

University closes bookstores

by Donna Treen

The College Shop and Stationary Store will close effective December 31.

Vice-President of University Services, Louis Vagianos, said the reason for closure of the two branches of the Campus Bookstore is due to significant deficits during the past several years. Vagianos told the Dalhousie Gazette that these deficits ranged from \$80,000 to \$150,000 each year.

The decision for closure of the outlets was that of University Services which took over the operation of the Main Bookstore, College Shop, and Stationary Store one and a half years ago. Vagianos said that before the final decision was made to close down the two outlets, the operation of the stores was offered to the Student Union which declined.

The College Shop, located in the SUB basement, has been in operation five years. The Stationary Store in the Life Sciences building has been in operation less than a year and the Main Bookstore in the Chemistry building, ten years. A profit has never been made from any of these operations according to Vagianos.

All essential supplies will be sold in what is now the Main Bookstore. University Services and three Student Union representatives will decide what materials will be sold. Vagianos said the main priorities would be textbooks and laboratory materials. Only a limited quantity of stationary materials will be sold in the Bookstore, mainly because it



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can be purchased cheaper at a nearby drugstore.

Overcrowding of the Bookstore during the first two weeks of registration in Sept. and Jan. will hopefully be avoided. Negotiations are in progress to set up a temporary bookstore during this period elsewhere on campus, perhaps the McInnes Room.

Plans are not yet definite for the use of the areas being vacated. It was suggested by Dalhousie Student Union President, Gord Neal,

that the Bank of Montreal be asked to consider expanding into what is now the College Shop. The final decision on this has not been made.

The Stationary Store may become an outlet for central supplies needed by University Departments. Students will also have access to some of these materials. A suggestion to Vagianos of having a cafeteria in this area produced the following reply, "That's not a bad

idea since we do need additional food services." There is a possibility that a cafeteria may be set up, as a final decision on how the space will be occupied has not been made.

The closure of the outlets will result in a reduction of staff. Vagianos told the Dalhousie Gazette that, "An effort is being made to find employment for those people involved. No one will be fired or laid off."

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