

Students' problems are counselled away

by M. L. Hendry

Time spent at university is too short for students to spend their first year in despair, says Judith Hayashi, Director of Dalhousie Counselling and Psychological Services.

If students have problems when they first come to university, the negative effects can be cumulative, she said. "We like to intervene as soon as possible, and get the student back on the track so they can enjoy university."

University students, whether just out of high school or returning after time away from school, often find the demands and pressures of university life hard to manage.

Six professional counsellors, half of whom are also psychologists, are available to help Dalhousie students overcome any problems they encounter here, whether academic, personal or social.

Jean, a mature student who came to Dal after spending eight years working, thinks counselling services for students should be taken advantage of.

"When I started school," she said, "I found I had lost any study skills I might once have had." A friend directed her to the counselling office and their four-week study skills program.

"The study skills group was so helpful I asked the counsellors about other courses they offer," Jean said. "During the study program other problems came up. I was afraid to open my mouth in class, so I took the assertiveness training program, and in it I found men and women of all different ages and backgrounds with similar difficulty."

The good thing about both programs, Jean said, "is that I acquired skills I could apply in other areas of my life."

Counselling services has about 3,000 contacts with Dalhousie students during an academic year. The main areas students request help with are study efficiency, goal setting, and interpersonal and emotional concerns.

Often there is a connection between academic and personal difficulties. "By clearing up one problem, others sometimes go away," Hayashi said.

Some of the group programs Counselling offers help participants to improve study skills, and reduce anxiety. They also work with graduate students who are writing theses and with mature students.

"We also do lots of individual counselling," Hayashi said, "with concerns varying from personal problems, to depression, to not feeling comfortable with other people." The Centre works closely with Student Health and psychologist Mary McDonald, each directing students to the service they need.

"We get really good feedback from students who have taken our programs," Hayashi said. "Our concern is that students in general aren't as aware of services we offer as we'd like them to be. People who might particularly benefit might not know that we're here."

This year Dalhousie received a \$100,000 grant to expand their Career Information Centre, an essential part of Counselling ser-

VICES. The Career Centre has extensive resource material on career programs, professions and current labour market data, and

works with Employment and Immigration to help students with resumes, job applications and interviews.

The Counselling Centre is located on the fourth floor of the Student Union Building.

Gazette offends Muslim community

by Bruce Galloway

The hue and cry raised by an editorial cartoon published by the **Gazette** in December is still continuing.

The cartoon, depicting two Middle East leaders - Yassar Arafat (leader of the Palestinian Liberation Organization) and Colonel Moammar Kadafi (leader of Libya) - discussing such events as Anwar Sadat's murder, incensed many followers of the Islamic faith, both at Dalhousie and in the Metro area. Many who complained found the reference

to Allah and the cartoon's title "The Hash Smokers", particularly objectionable.

"The scene in the cartoon was false, humiliating and insulting to all followers of the Muslim faith," said Reza Rizvi, past president of the Maritime Muslim Student's Association. "The cartoon gives the impression that Muslims are out to kill Israelis, which is entirely false," explained Rizvi. "Muslims respect all faiths." Rizvi also pointed out that hash smoking is strictly forbidden under the laws of the Muslim faith.

Paul Withers, the **Gazette's** editorial cartoonist, stated that he was not out to "get" the Muslim faith. "The cartoon was drawn in reaction to the glee expressed by those two characters (Arafat and Kadafi) over the news that Sadat had been assassinated," said Withers.

Objections to the cartoon prompted the **Gazette** to ask a representative of the Muslim Students Association to write a commentary concentrating on the bias of the western press towards Muslims and their faith.

At a meeting last Monday the **Gazette** staff discussed the whole question of the cartoon and western ignorance (often enhanced by a biased press) towards the Middle East.

Several letters to the editor about the cartoon demanded an apology from the **Gazette** for its slanderous portrayal of Muslims. The staff felt that the cartoon was not a comment on Muslims, or their faith, but on two specific people whose conduct the cartoonist found objectionable.

New rink adds to deficit

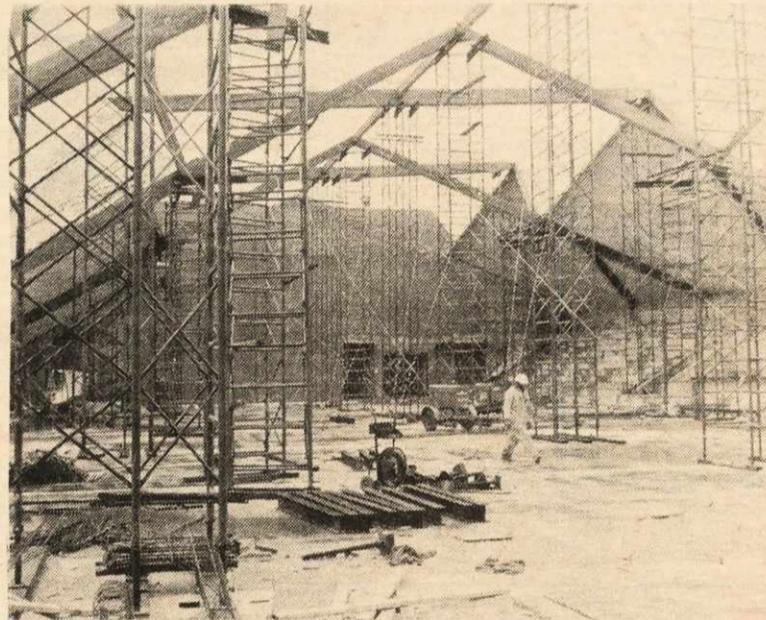
by Bruce Galloway

Dalhousie's large operating deficit will receive an additional "boost" next year when the university's new ice rink goes into operation.

If the administration's predictions come true, the rink, slated to open in late March, will incur a first year deficit of between \$40,000-\$50,000. This amount will be added to the Dalplex's annual deficit now running at \$600,000.

The rink's projected operating cost of \$200,00 and the university's present financial situation has forced the administration to attempt to operate the rink on a break even basis.

"The rules of the game have changed in the last year or so", explained Ken Bellmare, Director of Athletics and Recreation Services. "Neither the rink or the Dalplex were designed originally to run on a break even basis", noted Bellmare, "however, given the present financial squeeze we have to focus on obtaining this



The Dal rink didn't take too long to build.

goal." Bellmare hopes that by charging a competitive price for ice time and by using the rink for such events as concerts and

roller skating the facility will be operating without a loss by its second year.

The Dalplex is a different story.

Built at a cost of \$10 million, it's yearly operating cost is approximately \$1 million. However, a considerable portion of this figure is incurred by the academic programs of the school of physical education.

"There is no chance of the university breaking even on the Dalplex because of the academic programs it supports", noted Robbie Shaw, Vice President of Finance. "However, by increasing revenues from such things as recreational classes we can cut the difference between operating costs and revenues considerably", noted Shaw. Shaw added that as of next fall, both staff and faculty will be paying to use Dalplex. At present revenues from membership fees, recreational classes and rentals bring in less than \$500,000.

Dalhousie's new ice rink will cost \$2.3 million when completed, and will seat 1500 people. It will replace the old rink which was destroyed by fire in May 1978.

Students protest lack of space

LONDON (CUP) - Frustrated with a lack of classroom space and an unresponsive administration, about 50 advertising arts students at Fanshawe College occupied the department's offices on January 12.

The 30-hour occupation began at 10 that morning when the demonstrators filed into the offices, led by advertising student Paul Paetz. They came armed with sleeping bags, prepared for a lengthy stay.

"The students were asking for very basic educational needs," said Tim Wharton, president of the Fanshawe student union. "They were not going to get the education they had hoped for and were promised."

Wharton said the students had been negotiating with the department since September. He said the college "had accepted twice as many students as they had space for, hoping to get more space and

equipment" from the Ontario government.

Fanshawe didn't receive what it needed from the provincial government, and when students returned to classes in January, they found the advertising arts department had implemented major cutbacks.

The college also reduced staff, and denied the students access to facilities after 5 p.m. A student union representative condemned the move as unreasonable, saying the department's students need after-hours access because of their heavy workload.

The protestors remained in the office over night, having decided "to sit and wait until their demands were met," said Wharton. The occupation ended at 4:30 p.m. the next day when the administration and students reached a "compromise solution".

"The students' big concern

was with acquiring more space," said Wharton, "but the college had no space."

The administration also agreed to rehire the staff needed to keep the facilities open after 5 p.m.

"We're pleased with the outcome, but we recognize this is

Check your bank charges

by Steve Ashcroft

Need a visa to study in Canada? Before asking your bank for the necessary letter, students are advised to shop around.

The Royal Bank of Canada charges \$5.50 more than their nearest competitor for completion of a form letter stating that on a prescribed day a client has "X dollars" on deposit.

A student who required such a letter as criteria for a visa to study in Canada took his complaint to the **Gazette**. "They charged me \$7.50. Is that reasonable?"

only a temporary solution," said Wharton, noting that the fine arts students will reclaim their studio next year. "We realize we have to continue working with the department and administration to work out a permanent solution."

A survey of local banks showed that Scotia Bank, TD Bank and the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce have no charge for this service and the Bank of Montreal charges \$2.00.

Royal Bank officials said their official policy is a \$5.00 minimum charge but conceded some branches charge more. They felt their charge was reasonable.

The banks are not even required to guarantee in the letter the funds will remain on deposit, or to attest to their client's good character.