

Fenwick follies

BY JOHN CULLEN

During my two years at Dal, I had heard many stories about Fenwick Place. For instance, there is a pool on the roof that can't be filled because it will collapse the foundations. Or, the architect jumped off the roof after he built it because he knew it was a failure. I always thought this was Truth and Fact, but I was

soon proven wrong.

There is no doubt in my mind that Fenwick, next to the LSC, is one of the scariest buildings in Halifax. The few times that I have set foot in it have always been during a snow storm or some god-awful gale force winds. I used to work in an office building on the 26th floor, and I had no problems with it. However, I was shocked to find out that you can

open a window at such a height in Fenwick. There is nothing more disturbing than having wind roar through a room when you're close to 300 feet above terra firma. But those were my encounters with Fenwick, not anyone else's. I'll get to that soon enough.

Patrick MacIsaac, Facilities Coordinator for the building, was very quick to dismiss the rumours I had heard. He said that the pool wasn't filled because it has had no real purpose since the Dalplex was built. He also mentioned that they would have to find a source of energy to heat the pool, and that that was too expensive to even think about. When asked about the suicide of the architect, he replied, "Let's find some wood here...(knocks on his desk) no, we haven't had a jumper yet, thank god." So in a five minute interview, all my beliefs about Fenwick were struck down by a man of authority.

Then I talked to a resident.

A friend of mine who lives in Fenwick was nice enough to write a list of pro's and con's.

The only pro is the eight month lease offered.

The cons are a page long. They include: the thermostats are either on or off; no place to get a coffee; can't get outside cable service and the satellite reception is poor; the temporary walls make

it hard to move around without disturbing your roommate; it constantly smells like garbage in the hallways; and, the windows have holes which create a constant howl of wind. My friend also expressed concern over the security of the building. His car stereo was stolen because the parking garage door had a lock that was broken.

Anxious to see if Fenwick was in good standing with building

codes, I called the Building Inspector. He did not want to talk to me since I was calling on behalf of *The Gazette*. However, he did mention that if any resident had a complaint, they could register it with his office. The number is under the government section of the white pages. The building will not get any improvements unless someone starts seriously complaining.

You can read this, but can everyone?

About 5 million adults can't read or write or use numbers to meet the needs of daily life in our country.

Frontier College: Students for Literacy has organized Dal literacy awareness week from March 11-15.

Monday to Friday, March 11-15, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Check out the booth in the SUB lobby.

Tuesday, March 12, 8-10 p.m.
Guest speaker Lesra Martin in the Grawood.

Wednesday, March 13, 8-11 p.m.
Open mike in the Grad House.

Thursday, March 14, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.
Rock-a-Read-a-thon in the SUB lobby.

Potential graduates get an orientation

BY KAVERI GUPTA

Yesterday, the Dalhousie Student Union hosted Graduation Orientation 1996.

This orientation's goal was to inform students about the list of official graduates, gowns and hoods, transcripts, and anything else that graduates may not have otherwise known until much closer to Graduation Week. The Orientation also hoped to bring graduates together for the purpose of getting to know one another and having some fun.

"There has never been a united Grad Week for several years, just because Dal is so big and many of the societies have their own plans," said Lilli Ju, DSU Executive

VP and chair of the committee. "Even if the committee can help the societies with their individual plans, that would be good."

Also organizing this year's Grad Orientation is the Registrar's Office, Alumni Association, Development Office, the Student Alumni Association, and Student Services.

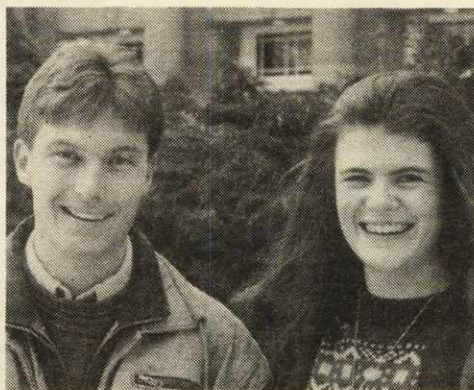
Funding for the Grad Orientation was done mostly through donations. Also, services such as the University Bookstore donated items for the Orientation to give away. Different organizations set up booths around the McInnes Room where students could access information about various aspects of graduation. Ju hopes that this will become an event that continues each year.

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