

Engineers say They don't speak good

by Nigel Allen

The Dalhousie Engineering Society thinks that there should be drastic reductions in the number of visa students studying engineering because, they say, many foreign students can't speak English well enough.

Society president David Bolivar told *the Gazette* that many visa students show "little or almost no proficiency in English." He said that 16.7 per cent of Dalhousie engineering students were visa students last year, compared with a university-wide average of 6.3 per cent.

Bolivar also complained that some foreign students "make little attempt to absorb Canadian culture."

D.M. Lewis, a Dalhousie engineering professor, thinks that visa students studying engineering usually have an adequate reading knowledge of English, although some find it difficult to express themselves orally or in writing.

Lewis called Bolivar's proposal "a little extreme", adding that he thought the enrollment of visa students in engineering was "maybe a little high, but not alarming."

Engineering is relatively more attractive to visa students, Lewis said, because they often think they'll get a better job in their home countries with an engineering degree.

Bolivar suggested that language difficulties of visa students made classes more difficult for English-speaking students.

Lewis countered that visa students aren't a problem in the classroom because they "seem to recognize" that they shouldn't interrupt a lecture

because of their language difficulties. Visa students read the textbooks, he said, and usually discuss difficulties with him in his office and not during the class.

Lewis added that although some students have difficulty expressing themselves orally in English, this does not constitute a problem at Dalhousie because students here don't usually have to speak in front of a class.

Oral proficiency only becomes important once the engineering students graduate to the Nova Scotia Technical College, partly because they sometimes have to give seminars there, he said.

Dr. W.D. Courier, director of admissions at Dalhousie, said that admission standards for engineering students are set by the Faculty of Arts and Science, and that all admission applications are examined by the admissions committee. Many visa students come to Dalhousie after a year in a Canadian high school, he said, which usually includes an English course.

Bolivar was not specific on how he thought the number of visa students should be reduced. He did say that visa students should pay "a little more" in tuition fees than other students. He said some visa students are very financially well off and could pay "any amount" of tuition fees.

Students asked to repay loans

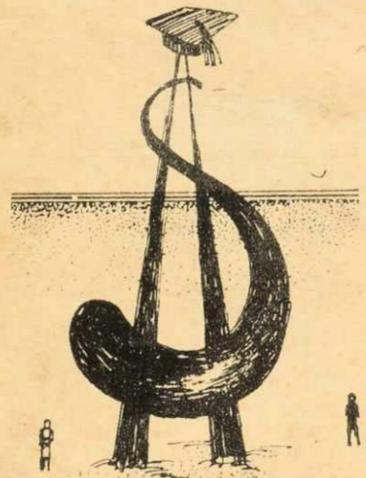
WINNIPEG (CUP)—Over 1,000 Manitoba university students will have to pay back \$350,000 to that province's student aid program because of faulty information submitted by stu-

errors was due to the delay in student tax information, according to Richard Kleiman, director of student aid in Manitoba. Most applications are made in July, he said, but the only tax information a student has is for the previous year.

As a result, students are asked to estimate their income for the remainder of the year. If the estimate does not match tax records for that year, a student caught by the audit may be required to pay back the difference, Kleiman said. Most of the mistakes were honest errors, he added.

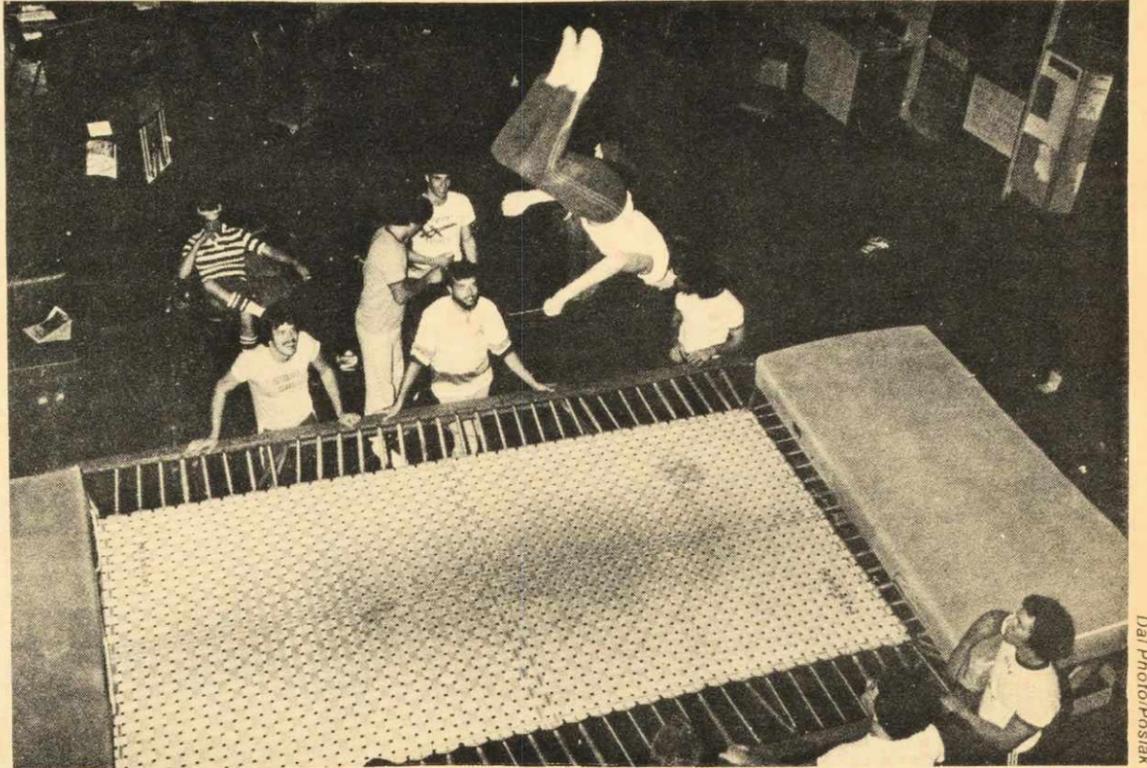
Linda Gouriluk, student executive member at the University of Manitoba, said it was unfair for the government to ask students to repay money they had received and already spent.

"It seems that whatever program they use is not sensitive to the information they require to assess students' needs and allocate assistance fairly," she said.



dents on aid application forms. The errors were discovered during government audit of nine per cent of Manitoba's 11,000 aid applications.

The cause of most of the



Members of the Sigma Chi fraternity held a very successful trampoline-a-thon in the SUB lobby last weekend. All proceeds were donated to multiple sclerosis research.

Police blackmail students

WINNIPEG (CUP)—International students on visas are being forced to reveal the names of other visa students who are working illegally, according to reports received by the University of Manitoba student newspaper.

According to the reports, the RCMP are agreeing not to prosecute students who are caught working in Canada if they agree to inform on others. The source also said the police maintain paid informants on the campus to report on the activities of visa students.

Spokespeople for the RCMP

denied the charges, saying that no deals are made nor are any informers paid.

According to the source, one student who refused to in-

form on other students was deported. Many students, according to this report, are fearful of what will happen to them if they are caught.

CKDU in the news with the news

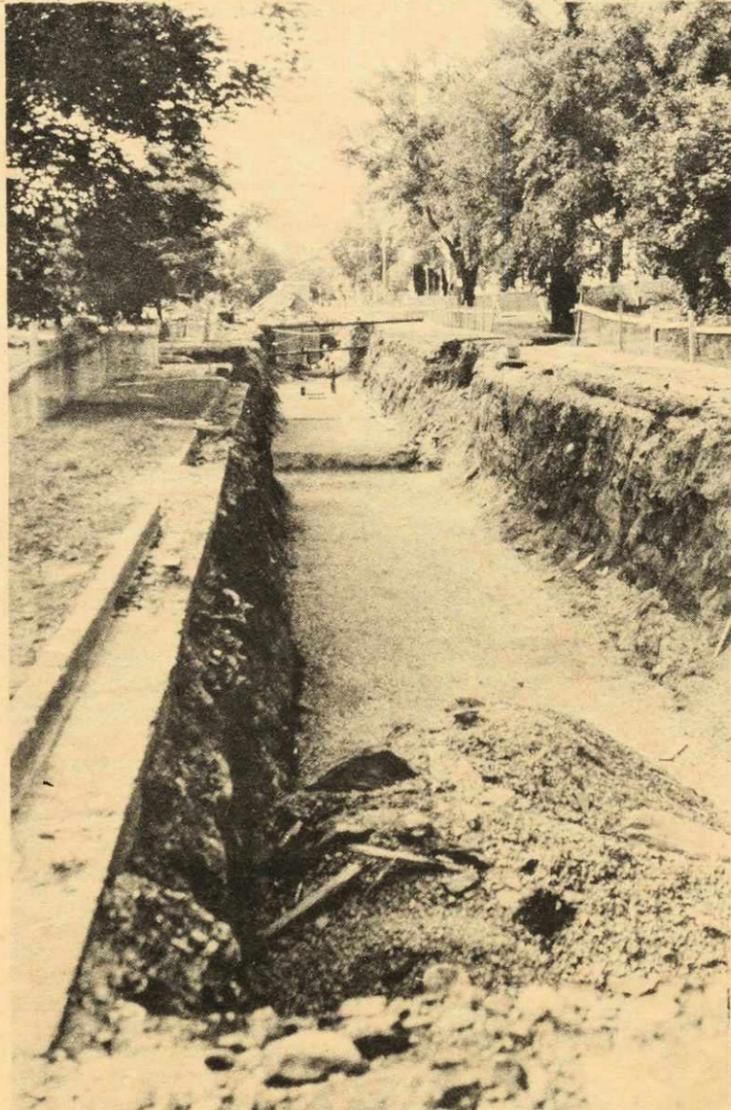
The CKDU News and Public Affairs Department has expanded this year to provide Dalhousie students with up-to-the-minute information on events around campus and around the world. With the

recent acquisition of the BN News Wire Service, CKDU will have regular newscasts: at 10 AM, 2 PM, 6:30 in the evening, and at the close of the broadcast day. The 6:30 PM news will be the major round-up of the day. Shorter news capsules will also be scheduled at regular intervals.

News Director Tom Regan says that in addition to the news received from the wire service, a special emphasis will be placed upon collecting news from the campus itself. For that reason, he urges any individuals or groups with news tips to get in touch with the station at 424-2487. As well, if anyone is interested in any facet of radio news, they are more than welcome to join the CKDU team.

In order to give some depth to news coverage, the CKDU Public Affairs show will be returning to the airwaves, but at a new time and with a new format. Public Affairs director Darlene Acker will be putting together a one-hour show each Wednesday night at 7 PM. It's called "Campus Week", and will cover exactly what its name implies. In addition, the CKDU morning show from 8-10 will regularly present material from the Public Affairs Department.

News and Public Affairs Coordinator Blair Dwyer hopes that this year CKDU will progress towards becoming a communication centre for the University. The CKDU team hopes to be able to use its daily coverage of events to complement the weekly coverage provided by *the Gazette*. Anybody interested in helping out is asked to contact either Tom, Darlene or Blair at 424-2487.



Is Dalhousie building a subway to alleviate the traffic congestion on campus? Not quite... the excavations on University Avenue are for a heating duct to link the upper campus with the heating plant in the Tupper building.