

the Gazette

Volume 126 Number 15 / 9

Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia



Lisa Black helps Suzie Ketene check out job leads.

PHOTO: LISA WAMBOLDT

Summer coming too soon

Job hunt starts

by Steve Tonner

It gets tougher every year.

As students begin looking for summer jobs, they are finding the market even thinner than last summer, with fewer opportunities, and more people trying to fill the few jobs that are open.

Across Canada over the past few years, summer unemployment among students has gotten worse. In a country where the recession was declared 'officially over' long ago, the actual unemployment numbers for students keep growing.

In Nova Scotia, unemployment among returning students during the summer has grown drastically since 1990, when the figure was at 12.6

percent. That number went up to 16.5 percent in 1991, and 23.8 percent for 1992, according to Statistics Canada.

Krista Dewey, of Dal's Student Employment Centre, says that students are already searching for jobs to carry them through the summer because of growing concern for their future.

"People are really starting to get concerned about summer employment, so we're seeing a greater number of students", she said.

Dewey said she believes that students are generally optimistic that they will find jobs.

When asked whether she believes prospects will improve, she said there was "lots of summer employment business" coming in, but that she "can't really predict what the recruitment activity will be like".

The number of students looking for jobs in February, three months before classes end, shows how much more concerned they are about landing jobs for the summer. But some students are optimistic.

"I didn't get a job last summer," said one student. "I've just completed my resume and cover letter. I've been looking for about a month now, and I'm hopeful that if I apply to a lot of places I'll find a job somewhere."

Another student has been job hunting for a number of weeks, and doesn't know if there is much hope yet.

"I looked for most of last summer, but I found that there wasn't much, so I don't know if I'll get one or not."

Reading week - fact or fiction?

by Jen Horsey

Is reading week a time for studying? Or will students and staff take time off to catch up on much-needed sleep?

If the students who spent their Monday lunch in the SUB are any indication, there is a lot of work to be done. Whether that work is going to be done, however, is anyone's guess. Plans range from the concrete, like going home to visit family or friends, to vague ideas about going somewhere, budget permitting.

Steve Moore, a first-year arts stu-

dent who was lounging on the second floor, was not yet sure, but said he would either "write a paper, or go to Florida in a Winnebago."

Robyn Cross, a second-year English student, is not so optimistic she will have time to relax during her break. She has three papers to write. "I'll be lucky if I sleep," she said.

In fact, most people seem to want to use the time to catch up. The library will probably be a pretty busy during this break. Students are remembering those papers that were assigned at the beginning of the term, and beginning to study for fast-ap-

proaching mid-terms.

Third-year economics student Ramy Guindy doesn't think it's fair that students have to work. "It's a stupid time for a break," he said. "Give us a break to be free instead of having mid-terms right after it."

It's not only a heavy work load that is keeping people in Halifax for reading week. Ted Smith, a second-year recreation studies student, blames the price of education for robbing him of a chance to go somewhere to take time off. "Since tuition is so damn high, I really can't afford to do anything except stay

around here. I'll try to do work; but I probably won't," he said.

Though people will be working hard during reading week, the week before is popularly known as "Hell Week". This means most profs are forced to spend spring break marking.

Patricia Mitchell, a professor in the French Department, says the teaching staff has "given up the illusion that the students are going to work" during the break.

It looks like they're wrong. Dal students will be working — at least, that's what they're saying now. Ask them again in a couple of weeks.

Dal Black students unite for change

by Seleta

There is one place on campus that I feel at home and it is no coincidence that it is the Black Student's Advisors office. It is the office of the one Dalhousie staff member I trust with my education; therefore my life. Earlier in the term the Black Student Advisor, Linda-Lee King, appealed on behalf of the Black students to Student Services and DSU to access more space for the Black students on campus' sanctuary. She has been offered more secretarial space but not more student's space. As it stands now the lounge holds approximately eight students comfortably and it is usually packed with more than twenty. It reminds me of the gag of "how many people can you fit into a telephone booth." This of course cripples the ability for the Advisor and her assistant to complete other duties. Still, she was told that there are other lounges on campus and that her office should not serve that purpose. I disagree. She was also told that if the Black students that used the office were unhappy that they would complain. So, I asked some of the other students who use or want to use the office what it meant to them:

Dawn: Whenever I have trouble on campus that is where I go.

Isaac: SANCTUARY!

Cornell: A place to have an intellectual conversation.

Lynn: An information source, support; if I wasn't so busy it would be the first place I'd go.

Tara: ...support, networking, and a place to relax and be yourself.

Reggie: ...release, a home away from home. A place where you know you are cared about.

Tracy: A safe haven in a storm. A central place to escape all the B.S. on campus. Support from your own.

Philippa: Comfort zone. A source of Black pride. The Advisor works hard in maintaining a comfortable atmosphere for Black students. Now all we need is some damn space.

Clive: A place to relax and get away from pressures.

Marlon: ...provides a place to fraternize with other Black students on campus. The social and cultural activities are geared toward my interests.

Marcus: ...familiar. A place to exchange with other Black students who have the same experiences.

Rudo: A place for conversation in Black environment, where you can say what you want without someone skinning up their face.

Angela: Only place to go for a break from it all. No other place on campus truly represents us and has us

in mind. Linda-Lee works hard to make this place (lounge & campus) as comfortable as she can for us. And contrary to popular opinion, the other lounges do not even begin to be adequate.

To join our struggle to keep and

enlarge our on-campus family, please show your support by coming to our fundraising dance on Friday, February 18 in the Green Room at 8:00 pm. Also meetings and petitions are being generated to show support. To obtain more information on these,

...well you know where to go!

*Note: I haven't included the student's last names or faculties because the BSA centre is the one place on campus that treats us all as equals.



Black students gather in the BSAC to discuss improving the quality along with the quantity of space.