

Down and out at Dalhousie

BY KAVERI GUPTA

I'm writing this article as kind of a conclusion to the wild goose chase that I was engaged in for the better part of the school year.

At the beginning of the year, I heard through the grapevine that there existed a service at Dalhousie that was specifically geared at helping students at Dal who had absolutely no place to live and were basically in a state of emergency. I thought it sounded like a do-good organization worthy of some coverage, so I started poking around. That is when the hunt began.

It turns out that there is no such official organization at Dalhousie, but my interest was sparked as to what services were available. Another lead on the granting of emergency loans took me to Student Accounts, but they also squashed my hopes of discovery.

Time to get tough.

I called the Registrar's Office because they would hopefully have accurate information on what was what around campus. Off Campus Housing and Conference Services were also of some help. Here's what I managed to dig up...

The Registrar's Office does not offer emergency loans as a service. There are two types of loans that they do offer: Temporary Loans and Bursaries. Bursaries usually wouldn't be ideal for a student in an immediate need because they take a few weeks to process and even that can change depending on the time of the year. The Temporary Loans may be more suitable if you're in a hurry. They have a one week turnaround period and that time frame is pretty constant. However, these loans cannot be used for tuition payments. These loans are usually granted to students who are having trouble with rent, groceries, or paying for prescriptions.

Robert Tennant, Assistant Registrar-Awards, emphasized that such dire situations should be avoided since they are very serious, difficult to get out of, and can easily be prevented. He strongly recommended planning a detailed budget at the beginning of the

school year to foresee any problems that may arise. Tennant also mentioned that the Board of Governors has no mandate to help people in need (insert your own joke here), but that they try to help those they can anyway. The amount of financial help the Registrar's Office can offer is limited — with so many students, the amount of money they have is spread around and therefore, no one person receives a huge chunk of money. The Registrar's Office has minimal activity with housing students: they have made arrangements in the past for temporary housing in Residence, but this always depends on the individual situation.

Off Campus Housing and Conference Services have, understandably, a little more to say in the housing end of things. Although they also do not offer any form of emergency housing, there are many facilities for temporary accommodations. They have listings of accommodations made available by private owners, and a list of establishments that provide temporary accommodations for students that are close to the university. For example, the Lord Nelson provides temporary housing for students and offers a student rate. If you are wondering how temporary "temporary" is, it can be from one night to over a month. Each of these establishments have their own set of rules and must be contacted individually for details. And again, the Housing and Conference Services also said that the only form of emergency housing they knew that the school could offer would be temporary housing in Residence, but this also depends on the individual situation.

So for all of you out there who are singing the housing and financial blues, there seems to be some services at Dalhousie geared to helping you out, given that you are willing to do some investigating. For those of you who are in dire need of assistance, Dalhousie does not offer anything regularly, but there are facilities in the community that offer accommodations and help.

Dal students attend conference in Ireland

BY JEREMY CAMERON

For two weeks last month, a friend of mine, Paul MacDonald, and I went to a conference in Killarney, Ireland. This is where we learned the importance of an international experience. The conference, called Benibrits, is an annual event in Europe. It is a Leadership Development conference and is geared towards new members of AIESEC (pronounced 'eye-sek'). AIESEC is an international student organization.

We arrived in Ireland on the morning of February 10, the same morning that the Irish Republican Army bombed a business complex in London. Unfortunately, the bombing led to a few extra hassles at customs, but we eventually found ourselves in Dublin. After a day in the city, we were joined by other Canadian AIESEC delegates from Queens, Laurentian, McMaster, University of Saskatchewan, McGill, and Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM). Along with 225 other delegates from 18 countries, we moved on to Killarney where most of Benibrits took place. Staying in one of the most beautiful areas in all of Ireland, we were hard-pressed to attend all of the training sessions, but in the end we got to see the area and still make it to the sessions.

Not only were the sessions interesting, but meeting university students from all over the world is an experience like no other. After five days of interactive sessions, training, and idea-sharing, the conference came to an end.

AIESEC, in fact, exists in 89 countries and has over 70,000 members worldwide. It is the world's largest non-profit, apolitical student organization, and will have a full member seat in the United Nations within the next two years.

It began in 1948 in Belgium. AIESEC was founded in Canada in 1958 by the Bronfmans. It aims to promote internationalism and practical business skills which bridge the gap between university education and the business world. Through projects such as international exchanges, export missions, and conferences, AIESEC provides its members with the skills that will be required in the twenty-first century. It was through AIESEC that Paul and I had the opportunity to go to Ireland.

After the conference ended, we went our separate ways for a few days. While Paul went back to Dublin with students from UQAM and McGill, I went on a study tour of Ireland. This tour was amazing. We took a bus all over the country, stopping in places such as Limerick — home of The Cranberries. The Giant's Causeway, which is one of the seven natural wonders of the world, was another place we were able to visit.

From there, we moved on to Belfast for one evening. We were fortunate enough to go down Sandy Row, the ultra-protestant area of Belfast. The tense atmosphere made this experience both exciting and scary, but it was probably the best part of the tour.

Finally, I returned to Dublin and rejoined Paul. The only people who were still remaining from the conference were the two of us, two people from McMaster, and a person named Sven from Switzerland. For the next three days we toured Dublin, seeing such sights as the Book of Kells and Trinity College. On our final day in Ireland, we toured the Guinness beer factory, moving on quickly to the free sample bar.

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Laggan's Mountain Deli — Laggan's Mountain Bakery and Delicatessen, located in Lake Louise, Alberta (40 minutes from Banff), is looking for fast, friendly and hard-working people for full-time summer counter staff positions. A Full-time cook is also needed in the Rockies, a position that requires responsibility, efficiency, and speed. Accommodations are provided for both positions, apply as soon as possible, deadline date is April 4/96. For more information about these employment opportunities, visit the centre.

London Life — London Life, a leading institution, provides personalized security to Canadians. They help people meet their financial security needs through comprehensive life insurance programs, savings and investment plans, business insurance plans and employee benefits programs. They are now offering employment opportunities in their business. These immediate recruitment positions require competitive, independent, and self-disciplined graduates. Visit the centre for a copy of the job posting.

Internet Fieldworkers — A joint project of the University College of Cape Breton, and a number of Cape Breton and Nova Scotia communities is providing summer job opportunities in Cape Breton and Eastern Nova Scotia. They will be hiring eleven exceedingly creative, motivated students to take on full-time summer jobs as Internet Fieldworkers. These students will work to facilitate business and community economic development through the use of the Internet in various communities. For a complete job description, and a listing of qualifications, drop by the centre. Application deadline is April 1/96.

Immediate Recruitment — Immediate job positions are posted daily, the job board should be checked at least weekly. A few of the most recent positions are with Pacific Rim Recruiting, Atlantic Highways Corporation Inc., and Imperial Life. Check the job boards for more information.

Splatshot — Splatshot is currently accepting resumes for the position of Marketing Representative, a full time summer position. Applicant must have previous sales experience in direct sales, and must be a self-starter and a highly motivated, energetic individual. Another position being offered is Recreation Instructor. This individual must have a flexible schedule, be enthusiastic, and energetic. Also, a Special Events Coordinator is needed for the summer. Visit the employment centre, and check the summer job board for more details.

City of Halifax — The city of Halifax is seeking twelve Travel Counsellors for the summer. For a complete listing of duties and qualifications, drop by the centre. Our office hours are Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Teaching English in Japan/Korea — 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 is with Pacific Rim Recruiting, an opportunity to teach English in Korea. Other institutions that are offering immediate recruitment are APEX, and the 1997 JET Programme. Matty's School of English in Japan, is a job opportunity for the summer. Application deadline for this job is April 10/96. For further information on qualifications, and job descriptions, visit the centre soon.

National Graduate Register — Information about the National Graduate Register is still available at the centre. This provides students graduating from post-secondary institutions better access to employment opportunities. Graduating students and recent graduates will be offered the opportunity to file a standardized resume of their education, skills, experience and aspirations with the NGR. Students will input their own resumes which will be stored in a central Internet - searchable database. This is only offered free until June, drop by the centre for a brochure.