

# the Gateway

FRIDAY, MARCH 23, 1990



Artemis,  
Roman Goddess of Spring  
on display at the Provincial Museum  
in ANCIENT CROSSROADS  
see page 8

by Shirley Glew

Concern expressed to UAB

## Council debates referendum

Robert Blinston

Students' council expressed concern for the spending priorities of the University Athletic Board (UAB) in a motion passed at last Tuesday's council meeting. A motion that would have stated the position of International Students Commissioner defeated by a tied vote, as a motion that would have increased SU purchases of men's products. President of Men's Athletics Robert Blinston, Chairman of the UAB Lorne DeGroot notified council of the UAB's intention to hold a referendum on March 29 to ask council to approve a \$8 per room fee increase for next term. Blinston explained the UAB had been operating on a deficit for the last two years and the fee increase was needed to replace equipment worn out during that period. The increase would "maintain the program, not fatten it," according to DeGroot. He said fees for athletic equipment are rising much faster than the general rate of inflation, partially due to the low value of the Canadian dollar. President of Women's Athletics Kathy Beck-Provost said some of the alternatives the council will consider if the referendum is defeated. They may include fees for watching varsity games and for participating in intramurals. Facilities may be open shorter hours and less money and fees may be charged

to use facilities, equipment and lockers. Sports clubs may also be charged a fee for using University space.

Education rep Robert Patzwald said the referendum was a good idea but that he disagreed on how the money should be spent. He said that the increase in fees should be more evenly split between inter-collegiate sports, which would receive a 100% increase, and men's and women's intramurals, which would receive 12% and 1% increases, respectively.

DeGroot argued that Patzwald's figures were taken from the budget request made by the departments of the UAB and not the final budget. A preliminary budget would not be prepared until the UAB had gone over all the requests and suggested necessary cuts.

Tom Barrett, sponsored by arts rep Harvey Groberman, said

the department requests totaled \$992,598.00, less than \$41,000.00 over projected revenue with the \$8.00 fee increase. He concluded that few budget cuts would have to be made and the requests accurately represent a preliminary budget.

Each department's requests would be reviewed and cuts would be made for unnecessary expenses whether or not the UAB could afford them, DeGroot replied. He said any money saved would work its way down to lower priority departments.

The idea of having an International Students Commissioner was brought to council by vp external Stephen Kushner. He said it would best serve the need to integrate foreign students with the university and the community. VP academic

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## Acadians on the march

HALIFAX (CUP) — "They say cut back, we say fight back," chanted about 3,000 Nova Scotia students as they marched to the provincial legislature Wednesday to protest recent government funding decisions.

"Freeze the fees" angry students told Progressive Conservative Premier John Buchanan, who attempted to explain 5.5% grant increase to post secondary institutions in the province.

"Our government has a concern for the quality of education," Buchanan told the students. "We will be very distressed if the institutions increase fees over the cost of living," he said.

The governments of New Brunswick and Prince Edward

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## HUB tenants' group will fight increase

by Lucinda Chodan

The Hub Tenants' Association (HTA) has announced plans to fight proposed rent increases for student accommodation in HUB. The increases, tentatively scheduled for September 1, would raise rents from the 950 tenants in HUB from six to eight per cent.

Past HTA president Dave Cockle said the association was first notified of the proposed increases in a meeting with Housing and Food Services director Gail Brown at the beginning of March. Brown announced that rents would increase July 1st at the meeting. The tenants' group asked for a delay until September 1st, however Cockle said the delay would allow for a further negotiation. The rent increase must be approved by the university's Board of Governors (B of G) before tenants are notified.

The HTA met Wednesday night with SU president Cheryl Hume and president-elect Dean Olmstead to discuss a tenants' presentation to the B of G finance committee. Cockle says tenants feel they have several grounds for protesting the increase. Tenants' rent now subsidizes merchants in HUB mall, rather than merchants subsidizing student housing, as was originally intended, according to the HTA.

The association also contends the increase is exceedingly onerous for the more than 40% of HUB tenants who are foreign

students. The increase on top of the differential fees the students already pay makes it very expensive to attend university here, says Cockle.

The HTA also objects to the increase because "currently HUB and North Garneau are the only parts of Housing and Food Services housing division that are making any money," according to Cockle. Since Housing and Food Services operates on a break-even basis, the HTA says revenue from HUB is being used to pay for other areas operating at a deficit. "We don't think we should pay for mismanagement in other areas," says Cockle.

The HTA also cited structural problems with the units as reasons for protesting the increase. "We think people are paying for the convenience of living on campus," said Cockle. "In terms of value for money, we don't think people are getting their money's worth."

The HTA will present their brief to the finance committee March 27. Their presentation will include reasons for tenant opposition to the rent increase and a survey of tenant income.

No other action is planned by the HTA, however. "We plan to take our protest through the legitimate channels. If we don't get a reaction, there's really nothing we can do."

The HUB rent increases are part of general increases in Housing and Food Services units in Lister, Garneau, and Michener Park.