

# Two new societies at Dal

by Scott Randall

The Dalhousie Undergraduate History Society and the Off-Campus Society have started up this fall at Dalhousie, and participation has been very good.

The Off-Campus society of Dalhousie is a sort of 'catch-all' society for anyone who wants to get involved. The society is set up for people who want to meet people and have fun and also being some school spirit to Dalhousie, according to Siobhan O'Regan.

The society was started by Patty Dow, Owen Webber, and O'Regan this fall after frosh week. The idea developed from the Off-campus frosh squad which was a big success this year. Their first meeting attracted about 40 people and had to be moved to the Green Room in the SUB from the smaller room they had booked. O'Regan says there was a good

mixture of students from all faculties and all years, particularly frosh.

Although the society doesn't have regular meetings as such, their next meeting is tentatively planned for Nov. 16. The society is planning many activities and is involved with intramural sports such as broomball. The society will also be competing with other Societies in the Team Yell-off at the Tigers' hockey game on Nov. 24. The winner of this will win a party sponsored by Oland's Brewery. After Christmas the society is planning the biggest pub crawl Halifax has ever seen.

Since the society is just getting started this year, there hasn't been much of an opportunity for elections or for getting an office for the society, but that is planned for next year. As for now, the people that run it are people that get involved.

The Dalhousie Undergraduate History Society has also started up this year after a 3-year absence. The society already has about 25 members and is still growing, according to its president, Kathryn Alexander. The only requirement is that a student be enrolled in a history course at Dalhousie.

Towards the end of last year, Alexander and the society's secretary, Rebecca Smith, approached Dr. Graham Taylor, Chair of the History Department, with the idea of forming a history society. Taylor referred them to Dr. D.R. Woolf, who became their faculty advisor. The society had their first meeting in September, and two weeks later elections were held. Other members of the executive include Andrew Young (vice-president), Cheryl MacDonald (Treasurer), Robert Belliveau (department/Arts Society

rep) and Renee Pace (social coordinator).

Alexander added that DSU VP Terry Crawley helped the society in setting up their constitution and in showing them what the DSU had to offer. Things were slow at the start of the year because the members had to deal with technical details such as the society's constitution, but Alexander says, "Now we are at the stage where things are starting to happen."

The society's focus will be on having a presence on campus and promoting student interaction, as well as interaction between students and professors. Alexander says first-year goals will be limited, at the society is just setting up, but they will try to get first- and second-year students interested so the society will carry on next year.

The society had a booth set up in the SUB lobby during the week of Oct. 30 to sell tickets for their 50/50 draw and to get exposure for their society, says Alexander. All tickets were sold and the draw is Nov. 10 at their next big event, the History Happy Hour at 4:30 p.m. in the History House, 1411 Seymour Street. Other activities the society is planning include co-ed intramurals, weekly film nights, trips to conferences in Boston and other places in New England, seminars with guest speakers, pub crawls, and a Christmas party.

The society is also planning to set up a student evaluation body to give input into changes going on with the History department.

Funding for the society will be coming from fundraising activities, the History Department, and the Arts Society.

## Latvian students fight to dodge draft for Red Army

by Jeff Harrington

Students registering at Latvian State University last year had more than midterms to worry about.

Some of them ended up on a field trip to Siberia.

Until this spring, university students in Latvia had to serve two years in the Red Army before graduating, said a senior legal advisor to the Latvian Popular Front in Halifax on Saturday.

Egils Radzins is a member of the governing council of the LPF, a mass movement that adopted a program last month calling for

service for health reasons.

After students demonstrated in February, authorities bowed to the pressure and changed the law, he said. But youths not in university are still subject to the draft.

"The draft is still a very critical issue," said Robert Damberg a Halifax architect and local liaison for the LPF.

Damberg said that "many, many young Latvians were just grabbed" in 1986 and sent to Chernobyl in the aftermath of the catastrophic nuclear accident.

"Many died there. Many are invalids now, poisoned by Chernobyl. Because they aren't consi-

He said one had been tortured with a clothes iron while another's back had been sliced with a razor blade. Damberg said two more conscripts were returned to their parents in October, in sealed caskets.

"They had been strangled. Either they hung themselves out of despair or they were strangled or hung by someone else," he said.

Damberg noted there is no open conflict in the Soviet Union, except "maybe in Armenia or Azerbaijan," where they were not serving.

Radzins said young people are sending their passports to Moscow and "going out of citizenship of the USSR". Soviet citizens are obliged to serve in the army.

"Youngsters are also refusing to serve on the grounds that they are an occupied nation," Damberg said.

According to the Hague convention, citizens do not have to serve in an occupying army. The LPF considers the Soviet annexation of the Baltic republics in 1940 to be illegal. Its assertion that the pre-World War Two Latvian constitution is still valid is a cornerstone of its strategy for attaining independence.

Mothers in the three Baltic republics have formed a Women's League to demand that youths not be sent to serve in other parts of the Soviet Union, and that those already drafted be protected.

The Latvian Women's League has presented a draft bill to the Latvian Supreme Soviet, which will be reviewed November 10.

## No more cutbacks

by Gilles Castonguay

OTTAWA (CUP) — University and college students from across Canada will rally on Parliament Hill today to protest a new bill which could cripple post-secondary education, Jane Arnold said.

About 2000 people are expected, along with several organizations including the Canadian Association of University Teachers and the Canadian Health Coalition, the Canadian Federation of Students chair said. She said it is the first time in five years that a demonstration of such national proportions has been organized.

Student council representatives from across the country, in town for a CFS general meeting, will present petitions signed by thousands of students opposing Bill C-33 to members of parliament.

According to the ministry of finance, the bill will cut \$900 million over five years from federal transfer payments to the provinces for post-secondary education (PSE).

Bill C-33 reduces the growth rate for transfer payments by one per cent for four years beginning in 1990-91.

Arnold said the federal government has been slowly cutting back its financial commitment to PSE for several years.

"In a time frame from 1986 to 1994, \$7 billion will have been eliminated from the money that should be going to the provinces for PSE," she said.

A finance department official said the Conservative government is cutting back in all departments to fight the national debt.

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Damberg (left) and Radzins.

### University sounds good compared to life in the Red Army.

independence from the Soviet Union. He is in Canada to act as a liaison for the LPF and to study Western electoral systems and parliamentary procedures.

Radzins, who graduated from the university two years ago, said students would return to school after their stints in the army. After graduation, they were required to spend two more months as an officer. Radzins himself escaped

dered war invalids, they are left to their own devices," he said.

More recently, demands for independence in the three Baltic republics of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia have increased the abuse of young Baltic conscripts, Damberg said.

"According to my information, six Latvians died at boot camp during September alone," he said.

## Workshops for students

by Alistair Croll

In a conference held last week at Dalhousie, representatives from various Nova Scotia universities met to discuss the Student Union of Nova Scotia policy toward international students. The weekend of workshops, which dealt with the problems a foreign student must face upon arrival in Canada, brought together nearly twenty-five students and administrators.

Those attending the meeting also discussed English requirements, employment restrictions, housing, racism, and the elevated fees paid by international students.

Special consideration was also given to emergency measures in the wake of the recent student demonstrations in Tiananmen Square.

Andreas Katsouras, chair of the SUNS international student committee, called the conference a success. "This kind of contact is important between various student groups and their constituents," he said.

The conference was the first such forum ever held by SUNS, and Katsouras said although much was accomplished, it will take time before the conference becomes much bigger.