Sorge.

The support inspired the theatre department to expand rather than shrink and hide, said Sorge.

"I feel that we now offer a stronger program and a more viable program," she said. "We have created writing and introductory acting classes, we have strengthened all of our academic programs, including our honours program."

"We have opened up Costume Studies to other students," said Sorge. "Before, only Costume Studies students could take classes

in the program, but now certain classes are open to anyone that is interested."

Also, the movement of the Costume Studies department to an off campus location should not be seen as an attempt to separate it from the school, and therefore make it easier to cut, said Sorge.

"Dalhousie is sometimes seen as the 'Ivory Tower,' and I think moving Costume Studies downtown gives us a more visible presence," she said.

"Theatre enrollment is up incredibly," said Sorge. "Especially in the first year — it has nearly doubled. In addition, the solidification of the four year acting program has also increased the number of theatre students we teach. We are also considering corporate sponsorship in the very near future."

The arts departments now also charges auxiliary fees for some of their classes with this money going directly into the departmental budget.

"We would do anything to keep those fees off the students backs, it would be wonderful to do so, but if we had I think our budget may have been cut a lot more than it need be," said Sorge. "Before we did this we told the students what we were thinking, and asked their opinion. Not one student indicated that they would not pay these fees."

Rather than cutting departments, Cox favours faculty cuts and salary roll backs.

"If we want Dal to stay the same, then we will have to roll back salaries, and cut back on faculty," he said. "Professors make a lot of money, and they don't want to hear this. We can't afford to pay labour, which is 75-80% of the costs here, and you have cut where the expenses are."

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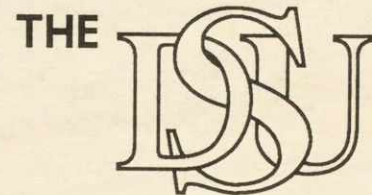
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RCMP Summer Student Program — The RCMP Summer Student Program applications are now available. Eligible applicants include law related or social science students. For complete information about the program visit the centre soon. Application deadline, March 5/96.

Part-time Positions — Part-time employment opportunities are posted daily. There are a number of various positions being offered, the boards should be checked weekly.

Dartmouth Parks and Recreation — Applications for summer employment with Dartmouth Parks and Recreation are now available at the centre. Copies of the job descriptions are available for reference only. An employment information session will be held at the Findlay Community Centre, Monday March 11, from 3:00-4:00 p.m. Applications will be accepted until March 22, 1996.

DAGS — The Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students is offering a General Manager position. This is an immediate position involving responsibilities such as Managing the Graduate House Social Club, and providing support and assistance to the executive and council. Deadline Date is March 11/96.

Teaching English in Korea/Japan — There are a number of job opportunities for English teachers in Korea and Japan. These recruitments are posted at the centre, and resource material is available. The most current posting being Matty's School of English in Japan, is a job opportunity for the summer. More information, a complete listing of qualifications, and an application is available at the employment centre. Application deadline is April 10/96.

Summer employment — There are several jobs available with various camps for the summer. Such camps include Arthur Kidston Memorial Camp; Camp Wahanowin, Camp Glenburn, and Camp Tidnish. Applications are available at the employment centre. Several other summer employment opportunities are posted daily, visit the employment centre at least weekly.

On Campus employment — The position of Operation Provident/Operation Identification Coordinator is being offered once again this year. The individual would work ten hrs. per week, on average, for twenty-four weeks per year. The Security Department is seeking an individual that possesses above average organizational skills, an ability to deal effectively with University employees and works with a minimum of supervision. Applications are available at the centre, deadline date March 8/96.

Camp Wahanowin — Camp Wahanowin, an Ontario organization, is offering job opportunities for the summer. A variety of jobs are being offered including support staff; counsellors; specialists; and health centre staff. A reference package will be available at the employment centre, with a complete listing of job descriptions. They are seeking creative, flexible, and skilled individuals. There will be an information session on Tuesday, March 12/96, 3rd floor, room 307, Student Union Building. Applications should be submitted to the employment centre before that time.

Federal Summer Student Employment Program — FSSEP applications are still available at the centre, please pick them up as soon as possible.

Abitibi-Price — Abitibi-Price is seeking ten talented people who are willing to work, learn, and grow within a rigorous one year mentoring program. Eligible applicants must hold a Master's or PhD in Engineering or Science, or an MBA (with a science background). For more information, visit the employment centre.

Maritime Marlin Travel — Maritime Marlin Travel is offering a term position between April 30-August 31. Applications are available at the employment centre, deadline date, March 15/96.

Helpful Tips — There is very helpful reference material available at the employment centre offering tips on resume writing, cover letters, job search, and interviews. Visit the employment centre, our office hours are Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.