

Blue lights brighten up campus

BY BRANDON BUTLER

The new Tiger Light security system is officially up and running.

Designed as an improved crime warning for Dalhousie Security, the system received an official indoctrination on October 24 at a function held at the Arts and Administration building.

Many members of the Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) council and administration attended, as well as Dalhousie president Thomas Traves and the Mayor of the Halifax Regional Municipality, Walter Fitzgerald.

Also known as the Blue-Light system, the Tiger-Light system consists of several free-standing posts that emit a blue light. The blue lights are less harsh than white lights. They cast fewer shadows and do not temporarily blind those who look at them. This in itself will allow passersby to see one another more clearly.

As well, each light is equipped with an intercom system which is operated by a single button. Once the button is pressed, security can determine where an individual is located and talk with them over the intercom. As a final precaution, another light on the 2.7 metre tall posts will turn on, rotating like a police siren. This second light will illuminate the whole area of the campus around the post with a 1,000 watt bulb spinning at 90 revolutions per minute.

"The current plan calls for six

Tiger Lights on campus, and one more in the back of the Women's Centre," said Katherine Hannah, the DSU's executive vice-president.

"There's eight more that are going to be installed over this spring as well."

Reaction to the Tiger-lights so far has been positive.

"It's a good idea," said Patrina Venuta, a second-year English Major.

"It helps my peace of mind when I'm walking out of the library after eleven o'clock."

Dalhousie is the only univer-

sity in the Maritimes that employs the blue light system.

The idea for the implementation of this system has been ongoing within the DSU since January of 1996, and is costing the Union a total of \$150,000 dollars. The money for the project is coming out of the DSU's Capital Campaign Fund. Last year students agreed to donate \$25 per school year for the next five years to Dalhousie's Capital Ideas Campaign.

"It's an excellent idea, and I'm proud to be a part of it," Hannah said.

DAL-TUNS MERGER

Student governments talk turkey

BY CHRIS CROWELL

When Dalhousie and the Technical University of Nova Scotia merge, what will become of the schools' current student unions?

This is just one of the many issues that the university's are dealing with as they prepare for amalgamation.

When the merger of Dalhousie and the Technical University of Nova Scotia (TUNS) was announced, no one was thinking of the effect it would have on the student governments of each institution. With the merger only months away, the time has come to sit down and figure out how to unify the two student unions.

While preliminary discussions have been held to date, the first official meeting between the Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) and TUNS' student union will be next week.

To address the merger issue, the

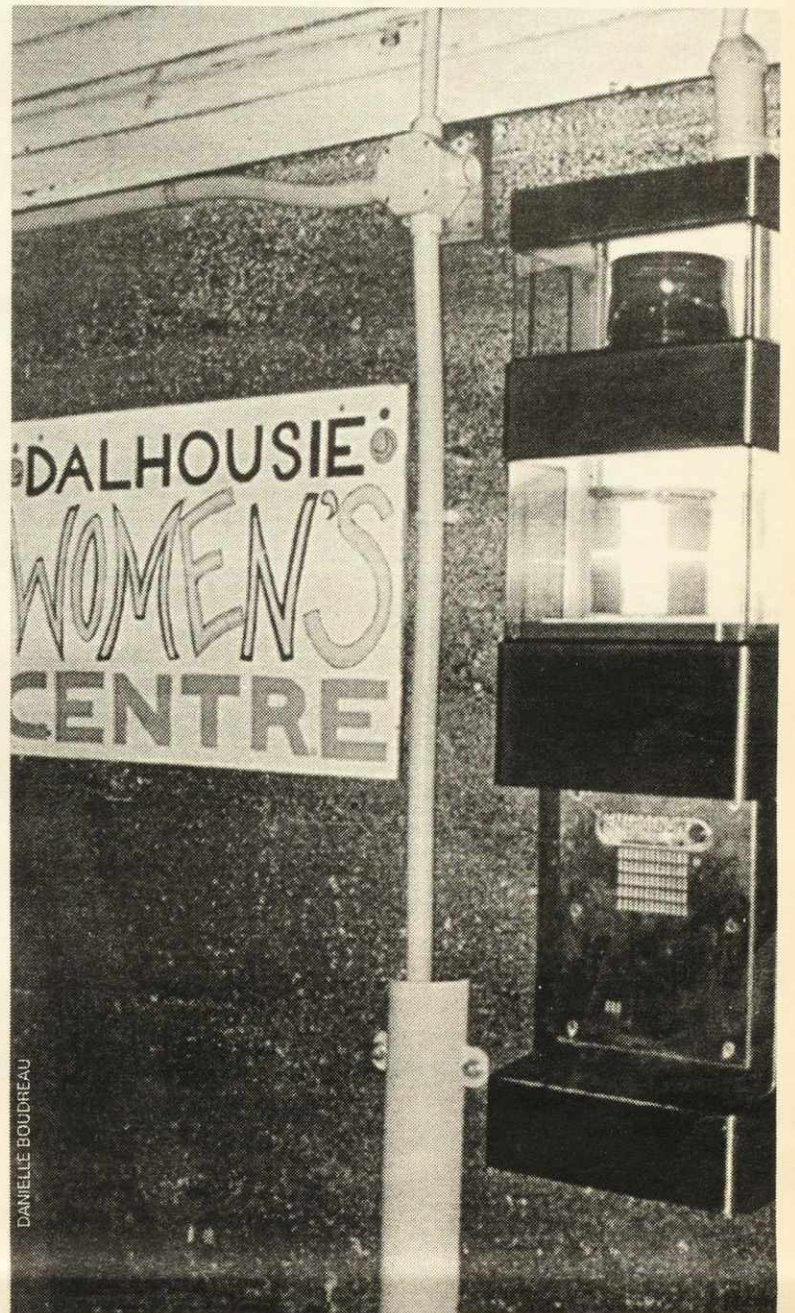
DSU has formed an ad hoc committee consisting of DSU President Brad MacKay, Vice-President Executive Katherine Hannah, Vice-President Academic/External Chris Lydon, two DSU council members, and two students at large. The committee is chaired by DSU council chair Andy Doyle.

DSU President Brad MacKay said that he expects negotiations to last into next year.

"We have to keep an open mind and have a firm understanding of how they feel down there [at TUNS]," Mackay said.

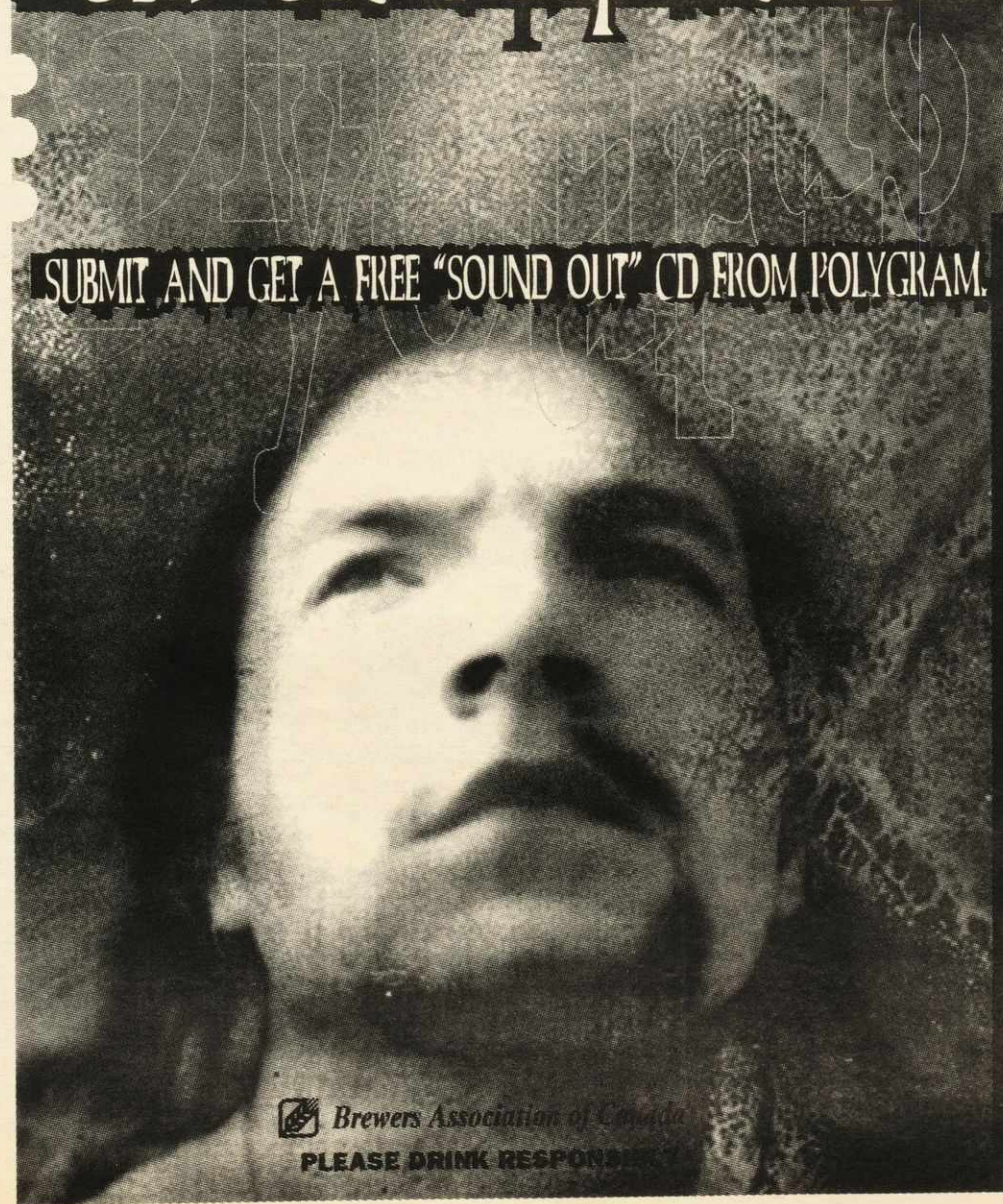
"We're not giving ultimatums, these are negotiations: let's come to a conclusion that is satisfactory for Dal and TUNS students."

Representatives from TUNS' student council were unavailable for comment concerning the future of their student council at press time.



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