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speak . . .

DSU Elections
Supplement

The GAZETTE

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TYP saved . . . for a year

by Lyssa McKee

Dalhousie has committed itself to continuing the Transition Year Program, for one more year at least, says Denis Stairs, Vice-President, Academic and Research. The funding for the program, which provides opportunities for Nova Scotian Blacks and Natives to upgrade their skills to university entrance level, will be taken from university funds, if money is not forthcoming from the government.

"At this particular stage, the money will come from university resources. However, since we have a deficit we'll be funding the program with money we don't have," says Stairs.

In past years the program has been largely supported by a corporate sponsor. However, the funding has run out, and as yet, none has been found to replace it. Several government departments, including MPHEC, have already refused the funding request. The administration is still involved in negotiations with the provincial government.

A task force, funded by the federal government, has been instituted to examine the Transition Year Program and to make general recommendations regarding Dalhousie's commitment to

minority students.

At press time, the Gazette was notified that the N.S. government has committed itself to providing

\$60,000 to support the Transition Year Program in 1988-89. But, as yet, there is still no commitment regarding next year.

Athletic fee bounces back More money, yes or no?

by Lorna Irons

A question concerning a \$25 Athletic Fee will once again be on the ballots, as Dalhousie students go to the polls next week.

Juanita Montalvo, Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) President, had hoped to avoid a referendum by negotiating with University Administration. She proposed to the Administration that the monies from the strike, which have not been reimbursed to students, be allocated to athletics. Thus replacing the need for an Athletics Fee, and saving all full time students \$25 off of their Student Union Fees for the 89-90 academic year.

Montalvo feels that the "DSU should have a say as to where the money goes. If it had gone to athletics, then there would have been no need for a referendum." But she says "the administration

said "no", to her proposal.

The controversial fee was first debated at this time last year. An administration-backed "Yes" campaign was perceived to be a problem by Council. In a letter written to President Clarke by then President Caroline Zayid, she stated that there were "very serious concerns about the Administration's involvement in the campaign for a \$25 athletic fee."

In this year's referendum Montalvo hopes to prevent any Administration interference. "The Student Union does not want Administration involvement. Since students will pay, it must be student presenting the case to students."

Tony Martin, Director of Dalplex, feels that as a result of the Athletic Fee, students have had great benefits. "Students have benefitted greatly in a number of

SUNS wants more money too

by Heather Hueston

The Students' Union of Nova Scotia (SUNS) is counting on a "yes" vote to its proposed increase to a per-student fee levy.

Otherwise, says SUNS chair Lara Morris, the organization may be forced into drastic budget cutbacks and a possible closure of their office. She says that due to SUNS' increased credibility as the voice of students' concerns, demands on the lobbying and research capacity are straining the organization's resources.

In a press release, SUNS says the money raised from increasing fees from 1.50 to 2.60 will last them till 1994. This is the first fee increase since SUNS implemented the per-student levy idea in 1982. Member institutions collect the money and forward it to SUNS each fall.

SUNS wants to employ its chair full time for the summer, create a part-time researcher position for the school year, and focus on rebuilding its membership, as well as continue its data-gathering.

Morris points to the appoint-

ment of students at the Nova Scotia Student Aid advisory board, the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission and possibly to the slated provincial Youth Secretariat as proof of the increased clout of SUNS.

Last week, SUNS sponsored the events of the National Week of Action. Morris, who as DSU

External VP co-ordinated the organizing, says she is pleased with student reaction and the fact that local politicians turned out.

Events included a lecture by former teacher Eric Smith, now of the Nova Scotia Task Force on AIDS, a campus accessibility tour, and a photo essay on underfunding.



Part of the National Week of Action last Monday — Kraft Dinner, the student's staple.

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ways, since they have access to enhanced facilities." He cites the improved weight room, a new hardwood floor and renovations to the squash and racquetball courts.

In a memo to Montalvo, Martin proposes that the approximately \$200,000 collected go towards purchasing two "Versa Climbers" (\$3,633 each), a four-sided basketball hoop (\$8,400) continued free access to varsity games (estimated \$15,000) sustaining increase to teams meal and travel allowance and beginning a two-year resurfacing of the fieldhouse floor (\$78,750 each year) among other items.

However, many people believe that the maintenance and upkeep of facilities is the responsibility of the university and not the students. Board of Governors rep

Shayna Watson says "(Students) paying for fixing the fieldhouse floor is like us paying to have the grass cut on campus."

Watson says she's not against students' money supplementing the athletic budget if it were just for improvements to facilities.

The \$25 fee was a 23% increase in Student Union Fees for the 88-89 academic year, raising the DSU fee from \$109 to \$134. Montalvo says that "it will be up to students to decide if they want to pay for repairs and maintenance to the university, money which the university should be paying."

DSU Elections Returning Officer Wayne Aspinall says both the No and Yes sides of the campaign have been organized. The Athletic Referendum fee forum is Monday, March 13 at 1:30 in the SUB Cafeteria.

Quorum calls it quits

by Lorna Irons

The General Meeting of the Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) took place at 12:30 p.m. March 3rd in the Green Room of the SUB. An auditor was appointed and three motions were passed before quorum was called at 1:30pm and the meeting had to be adjourned because the required 50 members were not present.

The Student Union Fee was increased by \$1.10 to reflect the increase to the Student Unions' of Nova Scotia Fee.

Student representation on the Senate has increased from 5 to 8 members.

Upon recommendation of the DSU treasurer, Frank DeMont, the firm Clarkson, Gordon replaced long-time DSU auditors, Touche Ross.

Last year, the DSU was caught

short by a surprise government audit which cost them almost \$60,000. Former SUB manager Andrew Beckett resigned shortly thereafter in January 1988.

There were two motions which could not be discussed before quorum was called.

Only one of the eight members of Senate shall be a voting member on the Student Council.

A member of Senate can only be recalled on the "advice and consent of the Academic Affairs Committee."

Juanita Montalvo, DSU President, explains that this last motion is to safeguard against any unwarranted dismissals of Senators.

These last two motions will be brought to the next General Meeting on Wednesday March 29th.