

Enrollment drops at French university

BY KAVERI GUPTA

Plummeting enrollment has struck the education department of Nova Scotia's only French university.

Over the past two years, the number of students enrolled in the education program at the Université Sainte-Anne's has dropped from 200 to 45. The decrease follows a change in program structure for the training of future teachers.

Prior to September 1995, the education program consisted of a combined Bachelor of Arts (BA)/Bachelor of Education (BEd). In a total of four years, students could complete their BEd while still working on their undergraduate degree.

With recommendations from the Nova Scotia Council on Higher Education, education programs in Nova Scotia became a five year commitment. Students now have to complete their undergraduate degree before applying for a BEd. As well, applicants must fulfil other requirements to obtain admission.

Despite this change, Suzanne Allard, head of the department of Education at Ste. Anne's said there is no one reason for the decline in enrollment at the university.

"Students feel less urgency to prepare as a French teacher...although there is still a need," she said.

Allard said French/English issues in Canada are part of the

reason for decreased interest. She also said students may be reluctant to make the five year commitment, and be inconvenienced by having to re-apply for admission into the education program.

"But I have seen that there is a trend of low enrollment in most programs across Canada," she added.

Barbara LeBlanc, an education professor at Ste. Anne's agrees that low enrollment seems to be hitting many areas of post-secondary education in Canada, the U.S. and England.

"Many people are opting for

community colleges where they can get into a specialty quickly."

She also felt that increasing tuition prices make university education less accessible.

In reference to the decrease specifically at Ste. Anne's, LeBlanc said that a serious study needs to be done in order for a reason to be pinpointed.

Regardless of the drop in enrollment, LeBlanc sees only advantages to the new Education program at Ste. Anne's.

"When students come to a BEd after a BA, they come with academic experience and

maturity...they have had time to seriously consider what they want to do with their life," she said.

She feels the combined program allowed students to jump into the teaching specialty without giving it enough consideration.

She said the new sequential system is more enriching for students preparing to be teachers which in turn will greatly benefit their future students.

Ste. Anne's is located in Churchpoint, Nova Scotia. Its total enrollment this year is roughly 300 students. It is the only university in Nova Scotia that is a lead institution in languages.

Parking 1000: Panic at Dal

BY JENNIFER LAMONT

Parking your car at Dalhousie is not any easier this year, and it is only going to get worse.

The existing 1,750 parking spots at Dalhousie are not sufficient to accommodate all those who have purchased parking permits this year.

The total number of parking permits sold at Dalhousie is still unavailable, but Dave Johnson, who works for the security and traffic department of Dalhousie, acknowledged that finding a place to park, "is tough after 8:30 a.m."

"I don't have any answers for [Dalhousie students], it's been a problem for a long time," said Johnson.

The Dalhousie Physical Plant and Planning department is facing an additional parking problem. Scheduled construction in the parking lot across the street from the Dalhousie Arts Centre will take away 105 parking spots for 18 months. Though the construction on the new Arts and Social Sciences Building is not slated to begin until December 1998, plans are being made to compensate for the places that will be lost.

Bill Lord, director of facilities management, admits that, "there is not a lot of space available on campus," but speculated that some space may come from the Halifax infirmary. In the meantime, his

department is searching for other options.

In the meantime, for students that are dissatisfied with their \$107.48 purchase, the permits can be returned within thirty days of the purchase.

For those wishing to continue trying to park on campus, Clement Tremblay, a Dalhousie librarian, offers advice. He says that he doesn't usually have trouble parking.

"The trick is that you have to know when to come back," said Tremblay.

If you are not up for chasing down spaces in the early morning, Tremblay says that you are likely to be able to find a spot if you park between classes.

Dal hosts Fox Run

BY KELLY DONEY

Close to \$15,000 was raised for cancer research during the 17th annual Terry Fox Run held last Sunday 14 September.

Dalhousie's Student Union Building (SUB) was the starting point of the event. Registration began at noon and the roughly 180 participants, both young and old, were out early to show their support for cancer research.

Music was provided by a local radio station and was used to keep energy levels high for the duration of the event. Hot-dogs, hamburgers and pop were sold outside the SUB, with all proceeds going to the Terry Fox Foundation.

The event began at 1 p.m., and although it is called the Terry Fox Run, participants could walk, run or bike along the one kilometre route from the SUB down University Avenue.

The event lasted for three hours raising \$14,823 for cancer research.

Local coordinator Jeanne Bourgeois said that it was a great day. Bourgeois said that she was pleased with the turn out, and that she hopes everyone will come out for the run again next year.

Bourgeois also wished to thank the many supporters of this year's event including the Dalhousie Student Union, C-100FM, IGA, Beaver Foods, and the many other individual supporters.

Terry Fox was born on 28 July 1958. In 1976, his right leg was amputated due to Osteogenic Sarcoma (Bone Cancer).

Four years later, Fox's dream of a cross country marathon to raise funds for cancer research began. He started his run on 12 April 1980 in St. John's Newfoundland. Fox was in Thunder Bay, when succumbing to his illness, he was forced to end his cross country run.

During his marathon, he covered more than six thousand kilometres, running 42 km a day for 143 days. Fox died on 28 June 1981 at the age of 22, but his dream has endured.

Through his marathon, Fox hoped that he could get every Canadian to contribute \$1 to cancer research. His goal was surpassed when more than \$24 million was raised.

In the years since his death, millions of people have participated annually in the Terry Fox Run. Last year (1996), \$12.5 million was raised by participants in 58 countries.

Among Canadians, Nova Scotians are the most generous supporters, donating at least 55 cents per person to cancer research annually.

Since Fox's first run to raise funds for the National Cancer Institute more than \$180 million dollars has been raised for cancer research.

Summer job figures misleading

BY BRIANNE JOHNSTON

Despite a slight drop in the overall student employment rate this summer, not all students are singing the praise of the federal government's new job program.

Quoting a national student unemployment rate of 8.8 per cent (down from nine per cent last year), Dalhousie's Student Union (DSU) vice-president academics/external Kevin Lacey said that "numbers like this have been driving a renewed optimism among students as they return to school."

A national student organization, the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) does not share Lacey's enthusiasm.

According to its figures, one in five students could not find work this summer. This means 19.7 per cent of students were unemployed.

The difference in numbers can be attributed to the scope of the surveys. The CFS has included all student job-seekers, while the DSU's figures only included university students.

The CFS and the DSU both reported that of those students who found work, 51.6 per cent only found part-time work at minimum wage. In the 1980s, only 40 per cent of students had part-time summer work.

"I applied to at least four different places this summer and waited three weeks before I got an interview," claimed one Dalhousie student.

With a part-time job at minimum wage in Nova Scotia, students would not even earn enough to pay tuition into a general arts program at Dalhousie, let alone living expenses.

"The average student debt will be \$25,000 by 1998," said Jennifer Story, deputy chairperson of the CFS. Story says that the CFS will be launching an aggressive lobbying strategy for a comprehensive youth employment program and national system of grants this fall.

Lacey says that students who did not find full-time work this summer probably did not return to school, or were forced to take out a student loan to cover the costs of living and tuition.

Despite these setbacks, Lacey has confidence in the federal government's youth job strategy which was introduced last spring. Under the plan, it is hoped that 120,000 jobs would be created for young people over two years, at a cost of \$240 million.

"While we are excited about the youth strategy, we have yet to see the full benefits of this new program."

Write for the Gazette.
Room 312, Dalhousie Student Union Building
Meetings every Monday, 4:30 pm.

NEWS-IN-BRIEF

National student organization tackles student debt

The Canadian Alliance of Student Associations is joining with B.C. Premier Glen Clark and Education, Skills and Training Minister Paul Ramsey to call on the federal government to tackle the issue of student debt and financial assistance. They will be asking the federal government to implement a system of upfront and deferred grants for high need students, as well as implementing a national work/study program.

National Director for the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) Hoops Harrison says that CASA will work towards a "pan-Canadian" agreement on quality of education and accessibility standards.

CASA represents roughly 200,000 students across Canada. Dalhousie is a member of the national organization.

Dal supports democratic development in The Gambia

The Minister for International Cooperation and La Francophonie, Diane Marleau has announced that the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) will increase its support to a democratic development fund in The Gambia. CIDA is providing an additional \$30,000 to a Democratic Development Fund, managed by the Canadian High Commission, in cooperation with Gambia authorities. The fund, launched in 1996 with a \$200,000 contribution from Canada, assists the country's Independent Electoral Commission in civic education and elections preparation. Dalhousie is involved in this program through the Law School.

Grad schools go on-line

Choosing a graduate school has just been made easier by Liberty City Promotions of Philadelphia. Gradschools.com (<http://www.gradschools.com>) allows students to seek gradschools by academic area, geographic region and key words. The site is updated daily and contains directories of grad school programs from around the world in more than 200 academic areas. Students who check out the site before the end of November can enter the on-line contest to win free textbooks for one term.