

Painter gives SUB a new face

By BILL MITCHELL

A LONE MAN IS DRAWING pictures on a wall of the Dalhousie Student Union building and the building management are paying him to do it.

A mural is being painted at the back of the SUB lobby near the Garden cafeteria.

Rusty James, DSU vice-president, says the decision to have a mural painted was made last November. James says the artist, Peter Bresnen, submitted plans along with examples of his previous work to the SUB operations committee which approved the project.

Bresnen, a part-time Dal student and commercial artist, says he is doing the job for enjoyment, in between his usual art work.

The mural depicts various buildings and activities seen at Dalhousie.

"It tries to be representative of all aspects of student life in a humorous way," says Bresnen.

Pat Hartling, assistant SUB manager, says the slow progress of the mural is not a problem.

"It lets people see it develop and makes it more of an event," he says.

Both Bresnen and Hartling say the mural is already a success.

"People stop and watch me paint all the time. Most people are quite bowled over by it," says Bresnen.

Student gathered round the busy artist say they are impressed with the mural.

"I really like it. There's so much to look at," says one student onlooker.

The mural will cost the student union about \$1000, but Hartling says the cost is justified.

"I consider it to be decor maintenance," he says. The old mural was more than three years old.

"The old mural was very worn and not very attractive. We wanted something with a feeling of more space," he says.

Hartling says \$1000 for the mural was good value for money, "considering the talent of the artist." Bresnen would usually charge a lot more for the work, but he says that the money is not so important.

Hartling also says it would cost as much to wallpaper the area.

The mural should be finished by the end of February.



Michael Scher, Dal Photo.

Students political rights challenged

By DAVID OLIE

STUDENTS AT ACADIA UNIVERSITY are having their political rights challenged.

The Progressive Conservative riding association of Kings South has filed an appeal of the results of the Nov. 6 1984 general provincial election in the riding. The appeal alleges irregularities throughout the riding, but especially at Acadia.

The election saw the long-time PC stronghold go to Bob Levy of the New Democratic Party by a margin of 18 votes. A later judicial recount increased the margin to 21.

"If I was a student, I'd be starting to get a little worked up," says Levy's lawyer Don Fraser. "It's a real major issue."

Fraser is representing Levy at discovery hearings being held as a preliminary to a judicial decision on the matter. The hearings are taking place only at Acadia and will end Feb. 7.

If the court challenge is successful Levy's victory would be overturned and a by-election would be held to fill the seat.

Fraser believes this to be the first time an election has been contested in Canada over one "bloc" of voters.

Though confident that his client's election will be upheld, Fraser says he is upset with the vagueness of the Nova Scotia Elections Act where student voters are concerned.

"All the votes questioned are those of students," says Fraser. "By far the overwhelming thing

is the residency requirement."

Under the Elections Act, a person must be "ordinarily resident" in the province to vote. Exactly how this applies to students from outside the province has never been clearly defined in the Act.

Fraser sees local PCs as being largely responsible for any irregularities that took place.

"All these students (at the hearings) were told by paid Tory election officials that they could vote," he says. Now those votes may be counted towards the twenty-one needed to rule the election invalid.

"It's like going before a court and saying, 'Look, our guys blew it; can we have another try?'"

"It will set a precedent for all future elections," Fraser says.

The challenge was issued by Marjie Smith, president of the Kings South PC riding association. She denies that Acadia students are being singled out for questioning.

"They just happen to be the largest group where irregularities have taken place," Smith says.

Smith is pleased with the way the hearings have gone so far.

"The students are being very honest," she says.

Smith also denies she is challenging the results as a last-ditch effort to hold the seat.

"We're certainly not trying to keep this a bastion of the PC party," she says. "I am just an eligible voter concerned with irregularities."

There have been rumours in the riding of a poll conducted on behalf of the PCs by a Toronto-based firm in the three weeks

between the recount and the challenge. The poll allegedly gave the edge to the PCs in a by-election.

Bill MacDonald, Chief Electoral Officer of Nova Scotia, says the last contested election in the province was in 1970 in the riding of Kings West.

That contest ended in a dead heat between Gordon Tidman of the PCs and Frank Bezanson of the Liberals. The deciding vote was cast by the returning officer in favour of Tidman.

Tidman's victory was eventually upheld.

Many still unaware of Interest Relief Plan

By DWIGHT SYMS

THE INTEREST RELIEF plan, a program designed to help the unemployed with student loan payments is still suffering from a lack of publicity.

"The bane of the matter is we have students who still don't know about the programme," says D.S.U. president Alex Gigeroff.

Gigeroff and Dalhousie's ombud Peter Rodgers say they've been approached by students upset with the lack of publicity for the program.

"Even when they (former students) find out about the plan, they have a difficult time getting into it," says Rodgers. "The banks don't seem to be all that aware of the program either".

Rodgers says this means students have an even harder time finding assistance.

Provincial NDP leader, Alexa MacDonough and Gigeroff both sent letters last fall to Walter MacLean, the secretary of state who is responsible for the plan.

In an open letter to MacDonough, MacLean wrote, "If the concerns which have been expressed to you regarding the lack of advertising relate to the period before the September 1

(1983) start date of the plan, they are undoubtedly valid."

MacLean went on to explain the measures which have been taken since the start date to publicize the program. Advertisements were taken out in student newspapers. Brochures and posters were sent to Canada employment centers, banks, and collection agencies.

MacDonough says she is satisfied with MacLean's response. Gigeroff is not. He says the plan's brochures should be placed in student aid packages.

"I don't understand why the brochures aren't thrown in with the rest of the student aid information," says Gigeroff. "It would solve a lot of problems."

Gerald E. Knickle, N.S. student aid director, disagrees.

"There is so much information already in the student aid packages, I don't think it would help," says Knickle.

The responsibility for informing the students of the plan, according to Knickle, lies with the banks and collection agencies.

"Hopefully the banks (seeing someone in need of assistance) would make the person aware of the plan," says Knickle.