

# THE GAZETTE

Volume 118, Number 7

Dalhousie University, Halifax

October 17, 1985

## Fuel deal no steal

By TOBY SANGER

THE MANAGER OF TWO Ontario campus nuclear reactors say spent fuel from test reactors in Canada is not going to the U.S. military program.

Peter Ernst, manager of the McMaster research reactor, says the U.S. doesn't use uranium shipments from his university reactor for weapons because the amount of plutonium in the shipments would be so small that it wouldn't be worth their while.

And three of the reactors have not had their cores recycled yet, say the managers.

In a story two weeks ago, Canadian University Press reported that spent, highly enriched uranium from reactors at Dalhousie University, Ecole Polytechnique, McMaster, the University of Toronto and the University of Alberta is being shipped to a military plant in the U.S. where it is reprocessed and the plutonium used to make atomic bombs.

Ernst says McMaster, whose reactor is ten times the size of the other four, sends four kilograms of uranium to the Savana River plant in South Carolina every three or four years. About one kilogram of this is plutonium. Earnst says the plutonium "isn't worth anything to anybody."

But Ernst says "it's worth our while" to send the fuel back to the U.S. because it gives McMaster a rebate on fuel they buy: "It's like trading in a used car," he says.

Gordon Edwards, president of the Canadian Coalition for Nuclear Responsibility, says the plutonium taken from the spent

uranium at Savana River then goes to Rocky Flats, Colorado where it is made into triggers for atomic bombs.

The U of T slowpoke reactor is the only other campus reactor besides McMaster's that has been refueled since starting up, according to the reactor's supervisor Ron Hancock. He says when the core is replaced, the uranium is sent to Chalk River, Ontario where it is stored on an experimental reactor site.

But Hancock admits Chalk River is not a permanent storage facility. Two years ago, Chalk River said it had stopped shipping enriched uranium (which it buys from the U.S.) through Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL) back across the border. Edwards claims the reactor has resumed shipments.

The "SLOWPOKE" reactor in the Life Sciences building at Dalhousie has not yet been refueled since it was installed in 1976. A beryllium supplement will be added next year by AECL to extend the use of the fuel for at least another ten years, says Dr. Douglas Ryan, Director of the SLOWPOKE facility.

Dr. Ryan doesn't know where the used fuel will go when the reactor is refueled after 1996. "It is AECL's responsibility," he says.

The SLOWPOKE reactor at Dalhousie is relatively small with a maximum power level of 20 kilowatts, using only two pounds of enriched uranium. It is used mostly for chemical trace analysis in environmental and medical fields.

*with files from Canadian University Press.*

## U. of Man. goes alone

WINNIPEG (CUP) — THERE won't be a provincial lobby group for Manitoba's post secondary students because the province's largest school won't join a group that requires membership in the Canadian Federation of Students.

Representatives from Brandon University, College de St. Boniface, and the University of Winnipeg were supposed to meet Sept. 27 for the founding conference but it has been postponed until the beginning of November, says Michael Sunley, the Canadian Federation of Student Manitoba board representative.

Conflicts over the group's goals and possible membership restrictions delayed the meetings.

Ruth Pryzner, Brandon University Students' council president, says the organization should be limited to colleges and universities that belong to CFS. This would prevent the University of Manitoba, the province's largest school, from being a member.

"We are committed to congruency with CFS," Pryzner says. "We see the strength of CFS nationally and we want the provincial organization to augment the work of the national organization. We see it as one big movement."

According to Jeff Kushner, U of M's students' council president, 25,000 of the approximately 35,000 university students in the province are enrolled at the U of M. Kushner says U of M is not interested in joining a provincial lobby group that is affiliated with CFS.

"If joining the group means we have to join CFS, we want nothing to do with it," Kushner says. "It would cost us \$100,000 a year in fees. I think we can spend that money better than CFS can."

Sunley says neither the U of W nor St. Boniface wants to limit the organization to CFS members. "We want to get the commun-



Ward One council candidates face off at an all-candidates meeting on Oct. 10. Left to right: Mary Clancy, chair; Peter Halpin; Doris Maley; Deborah Grant; John Murchie. For civic election coverage see pages 3, 6 and 7. Photo by Todd Miller, Dal Photo.

## Ward One hopefuls step out

By DAVID OLIE

ABOUT 75 RESIDENTS OF Halifax Ward One saw their three City Council candidates in action at an all-candidates meeting held at the YWCA on Oct. 10.

Deborah Grant, Peter Halpin and Doris Maley each gave brief speeches and then responded to questions from the audience.

John Murchie, school board candidate for Wards One, Two and Three, was also in attendance. Rita Creighton, the incumbent school board member, was unable to attend.

ity colleges in on this too," Sunley says "We think we should be representing the interests of all students."

Pryzner says she doesn't believe the credibility of the lobby group will be damaged by the absence of the U of M.

"Of course in certain terms it will be because we don't have all the students in the province," Pryzner says. "But we think our effectiveness in lobbying will establish our credibility."

Pryzner says she wanted to avoid the experience of the Student's Association of Manitoba, a similar organization that disbanded because of internal conflicts five years ago.

"The U of M needed to dominate SAM because of its size and fee-base. The view of the U of M was usually not the view of the broader movement. We don't want this to happen again. There's no use having internal conflicts."

Grant, who works as a nurse, promises to be a full-time member of council if elected. She says she wants Council to respect the 1978 Municipal Development Plan (MDP) and wants input from residents when changes are made to the Plan.

The city's debt is one of Grant's concerns. She recommends the opening of the city's holding areas to industry, thus expanding the tax base. Grant also wants to see a greater push for tourism dollars.

Grant says the "serious housing crisis" faced by students, single parents and senior citizens is a priority in her plans. However, she says she is unsure if she would support changes to city by-laws limiting occupancy of houses to a maximum of four students or other individuals.

Halpin says his main campaign platform is one of "communication and cooperation" between citizens and the Council. Halpin, who owns a local communications firm, says "communication is my business," and emphasizes the need he sees for greater business and management skills among Council members.

Among the issues raised by Halpin are concerns about sidewalk and street repair, inadequate police patrols in certain parts of the ward, and the litter problem. Halpin also says he will "uphold the MDP in letter and spirit" and work for expansion of non-core education programs such as French and music. Some members of the audience expressed doubt about his stance on the MDP.

Halpin says he stands for "fresh ideas and an open

approach" and says it is important for city councillors to maintain a non-partisan stance.

Maley, who represented the ward for five years prior to 1982, says she can offer voters a great deal in terms of experience, training and expertise. She says the main job of any councillor is dealing with the expenditure of tax dollars, and favours an ongoing budgeting process which should be open to the public.

"If other members of Council don't want public input, I will hold my own public budget meetings," says Maley.

On the planning issue, Maley says she is very concerned about the current Council's approach to development. Maley says Council changed the Development Plan to a Development Strategy, and that the change is very significant. She says the MDP is currently in tatters, and it is necessary to look at the city as "a whole, functioning unit."

Maley says there is no one solution to the housing problem faced by students and other groups, and that a whole range of small efforts will be necessary. She says the best way to develop the city is to make it an attractive place for people to move to, by alleviating the housing shortage and providing adequate cultural and educational facilities.

"We need a blend of the old and the new," says Maley.

Murchie began his remarks by saying he was disappointed his opponent was not present. He says the election of school board members gives the public the kind of direct input they don't get on other issues, such as housing. A school board member should act as an advocate of the com-

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