

News

Fate of physics centre undecided

by Michael Redmond

The fate of the three-year old physics resource centre is up in the air as the chairman of the physics department, Dr. Kiang, fights the odds in an effort to preserve the service.

The physics resource centre in the Dunn Building is open mornings to assist undergraduate students.

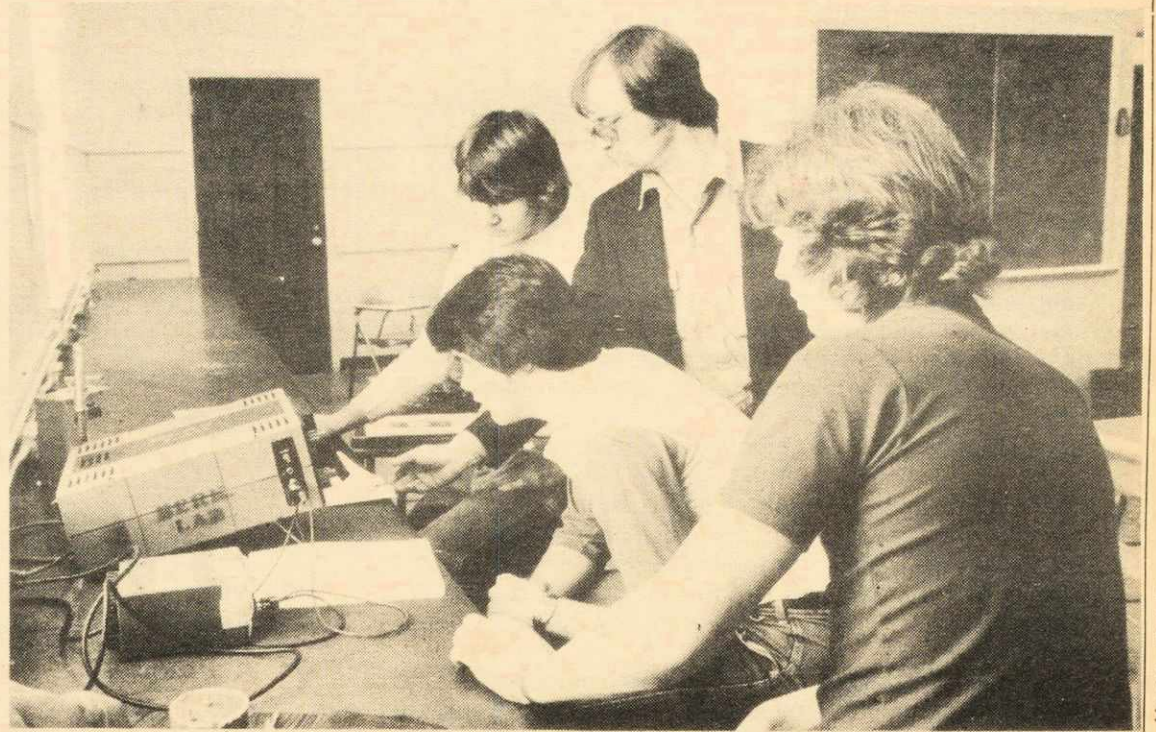
Dr. Donald Betts, Dean of Arts and Science, said it is unlikely the resource centre will be able to operate next year. The future looks dim for the centre, Betts said, citing fiscal restraint as the main culprit.

By contrast, the physics department is optimistic. Kiang is proceeding under the assumption the centre will be operating next year. However,

uncertainty over budget allotments leave him in an uncertain position.

The department is facing a budget increase of four per cent, a cutback of six to eight per cent in real terms. With approximately 95 per cent of the department's budget going to salaries, Kiang is left with only five per cent of his funds to juggle. The current instructor in the centre, Terry Dyer, is leaving at the end of the school year, making a small saving possible if his position is not filled. The department is currently advertising the vacancy pending budgetary consideration.

"The centre is well used," claims Dyer, and he feels the closing would be very unfortunate. Students would find help



Students work on assignments and receive aid from Terry Dyer, instructor, in the Physics Resource Centre

harder to receive as the option of dropping in for help at their convenience would no longer exist. Kiang sees the centre as a priority and is willing to sacrifice

supplies and materials to pay for it.

Dean Betts stated, however, the position will not be filled as

he will recommend against the hiring to the Board of Governors.

"Student services must be cut to meet the budget," Betts said.

Beer and Logan on election flashback trail

by C. Ricketts

"If we were to describe the most notable experience of the past year in office, it would have to be the sensation of wielding such an incredible amount of power," quoth His Excellency. He struck the Chief Lackey, who knelt and kissed both royal feet before, head bowed, he shuffled backward through the door.

The Logan brothers, John and Jim, won a surprise mandate on an anti-campaign last year. Then, keeping with tradition, they proceeded to break most of their platform promises, but not to the detriment of the Dalhousie student body. Here follow some comments on the past year.

"The Student Union has

potential to be a good representative of the student body, but it needs to have effective people." John Logan was pleased this year's council had always met quorum, where two-thirds of councillors are in attendance. He added council had been no more lazy this year than its predecessors.

However, he felt at times that

council only "rubber-stamped" some of the more important issues, while relatively petty issues were overblown and debated ad nauseum.

"Someone must find a way to make councillors more responsible. There's a core of about ten people making most of the major decisions. The rest of them must perceive themselves as ineffectual, that they're only elected to go to council meetings to discuss Grawood pictures."

Logan was not impressed with Senate operations, since he thought they were ineffectual in their primary function of academic planning. He felt they were not taken seriously by the administration, with a great deal of animosity between the DFA and the Senate crippling both group's efforts. "There needs to be some housekeeping done - they keep approving new programs but they never get rid of any of the old ones," he stated.

Even though the election issues this year were much the same as last year's - tuition increases, cutbacks, housing shortages - student awareness of them has increased dramatically. "If anything, at least students know who's responsible for funding and what the basic argument is between the federal and provincial governments."

Student awareness was one of the major feats accomplished this year. The Logans felt that students now realize the SUB isn't just another building on the campus with a cafeteria and offices, or that the long arm of the student union stops at the front doors to the SUB. This visibility has been attributed to the success of the SuperSubs and Carnivals.

One of the Logan's chief promises last year was "It won't be boring." Logan thought this axiom had carried over into this year's election and pointed out that campaigns need not be ridiculous just to keep from being boring.

"When we got in, people were watching what we would do. They've continued to watch us, generating more interest in what's going on, getting people involved. The result is this year's campaigns are not only in the paper, they're all over the campus. And they're certainly anything but boring."

A suggestion he made to the incoming team was to pick three or four major jobs and focus energies to make them a success. "Visible results are needed to build morale," he contended.

When asked what he would have liked to accomplish, Logan said he wished he had been more effective in motivating the councillors and distributing information to them. Another idea, a serious one, was to run an independent candidate from the student body in this riding during the last provincial election. "Then we'd line up all the students at the polls, eligible or not, and show the government we really mean business by having the votes to get him in."

Words of warning to future councils were "If anyone screws up my files, I'll personally come back and tear them limb from limb."

Since the Chief Lackey had still not returned, John said, "Jim wishes everyone to know how unbelievably happy he's been in his success at making and directing decisions from his bed."

Porta-polls - into the classes

by C. Ricketts

This year's student union election polls have been taken into the classroom and are meeting with success. About 500 ballots were cast Monday, and nearly 400 more on Tuesday. When combined with those from the residence polling booths, close to 1500 votes are now in.

Perla Ardeti, Chief Electoral Officer, says the polling team has been keeping closely to the allotted time limit of ten minutes. "The profs have been really great in helping us get to the students. Many of them have told their classes to expect us."

When asked if students were

aware of the procedure, she said most of them had heard something about it. "There were a few who had forgotten their cards, and some didn't know anything about the polling." She added that there were no problems with people being forced to vote, an argument forwarded by opponents of this new polling approach.



It's the travelling ballot box! Here the friendly poll gets out the engineering vote.

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