

Wreck Cove Controversy

Helen Spinelli

The continuing controversy on Wreck Cove is still raging to no ones surprise. The recent release of a report from the Ecology Action Centre (Dalhousie University) has just added another ripple to the ever rising tide wave of opposition to the project. The 28 page report examines three different aspects of the project: (1) the environmental impacts, (2) the political process involved and (3) the overall energy needs of the province. The report concludes from its investigation that the Wreck Cove Hydro project may not be the best long or short term solution to Nova Scotia's energy needs, and that the project is proceeding with inadequate environmental assessment and minimal public participation.

It recommends that "There be a delay of at least one year in the construction of the project. Power deficits that may entail can be met by importing from New Brunswick. This will provide time for a thorough re-evaluation of the entire project, including public hearings, detailed environmental impact studies and thorough studies into alternate power sources."

The Nova Scotia Power Corp. reaction to this report and its recommendations were negative. Mr. R. P. Delory, projects manager, is reported in the 4th Estate as saying "I wish you'd tell those guys to go to hell" referring to the Ecology Action Centre group. The N.S.P.C. also claims that

a halt in construction, planned to begin in May '75, will severely increase the projects cost now estimated at over 80 million dollars.

Much of the resentment towards the N.S.P.C. and its closed door attitude to environmental studies that are not favoring the project are not without valid cause. Since the McLaren Report was released and then returned for alter-

ations because — as Premier Regan put it, "gobbledy gook language" that made it "confusing", there has been a feeling that the present government refuses to seriously evaluate environmental costs if it means a halt to the project. Although the alterations in language were made the body of the report remained the same and its conclusion that until some

important questions were answered it could not recommend commencement of the project, was unchanged.

Another request was made for further investigation by Mr. J. Ackerman, N.D.P. leader, on Feb. 14 in the House Assembly. His request included estimates of total costs (the eighty million quoted in this article apparently does not include costs of

road construction, power transmission lines; neither does it allow for interest rates higher than 8.5%. Costs may therefore rise to as high as 140 million), copies of studies by the N.S.P.C. dealing with possible alternatives, a list of studies and reports of the project received by the government and the N.S.P.C. (which were not available at that time). On March 11, Premier Regan responded. He refused to answer the questions because they were too detailed and he explained it would take all the staff currently going ahead with the project to prepare such information. "He's asking for so much ... that I'm not even prepared to start talking about the ones (questions) we can accept," said the Premier. The Ackerman motion was defeated 29 to 9.

The government's continual refusal to heed any negative Wreck Cove Project report that comes across its desk may be an indication that they are willing to have this project proceed at any cost. It also leads one to believe that if careful scrutinized, and input from the public, the project may not be accepted.

The one year delay suggested by the Environment Action Centre Report is fiasable because imports from N.B. could fill any power gap. It would also provide enough time for serious evaluation of this project and possible alternatives to take place, before irreparable environment damage is done.



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DAL-TECH MERGER

Is Education Getting Shafted?

by Michael Greenfield

It is the end of another school year and many students (I know at least 2) are wondering - What's the story with the Dal-Tech merger? In the fall it seemed as if maybe Nova Scotia Technical College would become part of Dalhousie University. So? What happened was that politics entered the issue, consequently a lot of time, rhetoric, and money has been exerted to delay something that should already be an accomplished fact.

Recently, the Chronicle-Herald published an editorial on the merger entitled - "This plan should be abandoned". The first sentence reads - "It is by now clear to every thinking Nova Scotian that the proposed Dal-Tech merger has no advantages whatsoever to offer - excepting to the theory of empire building." Since the Chronicle-Herald is not known for its clear thinking, and often the lack of it I decided that the situation deserved some looking into, a process which is often lost upon the dailies in this town.

The proposed plan would

add two new and separate professional facilities to Dal. A School of Architecture and a school of Engineering. The schools will have the same status as the Med school or Law school and they will offer either a 2 or 3 year program, depending upon the final set up agreed to. This would allow a co-ordinated 4 to 5 year program of engineering and architecture not presently available to any student in the Maritimes.

It was N.S. Tech that about 4 years ago started pushing for the Merger. The Provincial Engineering and Architecture associations have voiced their support for the Merger. Studies done by the provincial University Grants Committee, Tech, and Dal support the merger. (although Dal administration has not pushed the matter, basically considering it N.S. Tech's "baby" and unimportant to Dalhousie) The national committee that gives universities their accreditation has given it support to the merger. Those against the merger have been a group of Tech Alumni, Mt. Allison, Acadia, St. Marys, The Chro-

nicle-Herald, and the Conservatives.

The Conservatives have a very logical reason for opposing the merger. They are the Opposition, the Liberals have supported the merger, ergo they are against it. This statement may be an over-generalization, it is based on the recent vote by the committee investigating the Dal-Tech merger. The vote went 3 Liberals for, 2 Conservatives against, and 1 NDP not present, recommending the merger take place. (Maybe it's just a coincidence).

Some Tech Alumni, nostalgic sentimentals, see the merger as a relegation of their alma mater to just another Dal faculty. However, this group is small not a very strong factor in the controversy that has arisen concerning the merger.

However, it has been the other Nova Scotian universities, along with the Chronicle-Herald that have been strongest in their desire to thwart the Dal-Tech merger. Essentially, they are opposed to the spreading monolith called Dalhousie University. A

monolith which perpetually frightens the Chronicle-Herald, and the Chronicle-Herald in turn tries to frighten its readers. Universities are frightened because the more engineering and architecture students Dal gets, the less walk through their sacred halls of education.

In a report of the Dal-Tech Negotiating Committee, May 10, 1974 the academic objectives of the merger are laid out:

- to permit the Faculty of Engineering to develop a programme of studies patterned after engineering programmes elsewhere in Canada, accepting students with appropriate preparation in Grade 12 or its equivalent into a four-year programme with more professional courses in the first two years than has heretofore been the case. A.
- to facilitate closer ties between engineering and architecture programmes, especially in graduate studies and research, and other disciplines in a wider university context than is

now the case.

The merger, with the correct administration, will so obviously improve engineering and architecture education in Nova Scotia that the present accusations that it will not be merely a smokescreen for their true motives, motives which lie outside the realm of purely educational concerns. The merger will provide an excellent opportunity for new students. Unfortunately, the students point of view often tends to be of little concern, especially to Institutions concerned with money. Not that Dal is not such an institution; in this case it has been other schools which have exhibited this unfortunate trait.

Since the Committee in the Provincial Legislature has approved the merger it now remains for the Legislature to approve. The next sitting of the Legislature will open on June 5. If the Legislature acts this summer, by next fall the merger will be a reality. If it procrastinates, which is a possibility never to be excluded, what should be done will be put off yet another year.