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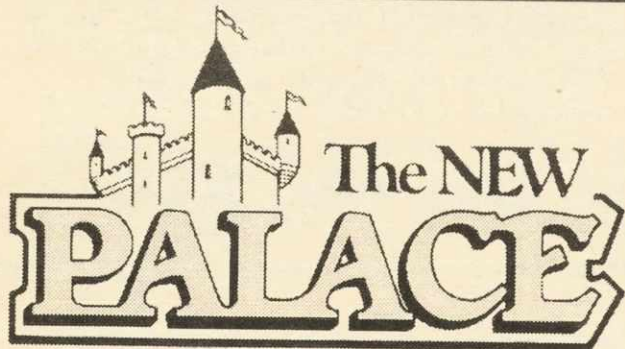
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opinions

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ture leaders at all levels of government throughout the region and across the country. We would also like to take this opportunity to express our outrage not only at the decision to close the School of Public Administration, but also over the justification for the closure and the manner in which it was imposed on students of Public Administration.

We wish to stress that this grievous decision will have repercussions beyond the Dalhousie community. To fully appreciate the implications of the pro-

posed cuts it is imperative to understand that:

The program is unique in Atlantic Canada.

The School of Public Administration provides a dynamic environment in which to undertake professional training for the public sector while providing important professional services for both governmental and non-governmental constituencies.

The decision to close the school was taken solely on the basis of financial considerations without regard to the high quality of education provided at the graduate level over the past quarter-century. The Senate review of the Faculty of Management that was completed in July, 1993 noted the long

and distinguished record of the school in the field of public administration education, the noted contribution of its faculty and its national reputation.

The recommendation to eliminate a highly respected program that is clearly related to the overall mission of Dalhousie University is most regrettable and is not in keeping with Dalhousie's tradition of academic excellence.

We urge President Clark and the Budget Advisory Committee to reconsider the recommendations for restructuring within the Faculty of Management presented thus far.

Respectfully,

Dale Austin

President, Public Administration Student Society

A call to arms for arts

What is the purpose of a university? In today's society the university is an institution that trains workers for the high-tech job market. However, should not a university be much more than this? Should it not play a more broad and relevant societal role?

A university has a responsibility to educate its students — or at least provide the opportunity for education — on all aspects of human intellectual activity, including the arts. Such an education helps to provide our country and our world with humane and enlightened citizens. The recommendation made by President Howard Clark to phase out the Dalhousie Music and Theatre Departments is both shortsighted and contrary to the concept of a well-rounded university education. I sympathize with Dr. Clark over the financial problems of the university, but cutting two programs so vital to the artistic and intellectual life of Dalhousie, Halifax and the Maritimes is surely not the solution.

The Dalhousie Music Department is simply the best in the Atlantic provinces. Dr. Dennis Farrell and Dr. Steve Tittle are both accomplished composers. Dr. David Schroeder has published a book, *Haydn and the Enlightenment*, an article in the *Journal of the American Musicological Society* and will be presenting a paper on the correspondence between Mozart and his father at the upcoming American Musicological Society annual conference in Montreal in November. Dr. Walter Kemp, Chair of the Music Department, is a composer, conductor and noted scholar, having published a book in 1991 on Burgundian court song. The department's performance instructors are world-class and many also contribute to the cultural life of Halifax as performers in Symphony Nova Scotia.

Students of the Music Department perform in Halifax and throughout the Maritimes as members of Nova Scotia Youth Orchestra, the Dalhousie Ensembles and as featured solo artists. As professionals, Dal music students find work in church choirs, pit orchestras of various theatre productions and festivals, as piano accompanists and as church organists. Dal music alumni work internationally as musicologists, teachers and performers.

Three alumni in particular who have returned to Halifax are Dr. Gregory Servant, an assistant professor at Dalhousie and head of the Opera Workshop, Jennifer Jones, who holds a position as violinist with Symphony Nova Scotia, and Carolyn Davies, who is currently conductor of the Nova Scotia Youth Orchestra.

One particularly vital and unique feature of the Dalhousie Music Department is its Foundation Year Music Programme. This two-term course, the only one of its kind in the Atlantic provinces, provides the enrolled stu-

dents with a basic grounding in music theory, history and performance that prepares them for first-year university music studies. Due to the lack of music education within the public school system, this Foundation Year is certainly very important to those who desire to learn more about the art of sound.

The Music Department is also open to educate non-majors in music, offering such courses as the History of Opera, Introductory Music Theory, Listening to Music, Music and Psychology, women in Canadian Music as well as the very popular Electronic and Experimental Music and Evolution of Jazz courses. Applied Skills courses (lessons) in piano and voice are also offered to non-majors. In fact, according to the undergraduate calendar, all music classes, "while designed for music majors, are available to non-majors with the permission of the instructor." A knowledge of music is available to everyone from the engineer to the historian.

Equal in stature to the Music Department, and equal in its value to the university, is the Theatre Department. The excellent faculty consistently graduates working actors and actresses throughout the Maritimes and Canada, including Festival Antigonish, the Charlottetown Festival, the Stephenville Festival, and Theatre Antigonish as well as the internationally recognized Stratford Festival.

In Halifax, Dal students and alumni pervade the theatre community, working with Neptune Theatre, the Grafton Street and Historic Feast Dinner Theatres as well as the Irondale Theatre Group. A large number of students and alumni performed in recent Atlantic Fringe Festival productions such as *A Particular Class of Women*, *Six Shrews in Search of a Petrucchio* and Irondale's superb adaptation of Bertholdt Brecht's *Saint Joan of the Stockyards*, entitled *The Joan Project*. Dal Theatre's annual se-

ries of productions provides the university and the community with affordable, professionally staged works, right down to the props, lighting and costumes. Speaking of costumes, the Costume Studies programme at Dalhousie is internationally renowned and is the only one of its kind in North America.

The music and theatre (and costume studies) programmes greatly enhance the intellectual and artistic life of Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia and the entire Atlantic region. Both departments provide unique and important opportunities to the students of the university and the people of the community. Nova Scotia needs a strong university in its capital city to educate its citizens in the intellectual achievements of humanity and to provide leaders for the "uncertain future" about which Dr. Clark is so worried. Surely, this is an important role? Does Dalhousie wish to maintain its position as a major national university along with McGill, Toronto and the University of British Columbia, all of which have strong music programmes?

The logical move on the part of Dr. Clark is to rescind his recommendation. If this move is not taken, the Board of Governors and Senate must reject the proposal to phase out the theatre and music programmes at Dalhousie. Surely other measures, such as a cut in executive administration or in executive positions themselves, could be taken. Whatever happened to the talk of rationalizing the duplicated programmes of Halifax's universities? Dalhousie cannot be turned into just another technical college and the Maritimes cannot become an artistic and intellectual wasteland.

As students of Dalhousie and as citizens of the Atlantic region, it is important to fight the proposed fine arts cuts.

Mark Berry

Left demands rights

On October 3rd, an anti-choice group "United for Life" is rallying their forces to fight against women's right to choose. The International Socialists are planning a counter-demonstration at 2:30 pm at the fountain of the Halifax Commons.

The use of the term "life" by these anti-choice groups is outrageous given their total lack of concern for women's and children's lives and the tactics they use to frighten women at clinics and harass doctors who provide abortions. Apparently, they would rather see women seek backstreet abortions, or resort to self-abortion or even suicide, than have a woman exercise her right to choose and have a safe abortion in a clinic or hospital. One would

guess that to them a clump of cells is more important than a woman's life!

Last October, our posters drew more than 40 placard-carrying and chanting pro-choice activists for a lively demonstration which disrupted Campaign Life's efforts to form a "life chain" across the bridge. This year we hope to have an even larger turnout. All those who wish to protect and extend the limited access women have to abortion services should be there.

It is very important, particularly in this period of backlash against women (as well as gays and lesbians, immigrants and others) to maintain a consistent and high profile struggle for

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