

Med school under-funding hurts

By CHARLENE SADLER

Severe funding cutbacks have forced the Dalhousie Medical School to start streamlining some programmes and wholesale cutting of others, says Dr. Donald Hatcher, Dean of Medicine.

The July issue of the Canadian Medical Association Journal said that Dal's Medical School provided "a good, well-rounded education but was without resources for a sophisticated specialty education."

Hatcher denies that the problem is this severe, citing recent accreditation of Dal's medical programmes by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons.

No one is denying, though, that underfunding of the Medical School is a problem for Dalhousie.

Robbie Shaw, Vice-President Finance, says the provincial government gave \$1 million to

Dal's medical and dental schools, of which three-quarters is targeted for the med school. This \$1 million is roughly half of what was hoped for, says Shaw.

Atul Sharma, medical student and former chair of the Students Union of Nova Scotia, says that cuts to medical school programmes could lead to a decline in the quality of health care in the Maritimes.

He says the school suffers when faculty aren't replaced, good researchers aren't inclined to come to Dal, and new materials aren't bought.

"Some of our programmes are the best in Canada and we're the referral centre of the Maritimes," says Sharma. "It is a centre of specialists and because of that there must be more funding from the government."

Sharma says when the government reduces funds, they are not doing it in a reasonable fashion. There is no attempt to see the needs of Nova Scotia.

Hatcher admits Dal medicine is poorly underfunded but says they will survive for this year.

"There is a big sigh of relief that we'll be able to make ends meet but the problem (of underfunding) will still be around next year," says Hatcher.

Gillian Allen, Dalhousie student union Vice-President Academic, acknowledges the plight of Dal's medical faculty.

"The medical school needs money. You just can't run a top-flight medical school on pittance," she says. "The government makes indications about funding but then they drop a bomb and you have to make due with less. And what do you cut back on?"

Housing is a basic need

By MARY ELLEN JONES

Dalhousie students may be facing the worst housing crisis in years but John Graham, Manager of University Services, is confident the situation will improve.

Graham hopes the situation will improve once rooms rented to "Pope pilgrims" become available again.

He says a large part of the problem is that boarding houses in the south end of Halifax are being

turned into condominiums.

"Only luxury housing has been built which is out of reach of students."

Despite these problems Graham remains optimistic about students finding housing once the rush in the first few weeks of September is over.

"If a person can hang in there for the first few weeks their chances of finding something reasonable are good."

Graham says he is not that concerned about students in the professional faculties as they usually are determined to come to Dalhousie and will not leave if they have problems finding housing.

"We lose some students," says Graham. "The out-of-town, first-year female students are the ones I am concerned about."

He says that building new residences isn't necessarily a wise choice for the administration.

"We must be careful not to over-build," says Graham. "We are at the peak of enrolment and realistically we will probably face a decline."

Like student union president Alex Gigeroff, Graham is optimistic about improvements in student housing for next year.

Graham hopes that the universities in the Halifax area will be able to operate a central housing office by next summer. This will end the present duplication of services, says Graham. □

CFS pins Tories

OTTAWA (CUP)—Canada's national student lobby group plans to push the new Tory government for more job creation programs to help thousands of students who failed to find work this summer.

Jean Wright, Canadian Federation of Students researcher, says CFS will lobby Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and his newly appointed cabinet ministers in a bid to ensure adequate funding is allocated to unemployed students.

Wright says the Tories' promise of a \$285 million tax incentive scheme encouraging businesses to

hire young people is not enough. She says the problem of student unemployment must be dealt with now because it has reached alarming proportions.

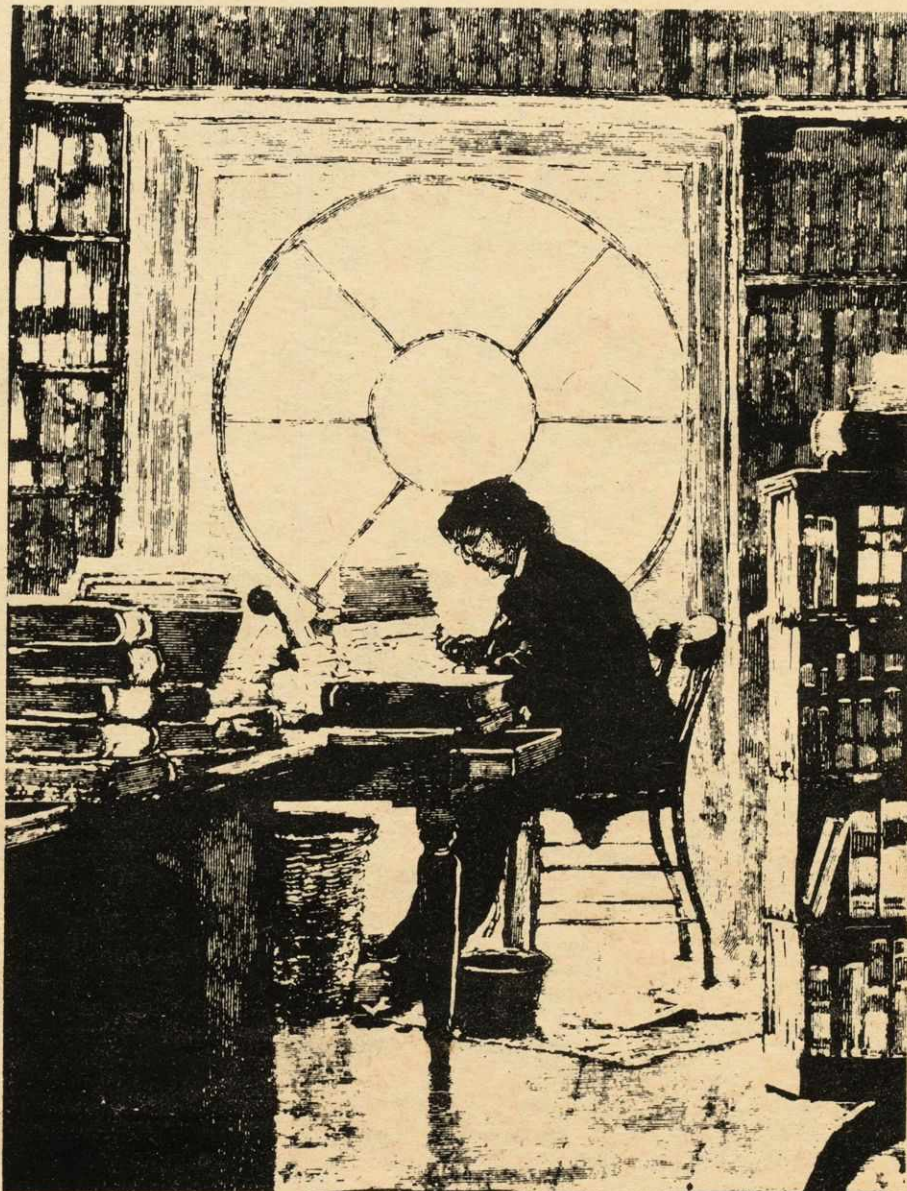
In July, 180,000 students were still desperately searching for work. The job market was especially grim in Newfoundland and B.C., where an estimated 28.7 per cent and nearly 19 per cent respectively were without jobs.

Although the figures dropped slightly in August, Wright says they do not include the "hidden continued on page 8



"Agggggg! Look out that cat," says Elizabeth, cringing from the approaching feline. "It's only a little kitten, says Samantha, picking lint out of Liz's right ear. Meanwhile Dwight divines for water, Rick play shy, and the two Michaels pretend they're at the top of the heap. Actually, this is a photo of some of the participants in the recent *Gazette* retreat in Musquodoboit Harbour last week. Kimberley Witchurch took the picture just before the cat changed its mind, turned around and ate her. Oh, by the way, Kim shoots for Dal Photo. Got it?"

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