

## Senate cuts frosh week

*It's the end of Frosh Week as we know it*

BY DANIEL CLARK

Frosh week, a twenty-year old tradition at Dalhousie, was cut back by Senate at a meeting on Monday, January 22.

The Senate dismissed the attempts of student senators David Cox (DSU President), Chris Lydon (DSU VP Academic), Drew Campbell, and Shannon Crowell to prevent a change in academic dates that will change the start date of classes to September 5, and shorten the length of frosh week.

Freshman Orientation Week has traditionally been an opportunity for students in residence to get used to their new habitats, while the off-campus students are introduced to new people and a new lifestyle.

One of the Frosh week events that may have to be cancelled is an event known as Shinerama. In past years, Shinerama has raised thousands of dollars to further Cystic Fibrosis research.

The proposal to change the academic dates for next year was brought to the Senate Committee on Academic Administration by Eric McKee, VP Student Services. The two student senators on the committee failed to defeat the motion.

"We fought it, we lost, we didn't get one vote other than our own...basically we got squashed," said Lydon.

The object of the change was to match Dalhousie's start-up date with those of Mount Saint Vincent and the Technical University of Nova Scotia. Cox explained that in the spirit of goodwill fostered by the Metro University Consortium, the administration thought that this would be a sign of concession and good faith.

"It seemed important to unify these dates," added McKee.

In an attempt to open the debate again during Monday's meeting, Lydon argued that the Metro Consortium has virtually been written off by all the schools involved, and said that, "The Consortium is being used as an avenue to allow a shrinking of Frosh week."

Also at Monday's Senate meeting, Cox asked: "But what about SMU and NSCAD?" Dalhousie president Dr. Tom Traves replied that he was not aware of the start dates of either Saint Mary's or the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design.

One Senator referred to Frosh week as a "time for the students to play around," a comment which student representatives claim does not do justice to the invaluable campus social orientation afforded by visits by bands like The Philosopher Kings, Hemmingway Corner, Wild Strawberries, and Spirit of the West (all of whom appeared at Frosh Week '95).

McKee was confident that his proposal would result in positive change.

"There are numerous benefits to students...there will be a four day break between the end of term and the beginning of Christmas exams, compared to a two day break, which there now is," said McKee.

The new date for the commencement of classes will be Thursday, September 5 (instead of the following Monday). Traditionally, residence students move in on Labour Day, and take a week getting oriented with the campus and the city. This will no longer be possible.

Saint Mary's University's classes begin on Wednesday, September 4.

Their Frosh week in recent years has also undergone a similar cutback. They have been allowed by their administration to work around classes, said Fraser Gould, their Frosh week coordinator.

"We're allowed to hold our Expo on Thursday, which is an all-day event, so there is no real conflict...and have our concerts and gatherings at night," said Gould.

Gould elaborated that, "It used to be that we would start with a dance on Sunday night. There would be a full week of activities, and [the week] would be wrapped up with a trip to Acadia to watch the football game."

Drew Campbell asked Dr. Traves about an earlier suggestion that students might be able to move into residence as early as the Saturday (August 31st).

Dr. Traves said that this was under discussion, and a Sunday move-in could very likely be possible, but the issue would ultimately be decided by the orientation week committee.

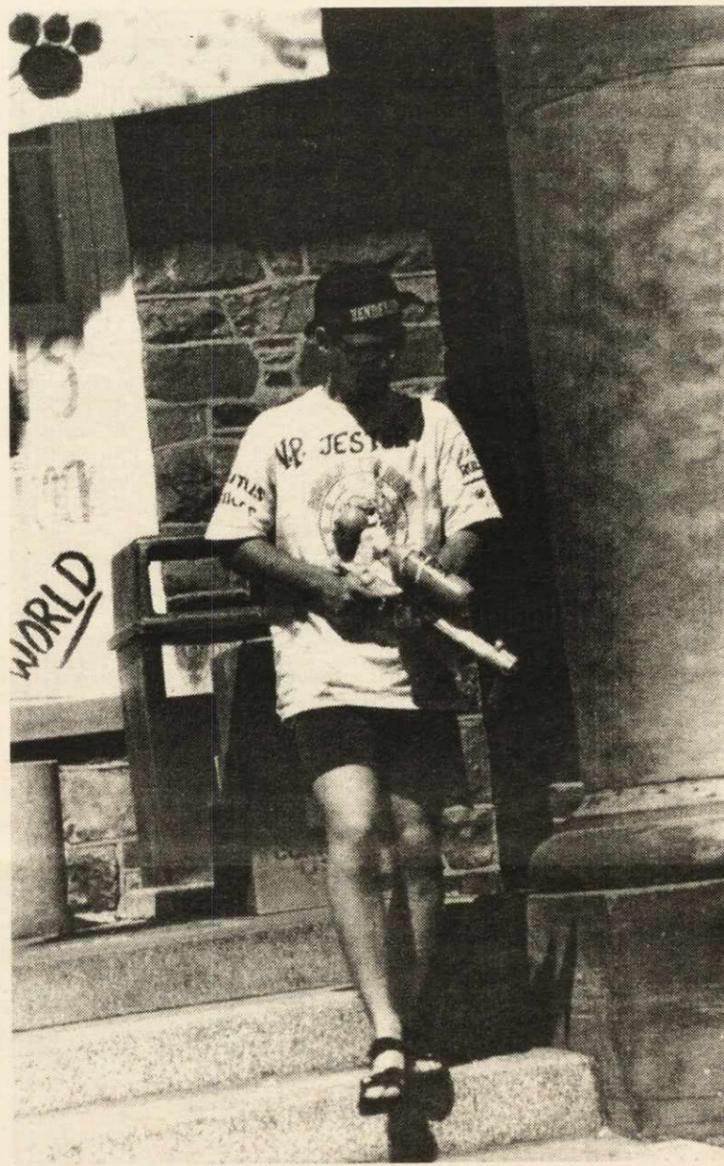
"Meetings have been scheduled, but I am unaware of their outcome," he said.

McKee said that some concessions could be made.

"They are prepared to meet with the orientation committee to make arrangements to reorganise the Frosh week, and make arrangements for students to move in earlier," he said.

One way for this decision to be reversed is for the Senate to pass a motion in their meeting on February 5. This date is close enough to the submission deadline of the undergraduate calendar to allow for a change.

Another possibility, albeit extremely unlikely, is for the school to unilaterally decide to change the dates before the final July mailing. This is similar to the change in start dates that occurred this term, where the first day of classes was pushed to January 3 from January 2.



Ahhh, frosh antics... will they ever be the same?

## CASA investigation continues

VANCOUVER (CUP) — Members of one of Canada's national student organizations met with the Ottawa police on January 16, in an effort to lay charges against a former executive.

The Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) are investigating interim director Patrick FitzPatrick, a former vice-president of the University of New Brunswick student council.

In question are CASA's financial affairs under the direction of FitzPatrick, who replaced national director Alex Usher when he took a leave for medical reasons last October.

Upon returning to the job at the start of January, Usher said he acquired information that put FitzPatrick's financial judgment in question.

Ottawa Police have agreed to investigate two charges; one regarding a fraudulent cheque for \$225, and the other a theft of \$2,000.

Another investigation is pending in New Brunswick regarding alleged misappropriation of funds, where FitzPatrick, in his duties as coordinator of a planned national conference on higher education, had signing authority over the bank account for the conference.

This account, which contained a \$10,000 loan from CASA, now contains less than \$1,500. Usher is uncertain whether that money was spent on legitimate conference costs.

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## Grawood manager fired

BY GAZETTE STAFF

Another one bites the dust.

Deborah Brown, suspended with pay last month from her position as manager of Bar Services, has been fired.

"[Ms. Brown is] no longer employed by the DSU...as of January 10," said Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) president David Cox.

Cox and the rest of the DSU council met on January 10 where, during an in-camera session, they decided Ms. Brown's fate.

"There was no motion [from council] to dismiss; it's not required because I only need a motion to dismiss the General Manager," said Cox. "Council has no problems with my decision [to dismiss Ms. Brown]."

Brown is the second full-time employee in the Student Union Building (SUB) to be fired by the DSU this school year. Steve Gaetz, who was general manager of the SUB, was axed on September 19, 1995.

Brown was suspended with pay in mid-December. At that time, an independent forensic audit by the accounting firm of KPMG Peat, Marwick and Thorne revealed that the Grawood — which operates under Bar Services — had over \$20,000 in liquor inventory "unaccounted for" and over

**"Council has no problems with my decision [to dismiss Ms. Brown]." — DSU president David Cox**

\$1,300 in cash missing.

The Halifax Police Department (HPD) was called in to investigate on January 3.

"We've been in contact with the police regularly," said DSU Treasurer Bret Leech. "We have a meeting with the police later on this week."

"The investigation is ongoing," added Cox. "The HPD is very slow [because] there are so many complaints of commercial fraud." Sergeant Greg Mosher is the investigating officer.

"We've yet to locate the unaccounted for cash or liquor," said Cox.

Wayne Cross, who manages Campus Copy and the Corner Pocket, was named interim manager of the Grawood.

"[Wayne] was instructed in December to get the bar cleaned up," said Cox.

Satisfied with the work Cross has done thus far, the DSU has approached him with the idea that he might transfer to manage Bar Services full-time, Leech said.

"We made an offer to Wayne Cross on January 11 or 12...we're giving him some time to think about it," said Cox. "In the meantime, he's the acting interim manager of Bar Services."

Ms. Brown could not be reached for comment.