

# the dalhousie gazette

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## Company of Young Canadians crippled

Ottawa-Halifax (CUP) - The Company of Young Canadians will cease operations effective March 23. The federal government through its agent the Treasury Board had originally ordered the CYC disbanded December 31, but extensive lobbying by CYC supporters moved the date back.

The Truro regional office informed the Gazette this week that the Halifax-Dartmouth area has three of the total 221 CYC projects.

CYC staffers Rick Salter, in Vancouver, and Elaine Husband, in Calgary, appearing on the CBC show "Judy" said that they will fight to prevent the dissolution of the CYC, by sending letters and petitions to M.P.'s and organizing demonstrations of support for CYC projects.

The Truro and Cape Breton offices, the Gazette was told, will continue to oppose the governmental decision but will do so informally, while trying to maintain its community projects. Nova Scotia will see no demonstrations.

The mandate of the CYC was to work in communities by assisting local groups - tenants, parents, pensioners, the poor - to set up services and organize local groups and co-ops, which the members would operate. CYC involvement would terminate after a fixed interval.

The Company of Young Canadians has 328 organizers, known as "volunteers" because of their low salary, three of which are located in Halifax.



OVO Housing Co-op recently purchased this house. OVO may go out of existence.

by W. Ingarfield

Since the Federal Government has sent notice to all employees of The CYC (Company of Young Canadians) that as of the 23rd of March their services will no longer be required, the Gazette has contacted the local CYC programs to see if they can continue to operate.

In the Halifax area there are three programs; the Housing Co-Op, the Transition House, and Welfare rights. The Housing Co-Op feels that protesting the federal decision would be a waste of time, and they are powerless to do anything about the present situation although they plan to continue their operation for as long as possible.

If no additional Federal funding is forthcoming, The Transitional House for Women, which presently employs from seven to eight people, plans to continue the operation on a volunteer basis. They too have accepted the fact that CYC is definitely going to close down.

Welfare Rights have been trying to solicit funds with which to continue their work but so far have been unsuccessful in securing the required finances. The Welfare Rights office will continue to function with a volunteer staff for as long a period as the present staff can afford to do so.

Local Conservative Robert McCleave has indicated that he is interested in contesting and will do so when the legislation is introduced in the House of Commons.

## Threat of radiation negligible or not?

by Mike Greenfield

Many faculty members are still very concerned about Slowpoke, the nuclear research reactor. This concern was largely sparked when it was learned that at U of Toronto those working in the rooms surrounding Slowpoke were being exposed to radiation and were not told. Dalhousie faculty members are worried that students and workers in the surrounding rooms will be exposed to unnecessary doses of radiation.

At the January 28 meeting of the Faculty of Arts and Science the issue was discussed. A mimeo available to everyone at the meeting had two recommendations:

(1) to convey our concern to the Administration, and

(2) to ensure that proper representation be made for the neighbourhood of the reactor site, including undergraduate classes, in the process of decision making on the installation and operation of the reactor.

The question arises as to the actual seriousness of the threat from admittedly weak radiation reaching the external environment from Slowpoke's uranium core. One of the more concerned faculty, Dr. Shinsu Nakajima of the Psychology Department explains his reserva-

tions quite concisely:

"An argument may be made that the leak is small as compared with the radiation from a chest X-ray examination. This argument is misleading because it ignores the fact that the medical use is beneficial. Our students will be irradiated by the reactor without receiving any benefit from it.

"One might also say that the probability of producing physiological and genetic effects is very small. I would ask how small is small enough to ignore. If one of our students had a baby with a constitutional disease, it is a tragedy for the whole family. If it involves a genetic change, the tragedy will be extended for many generations. Furthermore, a similar tragedy will be repeated year after year as long as the reactor is in operation. We cannot, in good conscience, ask our students to attend our classes, knowing that one of them may be affected by radiation by doing so."

In a unanimous decision the faculty voted to set up a committee to carefully examine Slowpoke and its location.

A final decision on the actual site is expected soon. Atomic Energy of Canada is scheduled to deliver

Slowpoke in May, which means that the site must already be prepared. Vice President Vagianos told the Gazette that the decision must be made within the next 2 to 4 weeks.

Although there are few sites that seem possible it must be considered that the basement in the Life Sciences Building remains the prime contender. If that site is selected then March Break seems the likely time for the necessary site work, which must eventually include blasting. However, if those who feel that the site is too

dangerous have their way then considerable delay may occur.

Much will depend on exactly how much radiation will escape to surrounding rooms. It is known that there is no lowest limit at which radiation no longer has the possibility to do harm. But at what point does the danger become negligible. This Slowpoke is supposed to be even less radioactive than the one at U of Toronto. It is always nice to know that there are those who are keeping the students interests in mind.

## 500 students still sit

FREDERICTON (CUP) ---About five hundred students, mostly from the Universite de Moncton, have occupied the Centennial Building here, the seat of the provincial government, demanding improvements in the province's student aid program.

The occupation began on January 28, a week after an earlier occupation attempt fizzled in face of government intransigence. Students from the U de M participated in that attempt, but left when the other students abandoned the

occupation the same day it began.

When they got back to Moncton they called a general meeting at which it was decided to organize for an occupation. Committees were established, logistical planning began, and by mid-week the students were en route to Fredericton.

The U de M students' demands are the same as those advanced by the previous week's demonstration on student aid policy, a reduction in the loan ceiling from \$1800 per year

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