

Pre-registration lessens confusion

by Emmi Duffy

Dalhousie University's population increased by approximately 1000 this year, as 6350 full time and 755 part time students registered for classes three weeks ago. Of these, 1600 were first year students, an increase of 400 over last year.

Pre-registration was tried again this year to alleviate problems during registration week. About 60% of the returning students made use of this method, according to acting registrar, P. Griffiths. He was pleased with the figure.

"The main purpose of pre-registration is to help the students, not the administration. The only reason we would do it again is if it would benefit the students."

"This year we've had a lot of correspondence. We were able to write and answer students' questions which we don't have time to do during registration. For the benefit of those who will graduate in May and who have returned their graduating cards, we were able to check their classes and advise them that they had incorrect classes or to take alternative classes. This ensured that the classes they had selected would allow them to graduate."

Dal did try pre-registration two years ago, but it proved fairly unsuccessful. Supplementary exams, lack of time tables and a calendar were some of the reasons.

"This year, we tried the pre-registration by getting the timetable ready and sending out a list of class offerings. The data that we got was out on time. We had to amend it twice which made it a little difficult for students," Griffiths said. The value of using pre-registration is being questioned, according to the acting registrar, so that this method may not be used next year.

Faculty were in the rink again this

year to assist students in selecting classes. Griffiths thought this was a good idea.

"They are there to advise the student. A student should be able to go to a table and say 'I want to take this course and what is it all about?' There is a time factor to be considered, however, when a long queue is waiting to get class cards."

To help students out, the registrar's office will attempt to write a brochure for new students next year. "But we have to rely on them reading the written word, which is quite difficult," he explained.

First year students will also receive help when university officials visit high schools to talk about programs at Dal. This should give them an idea of what to expect when they arrive here.

The alternative suggested in the GAZETTE's second issue — that more attention be paid to university curriculum and how to get through it during Orientation Week — would be difficult, according to Griffiths.

"If you extend your registration period, then the people will come on the 1st day, the orientation would collapse for lack of people."

Another problem students faced this year was the rush to get into classes before they filled up. Individual departments decided on the maximum number of students allowed in their classes, the acting registrar explained. This was based on the type of class, and the lab and classroom space available.

In some classes, sections were extended to accommodate increased enrollment. More classroom space is available this year with the Life Sciences Building open and the Rebecca Cohn auditorium in working order. Closed-circuit TV in the Tupper Building is also alleviating some of the problems for large classes. Two classrooms are used simultaneously to accommodate all the

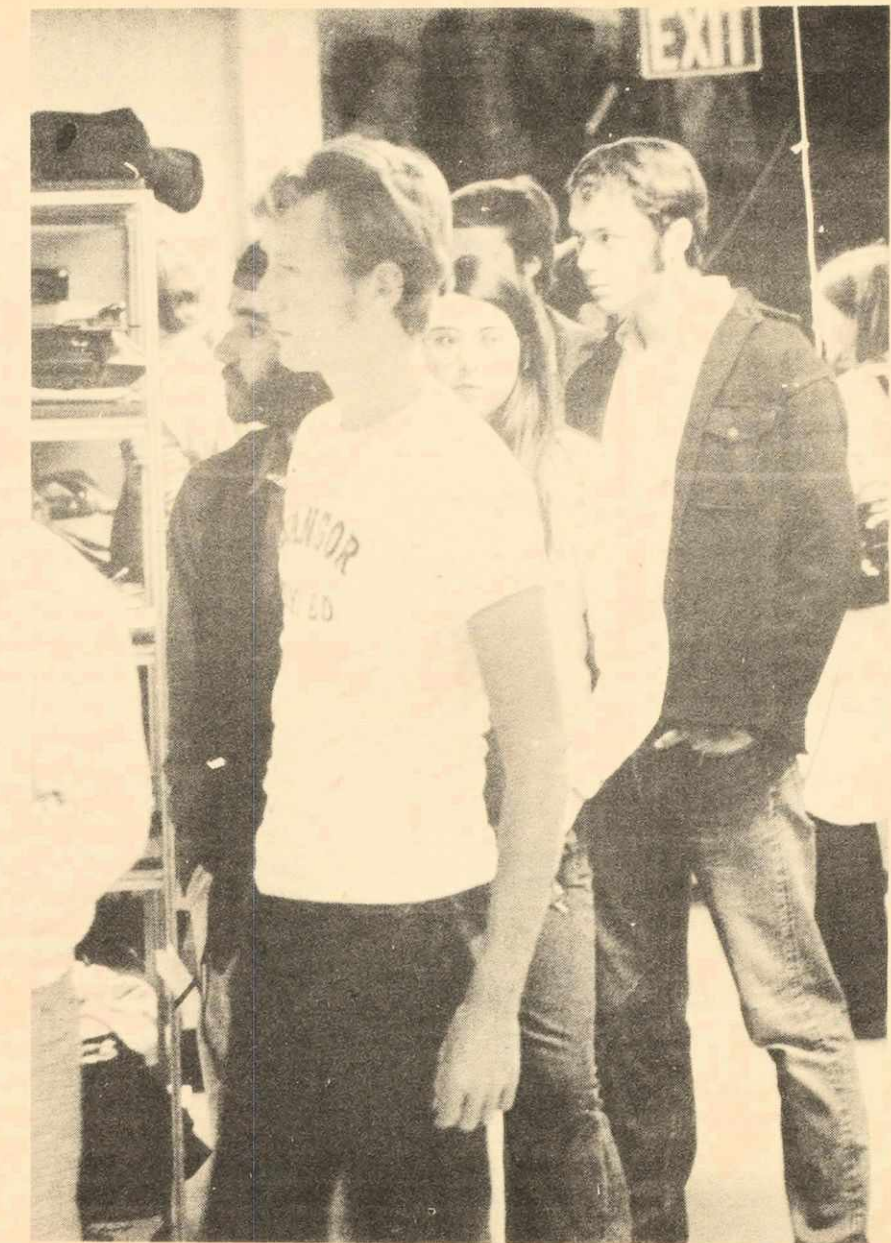


Photo by Merk Roza

students.

"The problems of registration was one of numbers of people endeavoring to be accommodated in the various classes." "I think that there will always be difficulty here."

"We've noticed there's a tendency for 9:30 classes to fill up quite quickly," he continued. "We've also noticed that where we have 22 sections, the first three will always fill up before 21 and 22."

Class changes are being made on a large percentage this year. As of September 29, over 5000 change slips had been handed out. It is unfortunate,

Griffiths said, that more couldn't have been done for the student prior to registration.

Despite the hassles, this year provided fewer problems than former years. Changes could be made which would speed up and make the process more efficient. However they are expensive.

"Registration costs the university about \$6000-\$7000," Griffiths explained. "It is not cheap and to do a better job would cost more money. Using a computer for registration could cost around \$50,000. This might not be worthwhile."

Aid to draft dodgers

Chaplaincy serves as contact place

by Emmi Duffy

The three Dalhousie campus chaplains are not only interested in office counselling. They want to meet people — anywhere.

The number of people who see the chaplains in their third floor office in the Student Union building is quite low. Yet each chaplain informally meets and helps over 500 students every year.

"We are not primarily interested in counselling," said Rev. Don MacDougall. "There are already two other counselling agencies at Dalhousie." (The Student Counselling Centre on the fourth floor of the SUB and psychiatric counselling at Health Services.)

"The function of the Chaplaincy is to serve as a contact place for people to find us, if they want to. The office is open but we don't just sit around waiting for customers. We try to spend three-quarters of our time out on campus. The secretary acts as a co-ordinator trying to locate, get in touch, or bring counsellors in, if need be."

MacDougall hopes that by getting out and meeting students they can dissolve misconceptions of the clergy as authoritarian and "button-

holing" people.

"We aren't pushing our own denominations. Denomination on campus is irrelevant."

One service offered by the Chaplaincy is aid to U.S. draft resisters. This was set up because there was no place in Halifax where draft-age Americans could seek help. Its function is to work with the Nova Scotia community to aid resisters by providing a contact point.

Many of the resisters have personal family problems as a result of their immigration. To ease this situation, Americans already settled here help them with entry into Canada, finding jobs and places to stay. Several act as draft counsellors.

The number of persons requiring assistance has decreased with the drop in U.S. draft quotas. Last summer only

eight or ten asked for help.

MacDougall had an opportunity to get together with students through his work on the Experimental Course Program. Canadian University Students Overseas (CUSO) brought Rev. Don Trivett in contact with many students, as did his involvement with the Nova Scotia Youth Report.

Rev. R. D. MacLean has conducted folk masses in the past, usually with large turnouts. The meeting place was changed from the Ladies Lounge to the Council Chambers last year in order to accommodate the number of people.

Father Morris, the chaplain replacing MacLean, will continue these masses. The first will be held Sunday, October 17 at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

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