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DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY, HALIFAX, N.S.

Thursday, December 5, 1996

WEEK OF REFLECTION SUPPLEMENT

LOOKING BACK AND MOVING FORWARD

Friday, December 6th marks seven years since the Montreal Massacre. Following are some of the activities taking place tomorrow to commemorate the event.

12:15 p.m. — Memorial Service and Speak-out. Green Room, Dal Sub.

1 p.m. — Tree Dedication. Technical University of Nova Scotia.

2 p.m. — Non-denominational prayer and moment of silence. Killam Library Atrium, Dalhousie University.

5 p.m. — Performance Night. Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, 5163 Duke Street.

7 p.m. — Candle-lit walk to Dalhousie University. Starting points at NSCAD, Saint Mary's University (Tower Road), and Wormwood's Cinema (2112 Gottingen Street) Candles provided.

8 p.m. — Anniversary of the Montreal Massacre Vigil. McInnes Room, Dalhousie University, Student Union Building, University Avenue.

Maclean's ranking meaningless

Dal finds fault with "hit parade" survey

BY GINA STACK

Dalhousie's three space drop in *Maclean's* annual university rankings has been met with indifference by students and administration at the school.

"I wouldn't put much weight in it," said Dalhousie Student Union president Brad MacKay.

Dalhousie's president Tom Traves agrees.

"One would always like to go up in the ratings instead of down," said Traves, "but I don't think it (the ranking) is very meaningful."

Maclean's divides the universities it ranks into three basic categories: medical/doctoral, comprehensive and primarily undergraduate.

Last year, Dalhousie ranked sixth out of 11 schools in the medical/doctoral category. This year, Dal dropped to ninth out of 13 schools in its category. (The University of Manitoba and the University of Montreal were included for the first time this year.)

The University of Toronto (U of T), McGill and the University of British Columbia earned the top three places in the medical/

doctoral category.

MacKay said that the way universities are categorized is problematic. He said that he has a problem with Dalhousie being compared to a school like the U of T. Dalhousie has a student population of slightly more than 10,000 while U of T has more than 50,000 students.

"You can't compare resources," said MacKay. "U of T is much bigger and there is a lot more research at the school."

"For the size of the university, Dal is an excellent school with excellent programs, and in my opinion it is one of the highest quality schools in the country."

"Dal is by far the smallest university in its category," concurred Traves. "There is no way you can compare libraries at the U of T or UBC to Dalhousie's."

Traves said that compared to other universities in its category, Dalhousie spends one of the largest percentage of its budget on new library acquisitions.

"The problem is our total resources are a lot smaller," said Traves.

MacKay also said that the way rating categories are weighed

works against smaller schools like Dalhousie.

"I'm disappointed that we dropped three spaces," said MacKay. "But in comparison to last year's survey in most areas, for example there was more money for bursaries and the overall quality of the school improved. In the majority of areas we improved, so paradoxically we improved, but we still dropped three places."

Traves also noted Dal's improved performance.

"In 16 out of 19 categories our performance improved or stayed the same," Traves said.

"I don't really care where we fare from one day to the next in the hit parade, as long as we are moving forward and not backward in terms of performance. It doesn't matter if we improve at a slower rate than other schools, as long as we continue to improve."

Traves said that he does not believe Dal's ranking drop will affect students' decisions on whether or not to come to Dal.

"What is significant is that our performance continues to improve and enrollment is going up."

Dal/TUNS one step closer together

BY JASON JOLLEY

After hours of debate, a draft proposal to the Nova Scotia government outlining legislation for the Dalhousie-TUNS merger was passed by Dal's Senate on November 18th.

The two schools' amalgamation will be effective the first day of April, 1997. The merged school will be known as Dalhousie University.

The proposed legislation, which has already been passed by TUNS, addresses key issues in the upcoming amalgamation such as employee's rights, the proposed structure of the new university, and the issuing of diplomas and certificates after the schools merge.

"I think we have an administrative structure for the new uni-

versity which will serve us very well," said Dalhousie President Tom Traves.

The structure of the university will remain similar to the current structure with several changes. TUNS will become a college of Dalhousie devoted to technical education and research, and shall be headed by a principal.

Similar to before amalgamation, TUNS will have a College Board and an Academic Council, but their terms of reference will be defined by the Board of Dalhousie University. Dal's structure will remain basically the same.

Although the motion to pass the proposal was passed unanimously by the Senate, it was the subject of much debate.

Senator Allen Andrews showed concern about several portions of the proposal. In Section 9, the

university is given the right to dismiss non-unionized employees without just cause, ignoring Section 71 of the Labor Standards Code.

Dr. Traves told Senate that Section 9 was included in the proposal because it is standard in all amalgamation legislation and that it is unlikely for the proposal to be accepted by government without it. He assured Senate that the power given to the university via this section would not be used, and that internal university policy will be drafted to formalize this assurance.

Any employees whose positions become redundant by virtue of amalgamation will be given positions elsewhere when possible, or face dismissal.

Employees of TUNS and

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