

Anti-calendar gives Dal students a voice

BY LAURA DAVIS

Everything you always wanted to know about Dalhousie, but could never find out, may soon be common information for new Dalhousie students.

Last year, the Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) promised to create an anti-calendar as part of its election campaign. The calendar is intended to give students an opportunity to expose the pros and cons of Dalhousie University to new and prospective students.

The book will address a number of student concerns.

"The anti-calendar is the students' perspective on university," says DSU vice-president Bridgette McCaig.

The anti-calendar will not only include the low-down on student concerns such as classes and faculties, but also the social side of Dal and a general overview of the university.

"It will create a good base for what to expect when coming to university," says McCaig.

There are a handful of researchers in charge of collecting information for the anti-calendar, but the bulk of the input has to come from the students.

"We have a great deal of background information, things like info on residences and university administration and the like," says DSU researcher Mark Reynolds.

Reynolds says that student input into the calendar needs to improve if the calendar is to be a success.

"The bulk of the calendar, and the most important part, is going to be the departmental profiles for which I'm going to be needing student input in the form of focus groups," adds Reynolds.

"Unfortunately, the recruiting I have been doing over the past few weeks has yielded disappointing results. I think [the anti-calendar] is a very important initiative for students to take part, and a good way for students to give something back to students that will be following them."

Reynolds says that he has been "pretty passive so far" in his attempts to gain student input. To date he has put up posters around target departments, but has found few volunteers.

Reynolds says that he plans to make

his recruiting more aggressive. He says that he is planning to contact societies and get students or professors to hand out sign-up sheets during classes.

In addition to information about Dalhousie, the anti-calendar will include student-friendly information such as hints for apartment hunting and where to find cheap books and clothes.

The calendar has generated some concern in several departments. McCaig says there may be a

misperception among the professors at Dal regarding the nature of the anti-calendars.

McCaig says that the purpose of the calendar is not to bash professors or departments. Naturally, some professors "may feel threatened," says McCaig, "but once they see the final product, [Dal professors will] be pleased.

"Everyone is welcome to contribute [to the anti-calendar] by

contacting the DSU with comments," says McCaig.

"Things are working well, it should be put to press in March."

This means the anti-calendar will be available along with next year's registration package.

Anyone wishing to contribute to the anti-calendar is asked to contact Mark Reynolds in room 214, Student Union Building, or by calling 494-3527.

Tiger patrol to expand at DalTech

continued from page 1...

Studley (main campus), Carleton (Tupper area) and DalTech campuses, a scheduled shuttle bus service runs along designated northern and southern routes. These routes stay near the university, running throughout the academic year excluding Christmas and spring break. There is roughly an hour's wait between the two routes.

McCaig says that the DSU is limited in the services it can provide.

"We have funding to provide one Tiger Patrol team at Dal's main campus, one team at DalTech, and one team in the Tiger Patrol van, but [there is] no more funding to get more Tiger Patrol [staff]."

"Student services provides funding for Tiger Patrol; Dalhousie Student Union is giving funds to buy new jackets, to be more professional, and Discount Rental donates the van. In future, I would like to see more sponsorship for funding. With the DalTech amalgamation, size-wise, [the student body] has doubled. It would be optimal if [we] could get another van so that people don't have to wait."

Naugler says that limited use of the Tiger Patrol at DalTech doesn't mean that the service is not needed.

"It is unlikely that we will be pulling the service from DalTech, despite the lack of use down there," Naugler said, "However, the more students that use the service at DalTech, the easier it is to justify the presence of Tiger Patrol on their campus."

"A fairly significant amount of DalTech students have been using the shuttle bus service which is encouraging."

Naugler attributes the low number

of walks to the fact that, at present, Tiger Patrol can only walk people within the campus boundaries.

"If we are going to provide a safe, walk-home service, we should provide a safe, walk-home service. There shouldn't be a cut-off of service at the boundary limit," McCaig stated firmly.

She went on to say, "These are just growing pains [of the amalgamation]. Tiger Patrol and security are easy targets because they are visible changes."

"There are so many easy solutions, but when you get down to the meat of the problem, it's immense. Things are expected to improve."

Concerning student awareness of the Tiger Patrol system Naugler stated, "I would like others to know that [it] is available. There are people who are intimidated by [it] and there are others who just don't know about it and don't know that it is a free service to students."

"The Blue-light system shouldn't give a false sense of security; that shouldn't deter people from using Tiger Patrol. Tiger Patrol can be used for company and security, not because they are scared. Guys shouldn't be discouraged from using Tiger Patrol. Guys should be as security-conscious as girls on campus. And you don't have to be alone to call Tiger Patrol. Small groups of people can be escorted, as well."

Compared to other Campus Security programs, Naugler noted, "St. Mary's University [SMU] Huskie Patrol and Tiger Patrol are different because people [are] not directly driven home by Tiger Patrol. We've come up with a service, a set route which doesn't eliminate individuals and serves the general student population. To

accomplish the SMU Huskie Patrol door service, we would need 10 vans and more funding." As well, SMU Student Union, not the security department, controls and runs the Husky Patrol Program.

The 38 Dal students which make up the Tiger Patrol Services undergo security checks and are trained in first aid, CPR and emergency procedures. Three teams operate during patrol hours, two teams on foot while the third team staffs the shuttle bus service. All teams, staffed by a male and a female, are linked to the university's security office by walkie talkies to maintain contact with dispatchers throughout their shift. Teams patrol the campus while on call for six and a half hours.

Both the walk-home and shuttle bus services were initiated by the Dalhousie Student Union in response to students' safety concerns. The program was implemented by the DSU in partnership with Dalhousie University on October 21, 1991, while the shuttle bus service came later in 1994.

McCaig commented on the success of Tiger Patrol saying, "[We] have been getting calls from Universities in the States who want to model their security program after [ours]."

The Tiger Patrol Safe Walking Escort Services runs seven days a week from 6 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. The Tiger Patrol Shuttle Bus Services runs on a regularly scheduled route during these times as well. Dal ID numbers are required to use the Tiger Patrol service. For more information, call 494-6400.

TIGER PATROL FACTS:

Tiger Patrol started on Oct. 21, 1991 as a campus safe-walk program

There were 19 people on the original Staff

Hours: Sun-Wed 9:30-12:30, Thurs-Sat 9:30-2:30

In 160 nights of service, they performed 459 escorts (avg 3/night)

1994- Nov 14, the Shuttle bus service commenced.

Hours changed to 6:00-12:30(Sun-Wed), & 6:00-1:30 (Thurs-Sat).

In 209 nights, 1622 escorts on foot. (avg 8/night)

In 124 nights, 2836 passengers. (avg 23/night)

1996- Same hours, 31 employees

1064 escorts in 213 days. (5 escorts/night avg.)
3886 passengers in 54 days. (72 passengers/night avg.)

1997 - Hours are 6-12:30
7 days/wk, 38 employees.

As of Nov. 6: 295 escorts on Studley/Carleton campuses in 66 days (5 escorts/night avg.)

2 escorts on Sexton campus in 66 days (0.03 escorts/night avg.)
958 shuttle bus passengers in 49 days. (20 passengers/night avg.)

Turmoil surrounds the Grad House

continued from page 1...

undertaken under a five-year forecast, which includes using the house for society events, movie nights, and alumni functions.

Edens and Cowling decided to submit a proposal after attending the DAGS annual general meeting on Oct. 25.

"We were frustrated by [DAGS'] short-term approach," said Edens. "We couldn't understand why a more long-term business approach wasn't taken." They based their vision of the Grad House on the Thompson House at McGill University, which Edens explained is the "centre of interdisciplinary interaction for graduate students" at McGill.

"Maintaining the Grad House service is definitely economically viable," concluded Edens at the end of his presentation. "I really challenge you to think of the Grad House as an opportunity for significant business growth and the best opportunity to promote an interdisciplinary culture."

If graduate students were willing to help pay to keep the Grad House running, "we could go to students in a referendum asking them if they'd like to increase their fees to run the Grad House," said Andjelic. "If that's something deemed important enough to students, we could do that."

Jim Leger, DAGS vice-president communication, had one final comment at the end of the forum: "I hope that when people vote [on Nov. 18], they know there will be consequences to whatever decision is made."

Since the forum, DAGS has been working with the DSU on a fourth proposal. This option would see the DSU take responsibility for the operation of the Grad House in order to keep it running and take the financial burden out of DAGS hands. Andjelic says that graduate students would still be given preference for employment opportunities and DAGS office would remain in the building, but

the DSU would handle financial responsibilities and the day to day operation of the house.

The Graduate House Assessment report is available at the Grad House or on the web at <http://is2.dal.ca/~dags>. Proposals will also be made available before the Nov. 18 meeting. For more information, contact DAGS at 494-2809.

PITA BOYS

We serve drunks.

1701 Barrington Street
(Corner of Prince Str.)

429-PITA

3

Great Locations in Halifax!

8

DOOLY'S

5686 Spring Garden Road • 3129 Kempt Road • 1657 Barrington Street