

Accessibility at Dal?

by Lisa Legatto

riddled with problems in terms of accessibility for physically entrances and a ramp system which challenged students in the wake of would loop the Chase, Life Science administration's new building Centre, policy.

old European city," said David houses on the "upper campus" Shannon, past president of the while the "lower campus" is under Student Union and member of the evaluation. Dalhousie Association for the Physically Challenged (DAPC).

Shannon said a "segregation" of students occurs because those in wheelchairs are sometimes forced to attend universities that cater to their needs. This leaves them out of specialty programs offered at Dalhousie. "It's an issue of attitudes, equipment and availability," he said.

Ramps, marked handicapped zones and curb cuts have been built, but the need for structural change exists. Shannon, a Law student, said, "The Weldon Law Building shows grave error in the planning stage." After recent renovations, there are desks that are not wheelchair accessible and entrances without ramps.

An annual allotment of \$50,000 will be used to upgrade the campus. The policy requires all buildings to be approved by Barb O'Shea, Director of Occupational Therapy

Anne-Marie Mason, project coordinator at the Physical Planning Department said, "We have a set fund for changes; our job is to identify the trouble spots."

The trouble spots include the

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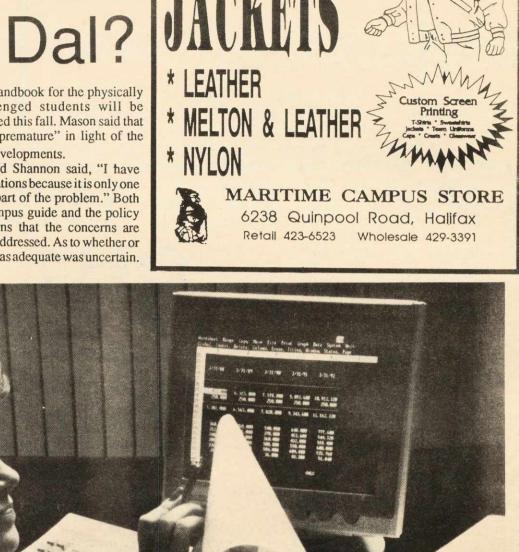
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Law Building which was renovated before the policy was in Dalhousie University remains effect. Improvement plans involve signs directing people to accessible and Arts and Administration Buildings. Ramps "Dalis about as accessible as an have been added to department

A handbook for the physically challenged students will be released this fall. Mason said that it is "premature" in light of the new developments.

David Shannon said, "I have reservations because it is only one small part of the problem." Both the campus guide and the policy are signs that the concerns are being addressed. As to whether or not it was adequate was uncertain.



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