

## Programme provides mentorship opportunity

BY CAROL HILTON

As the academic year begins, so does the implementation of a new program at Dalhousie: the Science Protégé Initiative (SPI). SPI is the product of a collaboration between energetic students, professors, and administrators during the summer months.

In order to get the pilot project ready for the fall, the group had to work quickly. Fortunately, this was facilitated by the cooperation and support of Dr. Warwick Kimmins, Dean of Science, and the Dalhousie Science Society (DSS), led by President Mateo Yorke. Dr. Marcia Ozier, coordinator of the program, said that she is "...delighted with the unanimous enthusiasm for the student/faculty initiative."

SPI connects students and professors in stages. First-year students are paired with "mentor buddies" in their third and fourth years of study, and the mentors are then matched with a professor in their department. Academic cohorts group new students with similar interests in a lateral connection — SPI attempts to provide a vertical connection with new students to senior students to profs which has been lacking in the past.

Goals at these levels of the program differ. Since studies have shown that the first six weeks are the most crucial and difficult in a new student's life, the third and fourth-year students will serve to assist in the transition to university life. As a resource, the senior students will answer any questions the new students may have or direct them to someone who can help them. As a friend, the senior students may introduce their "buddies" to social activities

# Assault on Dal campus

BY JEN HORSEY

The fact that assault doesn't always happen at night was proven this weekend when, at three o'clock in the afternoon on Sunday, September 10th, a student was involved in an attempted assault on the boulevard in front of the Student Union Building (SUB).

A woman was approached by an unidentified man and forced to go with him to an undetermined location in the north-east end of campus. There was a struggle, during which the woman received several scratches to her face, but she was able to get away without serious injury.

The woman's identity has not been released, but it has been confirmed that she was a Dalhousie Student, and she has since withdrawn from school.

The Halifax Police were contacted at the time of the incident, and are currently conducting the investigation. However, David Cox, Dalhousie Student Union

(DSU) President, claims that "...investigators are not too confident that the individual will be caught."

"We do have some individuals on campus that have been harassing other women, but we're not sure if there's any link between this and the other incidents that have been happening," Cox said.

The unusual thing about this situation was the time of day — "It is alarming that someone would do this at three in the afternoon," said Cox.

The Student Union is looking at issues regarding the expansion of Dalhousie Security on campus. Changes such as expanding the hours of Tiger Patrol, and the installation of 'security poles' (where students can go to telephone security in the case of an emergency) are being considered as feasible ways to increase security.

In addition, it is hoped that the Tiger Patrol Shuttle bus, a drive-home service which was initiated last year by the DSU, will be operational next week.

Eric McKee, Dalhousie University's Vice President of Student Services, commented that this incident has been handed over to the Halifax Police, and stresses that although this incident occurred within the confines of the campus, "...it is a criminal investigation and not a university security investigation."

In response to the availability of security on campus, McKee commented that the Dalhousie campus is "...still a relatively safe place."

Anne Bartlett is the residence coordinator for Shirreff Hall and Eliza Ritchie, the residences where the majority of students are women. At these places, security is a primary concern, and Bartlett is confident that there are adequate security measures in place.

"We're trying so hard to make our residences a safe and educational environment," said Bartlett.

In addition to the services offered by the university, the residences offer peer counselling services, and work to ensure that access to the residences is closely monitored. "We try to be pro-active rather than reactive," she said.

In a security bulletin released by Dalhousie University, the assailant was described as a "white male, about 30 years of age. He is about five feet seven inches, has a slim build and dirty blond hair. At the time of the incident he was wearing an old beige coat, blue jeans and dark sunglasses."

People who have any additional information about the incident are encouraged to contact Halifax Police at 421-6845 or Dalhousie Security at 494-6400.



## So what happened at the G-7, anyway?

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and share the wisdom gained through their own experiences.

For their efforts, participating third and fourth-year students get the opportunity to have more personal contact with professors and exposure to science. The professors will not only support the senior students and their first-year "buddies", but also provide added insight into academic life, research, and career paths in their chosen fields.

Besides professor contact, sen-

ior students also get a great addition to their résumés, a chance to help others, connection with their peers, and they contribute to the sense of community within the university. Dr. Ozier adds, "The training for senior students in peer advising and advocacy is an important part of this project".

If you are a third or fourth-year science student with a B-average or better and are interested in volunteering or finding out more about this program,

attend the SPI information/workshop meeting on September 18 at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Student Union Building (SUB).

Write down your name, phone number, major, area of interest, and e-mail address and submit it to the DSS post box at the SUB Information Center or bring it to the meeting. A meeting for first-year students will be held on September 25th at the same time and place.

# Winter vacation gains a day

BY JEN HORSEY

Winter vacation just became one day longer.

In Monday afternoon's Senate meeting, a motion that was the result of a Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) initiative changed the start date of classes for the winter term.

Originally, the registrar had students in class on the 2nd of January, but the start date has been moved to the 3rd.

The DSU was responding to complaints from several students who thought that the 2nd was an unreasonable date to be back for school.

"It basically makes common sense," said Chris Lydon, DSU Vice President (VP) Academic, the member who brought the motion to the floor, "there are a number of out of province students who would have had to travel on the 31st of December, or the 1st of January to get back for the start of classes."

In order to allow students an adequate

amount of time to celebrate New Year's with their families, the additional day was added.

Although it is unusual for a student to request that an academic date be changed, the response in Senate was more positive than Lydon and the other DSU executive members had anticipated. The motion passed unanimously.

"We got a few rolling eyes, but that's it" said Lydon.

Registrar Gudrin Curri was positive about the change also.

"It was sensible," said Curri, "and let's face it, one tries to be sensible occasionally."

There were no speakers against the motion, and the only stipulation that was made by the registrar was that no other academic dates were to be challenged. This was requested due to the inconvenience of rescheduling the entire year.

The new Dalhousie president, Dr. Traves, seconded the motion, giving his support to

the idea of giving students the extra day off.

"We discovered, frankly, that the students took the day off," said Traves.

"It is not reasonable to expect them to come back. We decided to fit the holiday schedule into their real-life plans."

For those students who have already booked their tickets, Joanne Long, manager of Travel Cuts, said that they will allow students to change their travel date at no extra cost — provided that it is booked on a student flight.

"We would change [their flight] for free because we told them that classes started on the 2nd," Long said.

However, if the flight is booked through a seat sale, the date cannot be changed.

The new dates for the Winter academic break are now set with classes ending on December 5th, the examination period running from December 7-16th, and classes resuming for the second term on January 3rd.