

## Dal boots in \$1.8M for more bytes

by GEOFF STONE and TOBY SANGER

Dalhousie administration has finally given the sign-on signal for the purchase of a new \$1.8 million central academic computer.

The new computer, a Digital VAX 8800, will be about three times as powerful as the existing Control Data CYBER 170, a machine which Peter Jones, executive director of university and information services, says is becoming increasingly obsolescent.

Dalhousie's board of governors approved a senate recommendation to buy the computer, which will be phased in over two years beginning this April.

It will feature 48 million bytes of memory and disk space in excess of 5 gigabytes, together with "virtual memory," something the CYBER system lacks.

Virtual memory allows users to perform operations which require more memory space than is available in the operating memory. It does this by automatically putting some of the data into disk storage.

The Digital will also offer a wider range of applications, making more programs available to students and faculty.

"Because it's a very popular system, these applications will always be up-to-date," assures Jones.

David Cameron, chair of the

Senate advisory committee on computing, says they chose the Digital largely because it will integrate well into existing facilities in university departments and with microcomputers.

"We hope to build up our networking with microcomputers wherever they are," says Jones.

Conversion from the old to the new is expected to cause few problems, except for those who have created programs exclusively for the CYBER.

St. Mary's University and TUNS both have computers which are compatible with the Digital.

Director of academic computing Randy Barkhouse says tying into these computers is "kind of a gleam in somebody's eye," but it will take some time.

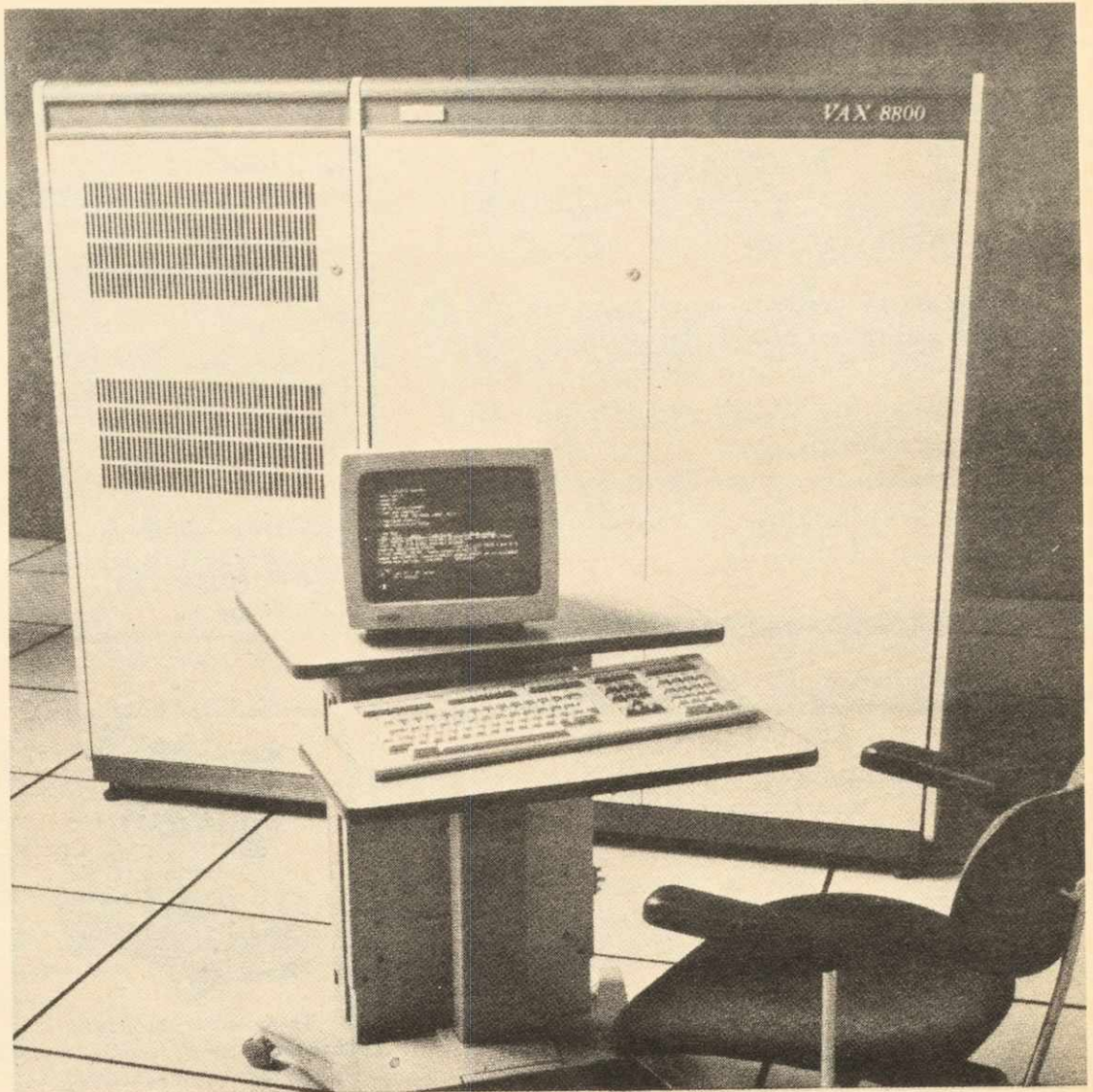
Purchase of the computer was "widely discussed at length" in Senate and in the university community, says Cameron.

"There were a few people who questioned whether we needed a central computing facility with the recent advances in microcomputing."

Cameron says the new system will enable networking facilities as well as providing the power for certain programs and jobs which can't be done on a microcomputer.

"It's a matter of balancing the many different needs across campus," says Cameron.

"I'm very pleased."



Digital VAX 8800. That's all?

## Sports dep't misses goal

MONTREAL (CUP) — Moves to give women's varsity sports a higher profile at Concordia University have been short-circuited by the university's athletics department, critics charge.

A university committee passed a motion last spring establishing a three-tiered directorship of the department, including a director of women's varsity athletics. However, a five-director structure still exists, and critics say the intent of last year's restructuring has been ignored.

"We're concerned," said Susan Hunt, a student representative on the committee that restructured the department. "The idea was to have three associate directors, one of which would be a woman. It's a shot in the foot now that she is one of five," she said.

But athletics director Ed Enos said the women's program is not suffering, even though there are more men directors and in spite of a lengthy history of funding inequity, Concordia athletics have long been overwhelmingly male-dominated, with the men's varsity sports teams claiming 80 per cent of the total budget.

"We did not just hire a token woman," said Enos. "We took the top person in Kathy McDonald."

"I had to take out a man with 17 years experience to put in McDonald," said Enos. "I had to put him in the basement."

Enos said because two associate directors of men's athletics split the workload of a full-time associate director, they count as one and therefore do not have more power than the women's director.

"McDonald is really privileged," said Enos. "She only has to work in administration. She doesn't have to worry about tomorrow's game with McGill. My men have to coach full-time as well as work in administration."

But student council co-president Scott White disagrees. "It obviously puts the women in a disadvantageous position," he said.

In a letter to the university vice-rector, White said the current situation was a clear step in the wrong direction. "You get the overall impression that whatever was done last year doesn't amount to much," said White.

Elizabeth Morey of the Concordia Status of Women committee said the athletics department could use more improvements. "There are still a lot of changes that can be made in attitude," said Morey.

McDonald, who was hired in August to oversee the women's varsity program, doesn't feel her appointment will be neutralized by having two men's associate directors.

"As long as two men don't have more power than me alone, as long as that intent remains, I will be happy," she said.



## Sno-Blower '87

By ERIN GOODMAN

During the grey months of January, Dalhousie spirit seems to dissolve like a lump of slush on a hot radiator.

The Dalhousie Student Union understands mid-winter blahs, and is presenting Sno-Blower '87, Dalhousie's annual winter carnival, to counter student apathy attacks. As Chairperson of the Winter Carnival Program, Scott Matthews has helped organise a week of activities, running from January 19-24.

During the past several years, the Winter Carnival has suffered

from some organizational problems and a lack of student participation. Matthews took on his job as organizer in the belief that the Carnival could be restored to its former glory.

"I think that once students come out to the events, even (just) to observe, it will be an incredible winter carnival," he said.

The DSU is melting the ice on Monday with the creation of a giant icecream sundae stretching the length of the Student Union Building. Students will be able to purchase a spoon to help devour the super-sundae, and proceeds will help support the DSU foster

child.

Matthews cites the highlight of the week as the Supersub on Saturday, January 24th, which will feature the Spoons, the Hopping Penguins and the comedy team Lambert & James.

Students will have a chance to flaunt their own talents during the Black & Gold Revue on Wednesday, January 21st. Matthews described last year's Revue as "long, boring and tedious", but is confident that Tony Quinn, a popular local comedian, will be an exceptional host throughout an entertaining two hours of music, dance and comedy.