

# Class wars

By Toby Sanger

INCONSISTENCIES IN DALHOUSIE'S space management system have created a conflict between the school of nursing and the smaller but more established faculty of dentistry over classroom space.

With only a few days before classes start, nursing is left with rooms the director of the school considers unsatisfactory for most of their classes.

"My faculty are ready to go and sit in the president's office. It's a crisis situation," says Dr. Phyllis Stern.

The main room assigned to the school is too small, has columns which obstruct the view and is a fire hazard. Despite repeated complaints, little has been done to improve the situation.

John Graham, assistant vice-president of university services, says "we're still working on the problem. We have a dynamic system which allows for change."

Most of the classrooms nursing uses are not controlled by the university's central booking system but instead by the dentistry and medicine faculties. They have first choice of rooms in their buildings and offer the leftovers to other faculties through the central booking system.

This summer, Suzanne Caty, university Senate nursing representative, requested rooms in the medicine and dentistry buildings be centrally administered so space is shared more equitably.

There are 280 students in dentistry compared with over 500 in nursing.

John Graham and Brian Moxley, in charge of booking for dentistry, disagree central booking

would solve the problem. Moxley says he would refuse to give nursing better classrooms because "there isn't adequate space in the dentistry building."

"They keep on assuming that it is the dentistry faculty's responsibility. It is not a dental faculty problem."

"Bringing rooms under central booking will not solve the problem," says Graham. "It is the method of teaching in those departments which is the problem. They teach in blocks and they all want morning classes."

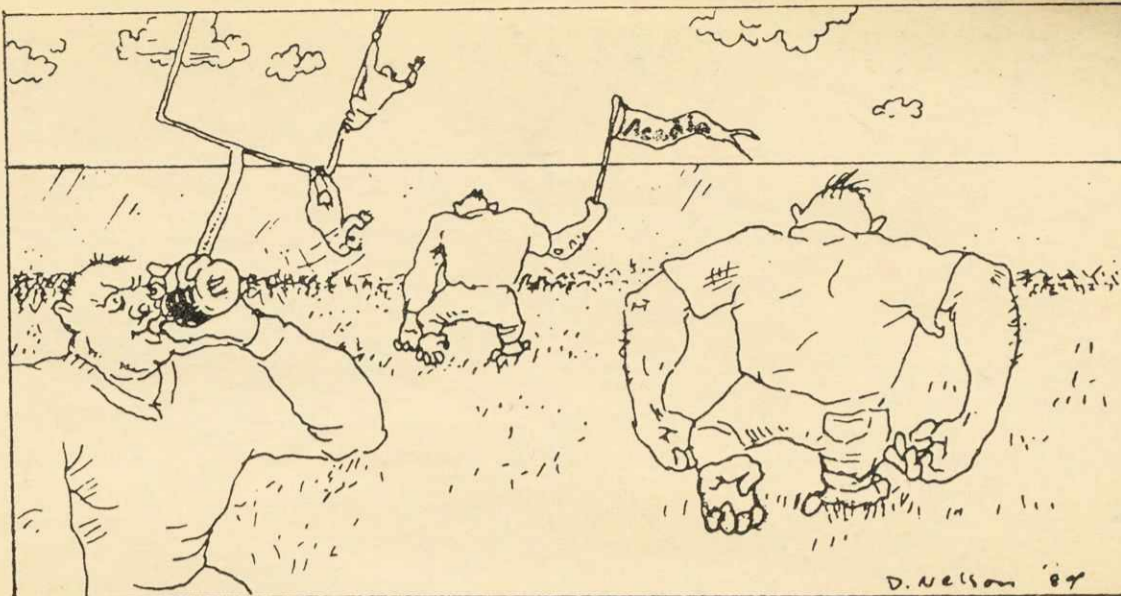
Renovating Forrest 2602, the main classroom allocated to nursing, would cost \$40,000 and Graham says the room could never be a permanent classroom because of the columns which block the view of some students from their instructors.

Moxley says when the Forrest building was refurbished four years ago, "we went out of our way to give nursing the space they needed," but they "didn't bother the check anything."

"That's quite untrue," says Stern. "We played with those plans for some time. We fought very hard to keep classes in the Forrest building."

The Space Management Department is preparing a policy paper on classroom booking priorities for consideration by Senate. Graham concedes the university might have to offer other classrooms or secure more classrooms from dentistry and medicine for nursing.

Dr. Stern says it has been suggested it is a feminist issue. "One can't help but notice that 100 per cent of the faculty and 98 per cent of the student (in nursing) are female."



## Death by tradition

By Stephen Shay

**WOLFVILLE (CUP)** — Traditions and rituals on university campuses are as common as textbooks and Kraft dinner, but it's not the books or the macaroni that are killing students.

One tradition at Acadia University is the Summer Extravaganza, weekend-long celebration in July when students return to the campus for good times and cold beer. This year's reunion spirit was dampened when Harold Sheldon, an Acadia business student, died in a fiery crash.

Sheldon and his friends were leaving the Gaspereaux River, where they had participated in the reunion ritual of floating down the river on inflated inner tubes, when the car in which he was a passenger left the road and slammed into a telephone pole.

Alcohol was involved. This is not surprising as alcohol tends to be the rule and not the exception when students gather on or off campuses across the country and in recent years the list of alcohol-related student fatalities has been growing among the tragedies:

- in 1984, Shawn Reineke, a non-student, was shoved down a garbage chute following a bizarre mock funeral in a University of Saskatchewan residence;
- last September, Brigitte Boukaet was crushed under the wheels of a bus after she tried to control a crowd of frantic Wilfrid Laurier University students during orientation celebrations at the Waterloo school;
- on the same night in Montreal, David Gilmour was slashed across the throat with a broken bottle less than 50 yards away from a Concordia University orientation beer bash.

Alcohol has long been an integral part of university social activities. In the past, university officials were concerned mostly about vandalism and general rowdiness, but in recent years, the rise in alcohol-related deaths has prompted administrators to reconsider how and why alcohol is sold to students. "It's been a growing national trend to review liquor policies regarding students each and every year," says Jeff Redden, general manager of student services at Acadia.

And it's not just a matter of clamping down on students who drink too much, says Dave Hartt, a founder of the Addiction Research Foundation's campus Alcohol Policies and education

(CAPE) program.

"It's more important to educate students. drinking is not a problem as long as it's done in moderation," Hartt says.

"Tradition is our biggest problem. Students feel they must drink to get drunk or they won't fit in as

proper university students," he says.

As well as education students and encouraging changes in attitudes, CAPE advises bars to change the drinking environment. Differential pricing is a

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The Dalhousie Gazette, September 4, 1986

## Women's residence

By Karilee Bruff

AFTER SEVERAL YEARS OF PLANNING, Dalhousie University will soon have a new women's residence. The building will house 84 student and is expected to cost \$1.6 million.

Construction will not start until late fall and the building is projected to be operational during the summer session of 1987.

Designed by Ted Brown of Preston and Associates, the residence is planned to blend in with the surrounding streetscape on South Street. Students were

encouraged to submit their suggestions and many of these were incorporated into the design of the new residence.

The building will be connected to the Alumni House and Stairs House, the office of the School of Recreation in front of Dalplex.

The new residence is not expected to meet the demand for women's housing because of a loss of housing on Summer Street and the possibility of the loss of Ardmore Hall as a women's residence.

## NSCAD union readies for strike

By Toby Sanger

FACULTY AT THE NOVA SCOTIA SCHOOL of Art and Design voted yesterday to give their union executive power to call a strike in their negotiations for a first contract with the NSCAD administration.

Alvin Cometer, president of the year old union, says the strike vote should convince the administration that they have a serious problem.

Students at the college stand to suffer a serious setback to their academic year if negotiations don't improve and a strike is

called later this term.

Relations between the union and administration soured over the summer but the college neglected to inform incoming students to the renown art school. NSCAD President Garry Kennedy says they didn't notify students because "we are planning to operate the college, strike or not."

The four major items causing conflict in the negotiations are grievance procedures, a system of consultation with faculty and students on academic matters, job security and a system of salary equity within the college.

Graphic: The Fulcrum