

Energy at Dal

# \$3,000,000 up in smoke

by Daniele Gauvin

Have you ever found yourself shivering with cold in the library stacks? Have you ever wondered why the Life Sciences Building is sweltering hot at night when it is nearly empty? If so, you're among a growing number of people in this community who are concerned about the misuse of energy on the Dalhousie campus.

According to Dick Fisher, a supervisor at the physical plant, "... the heating systems of our new buildings are inefficient and will have to be modified within the next three years." Louis Vagianos, Vice-President in charge of university services, agrees that with an annual fuel and electricity bill of \$3,000,000, such a project may become a necessity. Added Vagianos, "... once the system is complete and the 'bugs' are out of the computer, a massive revision of our energy guzzlers will take place—if cost-effective."

The six digit figure has more than doubled in the last three years, since the oil embargo of '74. Next year's total is expected to be higher still, as fuel costs continue to rise.

necessity in buildings such as the Tupper and the Killam. Losses from poorly insulated heatlines, then negligible, now represent hundreds of dollars. Many of the campus' south-facing walls, perfectly positioned to collect solar energy, were left windowless. Those windows that could open didn't have storm windows for winter.

Presently, the university is trying to compensate for this lack of foresight with a variety of programs and cutbacks. The last two years have brought cutbacks in lighting, evening heat, thermostat allowances and air conditioning, with only further reductions in sight. The installation of the JC-180 computer was to ensure stricter control of conditions inside seven major campus buildings. In its first month alone, it saved Dal. \$10,000 in fuel costs and \$13,000 in power bills. JC-180 represents a theoretical yearly saving of \$400,000 but this year it is still riddled with 'bugs' and is expected to save only half that amount. These technical 'bugs' also explain why the Killam Library is usually glacial and the Life Sciences complex is stuffy, even at



Housing Commission program to get started on its own housekeeping. The physical plant and the NSHC have been cooperating in an effort to put up storm windows on Dal's residences and rented houses. "This represents a yearly saving of 25% to 35% of a house's fuel costs," said Thompson.

Commenting on the program's exclusion of departmental houses and the A&A building, Vagianos explained: "The A&A is actually our cheapest building to heat and its windows provide natural ventilation, which eliminates air conditioning costs. The addition of storm windows, while it would save dollars, will be useless as long as students continue to smoke in the classrooms requiring the windows to be open constantly." He expects the NSHC program to pay for itself in three years. The physical plant is also involved in running a 'test' house on Henry Street to investigate the feasibility of re-insulating Dal's 100 houses.

There are still problems to be solved and possible solutions to explore. So far, no economical method has been found to open sealed-glass windows and allow buildings to be aerated naturally. The administration is still considering a consolidation of night and weekend classes into a single building to save on heating and electricity. Explains Fisher: "most people underestimate the importance of conserving the energy that we do have. The main emphasis

now is on new and cheaper energy sources, but simply making optimum use of what we do have is a priority."

The physical plant is assisted in its energy saving efforts by the Energy Savings Committee, a body which has met three times since its inception last May. The committee is responsible for gathering information on research areas that cannot have cutbacks on heat or lighting etc., comfortable working temperatures, and other areas which can help to save energy.

According to the head of the committee, Dick Fisher, the Killam Library is a flagrant example of an energy guzzler whose heating is hard to control. "A mean temperature of 68 degrees is impossible to maintain; that's our most pressing problem," Fisher said. The money which is spent on heating and electricity is never recovered. Unlike an investment of \$3,000,000 on library books, there is no long term profit on fuel bills; once they go up in smoke, they can never be recovered. For this reason, Vice-President Vagianos urges students to do their share in the fight against excess. "We would then be able to pump back our savings into academic channels," he said.

Simply turning off a few lights may not go a long way in counteracting rising costs and the poor planning of the past, but at least those lights won't be burning their way into your academic budget.



A 3c per gallon increase is due in March.

During Dal's building boom of the late 60's and early 70's no plans were made for the optimum use of energy in its new structures. A widespread use of sealed glass windows made air conditioning, the cost of which has now soared, a

night.

"An important preventive measure to take involves simple house-keeping; things like weather stripping and caulking and putting up storm windows," said Dalhousie graduate student Phil Thompson. Recently, the physical plant has taken advantage of a Nova Scotia

## Palestine film Wednesday

The film, **Palestine: Revolution Until Victory**, will be shown as part of the Third World Film series this Wednesday, January 25, at 8:00 p.m. in the McInnes Room, Dalhousie University Student Union Building. Admission is free. The film showing is sponsored by the Dalhousie Overseas Student Coordinator.

The film traces the history of the Palestinian people in their homeland, Palestine, from Biblical times to the present. Using historical film footage, it explains how British colonialism, through the Balfour Declaration of 1917, promised Palestine to representatives of the Zionist World Congress, without consulting the inhabitants of Palestine: the Palestinians. At the time of the Balfour Declaration, the Palestinians made up 92% of the population of Palestine.

After showing how the Pales-

tinians were forced to flee from their homeland in 1947-48, the film points to their gradual regrouping under the auspices of the Palestine Liberation Organization, founded in 1964. It includes interviews with P.L.O. leaders and Fedayin (fighters), who explain how the Palestinians have overcome the despair of the refugee camps in the course of their struggle to regain their national rights.

The film, 45 minutes long, is valuable for those who have little or no knowledge of the history of the Palestinian question, which is the crux of the Middle East problem today. A controversial film, **Palestine: Revolution Until Victory** has been widely shown in North America and Western Europe, and has been praised for its portrayal of the untold side of the Middle East problem: the Palestinian story.

## CRYPTOQUOTE

Here's how to do it:

OXRUT OILZY  
is  
HENRY HICKS

One letter simply stands for another. In the sample O is used for the two Hs, X for the E, Z for the K, etc.

This week:

CRYPTOQUOTE

IQSC ICT LSC MYPPCE VZ QJCSUQSM FBLT FBC

YHQSFLLTGC QK FBC UQSPE NODFYKYCD.

SOEVLSE MYHPYTA

Answer to last week:

"A senior bureaucrat could, if he chose to do so, seasonally adjust a thermometer to abolish winter."

—John G. Diefenbaker, P.C., C.H., Q.C., M.P.