

# THE GAZETTE

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## Housing horrors strike again

By JAMIE GLAZOV

"SCHOOL BEGINS IN A couple of days and I don't even have a place to stay," says Bruce McIver, a first year student at Dalhousie "I've been looking for a place to live near campus for weeks now. I just don't know what I'm going to do."

McIver is not the only student trying to find a home in Halifax. The predicament is shared by dozens of students who, despite their academic qualifications, face the possibility of going home because of lack of housing.

Dalhousie is always hit worse by the annual housing crunch than any other Metro university, and this year is no exception. The Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) pegs the current vacancy rate in the south end of Halifax at approximately 0.8 percent.

CMHC says a healthy vacancy rate varies from three to four percent in a city of Halifax's population.

The Council of the Dal Student Union (DSU) wants something done about the housing crisis. DSU president Catherine Blewett, in a Sept. 4 press conference, described the hardship of many students who are trying to find a home and criticised the Dal administration, which she said has done practically nothing to help the situation.

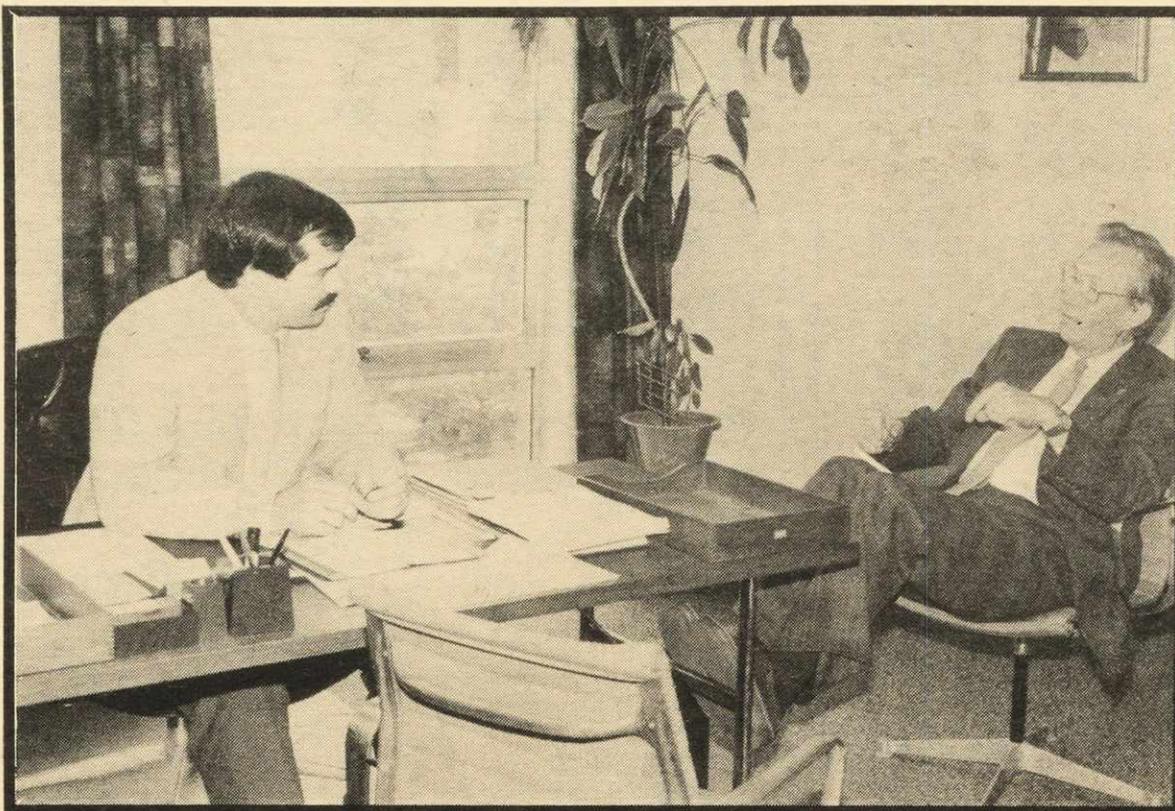
Blewett says she is sharing her apartment with two other students who have been unable to find their own residence. Tom Rhymes, student union president of King's College, who also participated in the conference, says he knows of a case where nine people have shared a two bedroom apartment since January.

While many students are having problems, few are actually living in the streets. The majority of students have found comfortable accommodations and are generally satisfied with what they have.

"There is no problem for me," says David Baker, a first year student at Dalhousie. "It only took me a while to find a residence and I am very happy now. You only have to look in the right place."

The provincial government

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After twenty-five years on the job, John Graham finally puts his feet up and congratulates his successor as manager of the SUB, Andrew Beckett. Photo by Valerie Berryman, Dal Photo.

## Graham hands helm to Beckett

By MARY ELLEN JONES

THE DALHOUSIE STUDENT Union (DSU) rang out the old and rang in the new during the summer with the appointment of Andrew Beckett to replace John Graham as general manager of the Student Union Building.

Graham, general manager of the SUB for 20 years, retired last spring to deal exclusively with university administration commitments already started during his employment with the DSU.

Graham says his retirement was long intended.

"I have served the student union for a number of years and it was time to phase out," says Graham.

Graham says he enjoys working with students and therefore accepted the position of assistant vice-president of university services.

The new SUB manager, Beckett, was appointed by the general manager search committee last April, and started working on SUB organization in July.

"The summer was a perfect time to start," says Beckett. "There was a lot of confusion at first, but things seem to have worked out."

Beckett says one reason for the confusion was the lack of an assistant general manager, such as existed until this year.

Although the Dalhousie administration paid for one-third of the SUB manager's salary in the past, as well as providing a full-time secretary for the manager, this arrangement has now ended. Graham's salary was subsidized because of his admini-

stration duties.

Beckett says he believes Graham was too involved in these duties.

"It took up two-thirds of his time," says Beckett. "More attention should have been given to the SUB. The building is old and it needs major repairs."

Graham admits work with the university took up a great portion of his time, but he says it was planned that way.

"The more experience you get, the faster you get things accomplished," says Graham.

The DSU has shuffled its budget to raise Beckett's full salary.

"By juggling the budget things seem to have worked out," says

Neil Ferguson, DSU treasurer.

"We are actually saving money by hiring Andrew but the real strain on the budget comes from having to hire a full time secretary," says Ferguson.

Pat Hartling, assistant SUB manager last year, has resigned and is now assistant to the university's vice president of academic research.

"The assistant general manager would have received full time salary with increased salary if he had taken on the general manager's job," says Ferguson.

"There were a number of adjustments in the budget but I can't pin down any part of the budget which is more hurt than

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## Blair on the air for CKDU

By BILL OVEREND

CKDU IS GOING TO CONTINUE doing what it was doing, but just get a lot better at it, says the new Dalhousie radio station manager Charlie Blair.

"We want to smooth out our on-air sound," says Blair, who replaced Doug Varty as manager of the station in May. Blair survived a hundred-applicant competition over the summer to secure the job.

Blair says he wants to rearrange certain blocks of radio programming to make CKDU more listenable.

"Two hours of country music back-to-back with two hours of hard core does not exactly flow smoothly together," says Blair.

He says he intends to keep the great variety of music that CKDU is known for.

"We're totally alternative. With our influence, the general public's ear will become more aware that there are other things to listen to besides what they're fed," says Blair.

Other Halifax area stations are safe and predictable compared to CKDU, he says.

"You know what you're get-

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## MacDonald wants student voucher

OTTAWA (CUP)—If Donald MacDonald has his way, next year students will get an education voucher in the mail worth an average \$1850, to put towards the cost of getting a degree.

But tuition costs will be "considerably higher," and higher-demand or higher-cost programs will also cost more to enrol in. To compensate, the government will extend students' borrowing limits under the Canada Student Loans Program and offer more generous scholarship and bursary agreements.

Costs to students will not "necessarily" increase, but students "could be expected to bear directly somewhat more of the cost."

These are some of the recommendations on post-secondary education reform contained in the report of the Royal Commission on the Economic Union and Development Prospects for Canada, chaired by MacDonald. The commission released its report in Ottawa last week.

Under the current university financing system, set up in 1977, provinces get a block of cash which they're supposed to match with their own money to fund colleges and universities. The amount a province gets is based on population and gross national product, and not post-secondary operating costs.

The federal portion of college and university funding has gone from 70 to 80 percent between 1978 and 1985.

The commission says the rising numbers of students enrolled, rising costs, and unwillingness of provinces to pay more to colleges and universities means funding, in real terms, has declined since 1977.

This year, because of the current formula, universities in five provinces, Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Manitoba and British Columbia, will actually give less to colleges and universities than the amount the federal government transfers for the schools. In short, in these five provinces, less than no provincial money is going into education.

MacDonald recommends abolishing this system, which will give the provinces \$2 billion in 1985-86. Instead, provinces will get tax points to collect part of the money themselves. The rest of the money will become direct-to-student funding. \$1.55 billion, split between the current 850,000 full-time post-secondary students in Canada, would come to \$1850 each.

The report suggests funding for students should vary accord-

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