



Le ciel est bleu. La plume de ma tante. Plus de cafe and a croissant while you're at it.

Dites oui
au café français

Café may stay fermé

by Geoff Stone

The future of Dalhousie's Café Français is in doubt, and the financially strapped french department may need to close the lunch spot according to department chair Michael Bishop.

Bishop says the Café has been closed since the past director of the Café resigned halfway through last term. The Café was to be reopened in January with a new director, but the board of health has said the café needs new renovations, including a second sink.

Bishop says that while the department may do the renovations, with their present financial strains, the Café may be closed.

The Café began over seven years ago, and has been run by a paid student director and volunteers. The Café serves sandwiches and croissants and has provided a place for casual french conversation.

Bishop says that while the Café has worked well, it has been a burden on the department when it was not well run.

Bishop says that if the Café does close, the space may be used as a room for discussion groups, or it may be turned into office space. "We have two full time professors sharing office space, and it should be easy to get money to change it into an office."

But Bishop says for now the department will be looking at the possibility of reopening the Café especially if they can get financial help for the renovations. "It (the Café) is not a priority for us, unless the University would chip in", Bishop says.

Bishop says while the Café is a pleasant feature, the department has to look at its academic budget first, and the Café may have to be closed to maintain other services. "We could hardly place it over academic needs."

"It has been a pleasant function to have", Bishop says, but adds that, "without some renovations it does not look as it it (the Café) will continue."

It'll never happen. . .

Buchanan's "U. of Halifax" no solution

by Ellen Reynolds

Premier John Buchanan says Nova Scotia has too many degree-granting institutions and to solve the problem we must restructure, specialize and eventually phase out some universities and colleges.

Compared to the rest of Canada, the number of universities and colleges per capita is high in N.S. This results in comparatively low government funding per student. But not everyone shares Buchanan's opinion that the solution is to phase out some post secondary institutions.

"It's simplistic to say we have too many universities. The perception that universities are only consumers is wrong. It's important to have a strong university base" says Royden Trainor, acting chair of the Students' Union of N.S. Trainor says that with so many colleges and universities in N.S. it's difficult to meet financial demands and it's only becoming more difficult since federal government cutbacks means cutting \$55 million from education from 1986 to 1991.

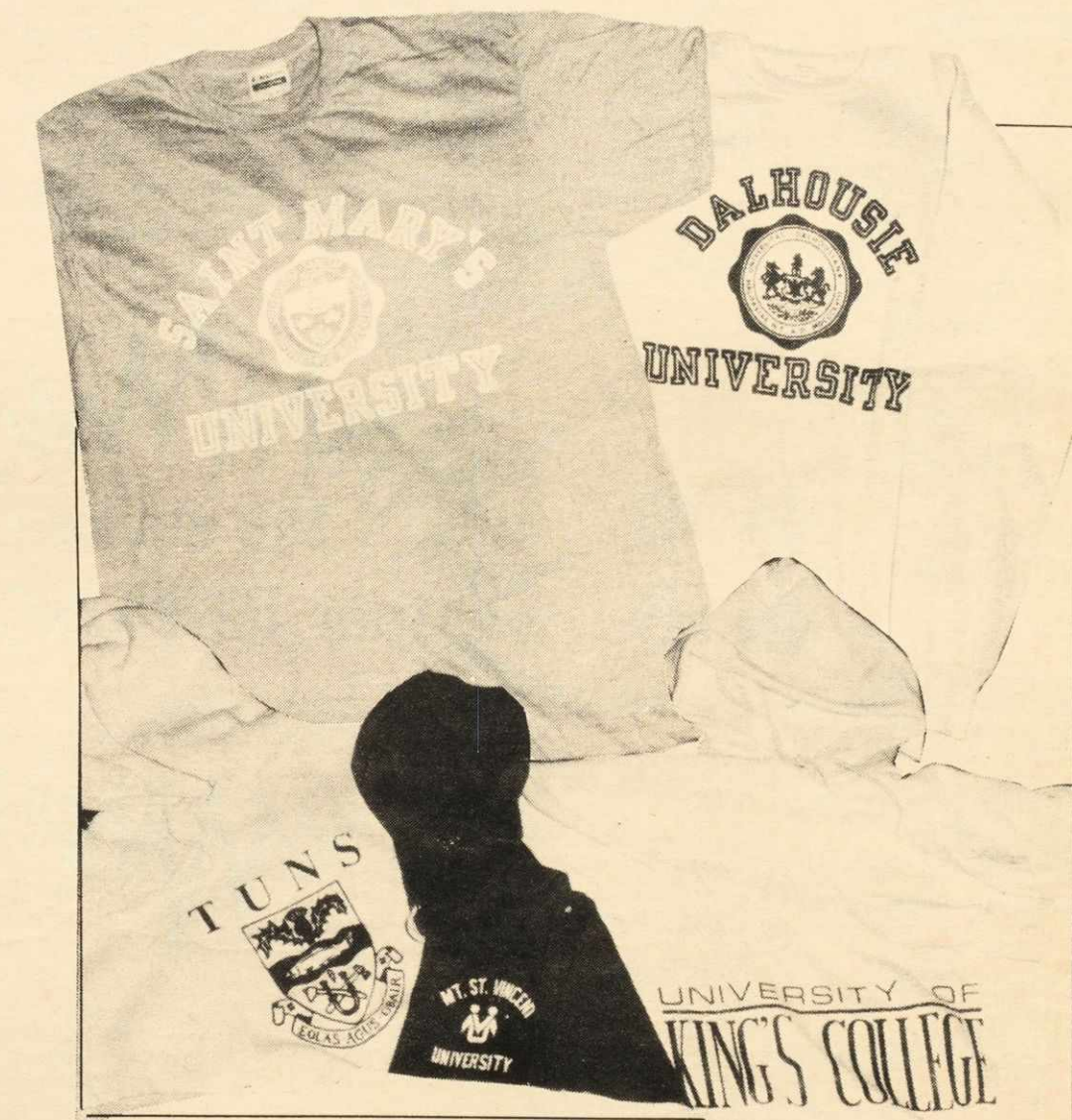
"When the cutbacks were

announced the premier just sat on his hands," says Trainor who concludes that post secondary education (PSE) is obviously not a priority with the government.

"Access (to education) is crucial," says president of the Dalhousie Faculty Association, David Williams." The existence of regional colleges has much to do with the prosperity of a region. What we need is more campuses," says Williams.

According to John D'Orsay, Executive Director of the Nova Scotia Confederation of University Faculty Associations, the percentage of college-age people attending colleges or universities in Canada is approximately half the United States percentage. And while 10.4 per cent of Nova Scotians and 12.6 per cent of Canadians have university degrees, 19.6 per cent of Americans have university degrees. The U.S. government also has plans to increase that percentage to 35 per cent of Americans with university degrees by the year 2000. D'Orsay says there is no such government concern for improvements in Canada.

"We aren't educating



On the other hand, T-shirts with the logo "Buchanan U." have great market potential. . .

college-age people at anywhere near the rate of Americans. We'll be competing on a level playing field with the Free Trade Agreement now and we will be greatly disadvantaged," says Williams.

Although some specializa-

tion is already taking place in universities and colleges across Canada, the possibility of actually phasing out an institution is unlikely. D'Orsay says we might see fewer university presidents and administrators but then there would be

the problem of which institutions would merge.

"Legally and politically it's impossible to phase out universities. I think it would be political suicide," says Trainor.

Paul Grandy: Dal Photo