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Capital fund drive swells

by BILL OVEREND

Dalhousie's five-year \$35 million capital funding campaign has swelled to \$18.6 million after only eleven months of existence, says director of development John Mabley.

And the commitment of Dal students to contribute \$750,000 to the campaign, which began last October, has greatly aided the solicitation process, says Mabley.

Students voted in favour of a \$15 increase in their student union fees as part of a six year agreement with the university. In exchange, they got guarantees of tuition hike ceilings of four per cent per year for three years, and a negotiable four to 12 per cent per year for three more years after that.

"This is a staggering commitment that the students have made," says Mabley, who is overseeing the corporate and alumni fund drives within the campaign.

Corporate and alumni donors now being solicited read the students' three quarter million dollar commitment as a challenge to meet or exceed, says Mabley.

"The willingness of the students to contribute \$750,000 has been a great motivator," he says.

Mabley says he believes the administration will be true to its word and negotiate the agreed-upon tuition fee limits in good faith.

"I'm unaware of any second See "Fund Drive", page 7

Acadia pulls the chute on SUNS

By MICHAEL DANIELS

THE COUNCIL OF THE ACADIA University Student Union (ASU) has decided to pull out of the Student's Union of Nova Scotia (SUNS).

The council met on Sept. 17th to debate the question, "Are the benefits of membership in SUNS worth the cost?" The ASU was expected to pay a membership fee of \$5,000 this year.

The decision was based on the results of a "cost/benefit analysis" of SUNS membership prepared by Keith Publicover, ASU president.

"The council asked me to look at SUNS specifically over the summer," says Publicover. He says he was asked to review the role and purpose of SUNS to see if it meets the needs of Acadia students.

Publicover says the ASU had been considering a review of SUNS membership for the past three years.

The ASU has been critical of what it sees as an inefficiency in SUNS operations.

Publicover was quoted in the Sept. 13, 1983 issue of *The Athenaeum*, Acadia's student newspaper, as saying, "This organization (SUNS) tends to be more bureaucratic than the bureaucrats themselves. I find them ineffective and a stagnant group of people."

Putting the blame on the SUNS Halifax office is unfair," says Barney Savage, vice-president external of the Dalhousie Student Union.

"He knows how much money

SUNS has and he knows it's not a lot," says Savage. "The ASU claims there's been a breakdown of communication and it puts all the blame on the Halifax office."

At this stage, now in September, I don't think his (Publicover's) council knows what's going on (in SUNS)," Savage says.

The Acadia pull-out is expected to have an effect on the unity of Nova Scotia university students. The long-overdue Report of the Nova Scotia Royal Commission on Post Secondary Education is expected soon, and student unions in the province must be prepared to fight some of the Commission's recommendations, says Savage.

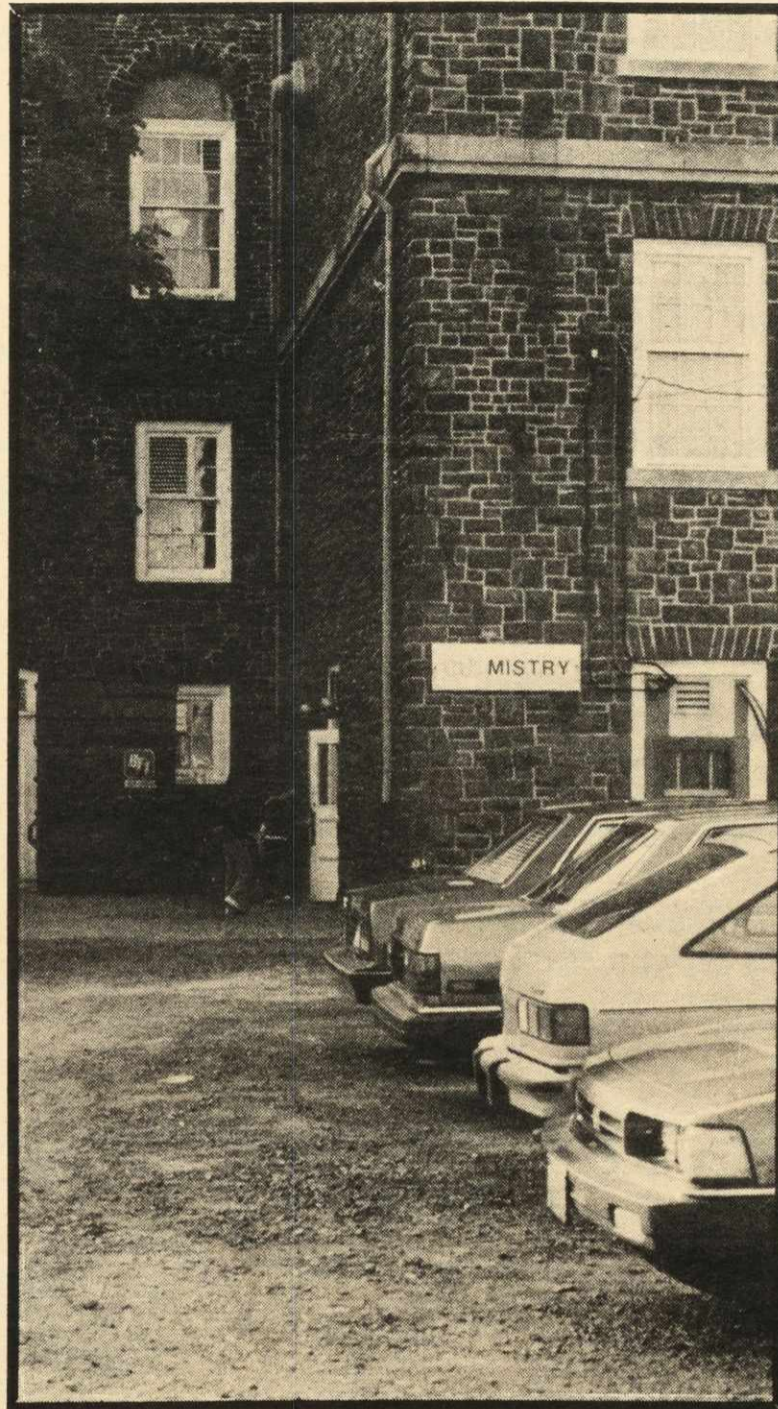
"We (SUNS) want to have a united effort to fight the Commission's recommendations, or we may not be able to fight them at all," he says.

Publicover says the university's councils can still be unified without SUNS if they all agree on the issues.

Trent Allen, one Acadia student who says Acadia can benefit from being part of SUNS, has begun to lobby for the decision to pull out of SUNS to be put to a student referendum.

Allen says he only found out about the Sept. 17 council meeting two days before it took place. He began circulating copies of a letter asking students to go to the meeting to ask for a referendum on the matter.

Allen says he feels the ASU rushed to get a decision made without adequately informing students on the issue.



Students sneak in the back door of the archaic "MISTRY" building. Plans are underway to build a new Chemistry facility. Photo: Suzan Ketene, Dal Photo.

New chemistry facility on the way

by DAN FELDSTEIN

"OUR LABS ARE WAY overcrowded, especially with the number of new majors".

That's the way a fourth year chemistry student described the situation in the Dalhousie chemistry building. In the face of the situation, the university has decided to build a new facility as well as refurbish the existing one.

"Our labs are archaic," says Dr. Charles Warren, chair of the building committee, "and yet chemistry is supposed to be a modern science".

Warren says the chemistry department has wanted to improve the facilities for years. He says the lack of proper lab space has caused the rescheduling of labs in the introductory course from one lab every week to one lab every two weeks.

Warren says the original plan was to move the chemistry

department into the old archives building. A more detailed study of space needs by the university determined the archives doesn't contain enough space and the quality of the space is inadequate.

"I think from all constituencies on our campus the number one priority is the chemistry building" says Robbie Shaw, vice-president of finance for the university.

Shaw says the project will consist of three phases over a period of five years:

- a chemistry podium to house teaching facilities as well as undergraduate labs;
- complete refurbishing of the existing chemistry building to house research labs;
- refurbishing of the MacDonald science library for chemistry purposes.

The start dates of the three See "Chemistry", page 8

Waiting for a student loan? Keep waiting

By KIMBERLY WILLIAMS

JOHN HOLM, NOVA SCOTIA NDP education critic, is urging Terry Donahoe, provincial minister of education, to take immediate action to resolve a major backlog in the processing of student loan applications.

In an open letter to Donahoe, Holm recommends the hiring of additional staff to help process the backlog of applications.

The backlog is a result of problems with a new computer system installed this spring.

Although Nova Scotia Student Aid hopes to have their computer system fully functional for next year, this year's applications will not be completely processed until May 1986 and incoming applications are not being acknowledged.

"There is a need for additional staff to assist in the processing of student loan applications," says Holm.

Hugh MacLeod, Dalhousie public relations officer, says, "There are normally 17 people working on the applications and 6 to 8 additional people from within the Student Aid Office are now helping with the work load."

"I realize that student aid is doing their best and I am not criticizing the individuals, but the situation is unacceptable," says Holm.

There is always an influx of applications at this time of year and there are always extra people brought in to assist in the processing of applications," says MacLeod.

Student leaders say this year is one of the worst.

"They've been computerizing the department precisely to avoid this situation," says James LeBlanc, chair of the Students' Union of Nova Scotia.

"This year there was a 10 percent increase in applications over last year," says MacLeod. "There are 3,200 applications to process, and Student Aid is about halfway through."

Although the Student Aid Office has contacted post-secondary institutions in the province to inform them of the situation and has requested assistance, Holm fears many students will suffer unnecessary financial hardship or be forced to withdraw from programs.