

THE GAZETTE

DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY

Drug testing at Dal?

By LOIS CORBETT

THE DIRECTOR OF INTER-collegiate athletics at Dalhousie University may agree in principle with the practice of compulsory drug testing, but unless it becomes a lot less expensive, students here will have one less test to pass.



Wayne MacDonald says the \$200 to \$300 price tag on individual drug tests is too much for his department to face.

"We support the idea of drug testing . . . if it ever became feasible, it is something we would do," says MacDonald.

The only university in Canada that currently tests its athletes for steroid and other drug use is in Calgary. Dr. Bob Corran, of the University of Calgary's athletics department, says the testing program there has been implemented to "enforce the university's unwritten policy against drug use."

The U. of C. is in a unique position that enables it to carry on with the expensive testing procedure. The 1988 Winter Games will be held in its home city, and the sports medicine clinic at the university wants to become certified to test the Olym-

pic participants. The only clinic recognized now to test athletes for drug use is in Montreal.

The U. of C. has received funding from the province of Alberta and Sport Canada to help cover the costs of the tests.

Other universities in Canada will be slower to implement drug testing than Calgary, says Mary Appleton, the coordinator of international programs with the Canadian Inter-collegiate Athletic Union. While many university athletic departments agree with drug testing, as does the CIAU, Appleton says the high cost will keep the programs away from other campuses.

Appleton says the steroid tests are "quite detailed. This might be an exaggeration, but they can show you everything you've had in the last six months."

The CIAU is particularly concerned with steroid use, but Appleton says abuse of any drug would concern the organization. Steroids are used by some athletes to build muscle and strength, but the side effects of the drug can be potentially harmful to the liver and heart.

MacDonald says he agrees with drug testing because of the benefits such a program could have for

students. "Athletics are just one component of student life, and if athletes were using drugs to enhance that component, we would be very concerned," he says.

Some national organizations are using random procedures to test athletes in national teams, says Appleton, even though the CIAU has "no compulsory drug testing policy." The Canadian Track and Field Association and Amateur Football Association are looking at or are already testing some participants in national level teams.

MacDonald says that since Dalhousie always has students eligible for national teams, he informs the university's athletes of the random testing carried out by some sport bodies.

Critics of compulsory drug testing, including professional players' unions in the United States, have said such practices are in violation of athletes' rights, but that debate has yet to reach Dalhousie.

MacDonald says if a student refused to take a drug test required by a national team, "it would be an assumption of guilt."

Krackpots at King's

WHEN IT COMES TO racing around a quadrangle on tricycles while listening to Shakespearean comedies, there's no doubt about it, King's College reigns supreme.

In the most bizarre commemoration of Terry Fox's heroic run across Canada to raise funds for cancer research, over 200 King's students raced nine tricycles for 24 hours last Friday and Saturday.

In a paralytic display of civic virtue, Dalhousie only managed to pull out five students for a fundraising run last Friday.

"It was a strategic error," says Barney Savage, the mastermind behind Dalhousie's campaign. He says interest at Dalhousie

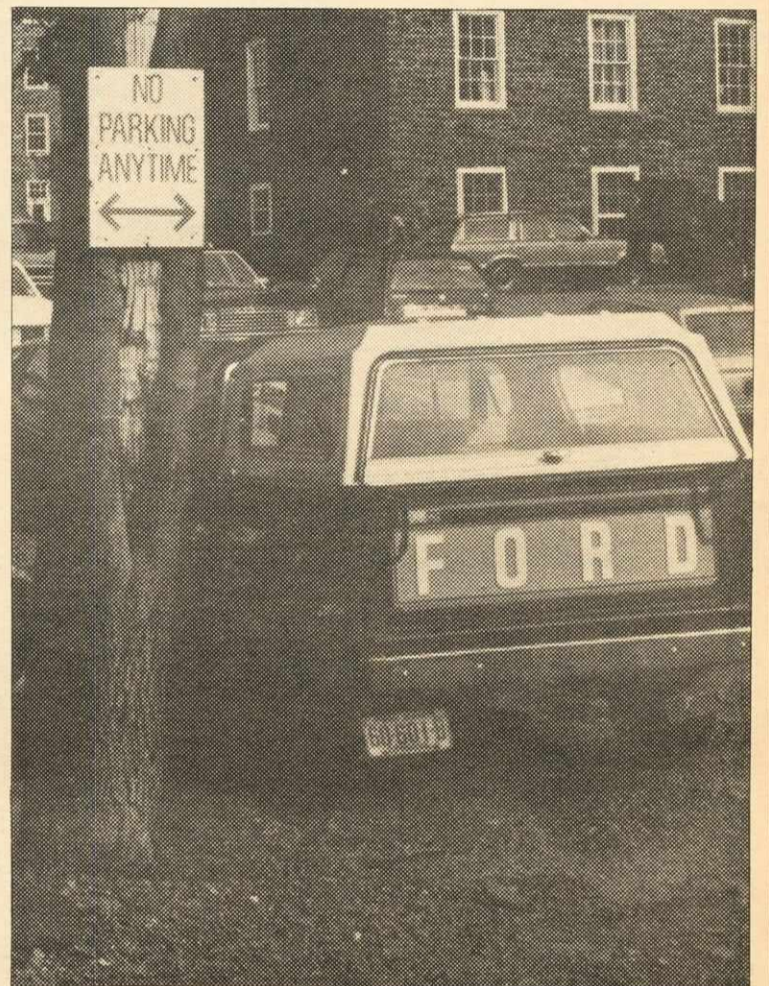
waned after the publicity surrounding the fundraising events which took place across Canada the week prior to the Dalhousie run.

Savage was unsure why more medical students didn't turn out to support an event upon which many of their future colleague's careers will depend upon.

"There probably wasn't much publicity generated on the lower campus," says Savage.

"I think we have to more clearly think out our charity priorities . . . the Shinerama did very well this year . . . maybe the Terry Fox campaign should be something different."

"I'm just trying to forget about the whole thing," says Savage.



Chemistry reconstructs to save bucks

By GEOFF STONE

PRELIMINARY CONSTRUCTION has started on a new chemistry annex to be built on the parking space behind the old chemistry building.

The new space will house labs for undergraduate chemistry students.

Dr. Jan Kwak, the chair of the chemistry department, says the new labs will solve many of the problems of the old labs, which are fire hazards. As well, students are not given enough lab time or safety devices such as fume hoods required to teach students. Labs are often crowded and students are required to pair up for experiments, says Kwak.

The new lab space is intended to give students modern, well-equipped labs and will be useful for separating the different sec-

tions of chemistry.

All three phases of the renovations to the chemistry building are expected to cost \$9.8 million. The university was forced to start the restoration and construction of the annex this year, as otherwise it would have lost a \$1 million gift from the Windsor Foundation.

Parking space eliminated because of the construction will be replaced by the use of the running track around Studley Field.

Max Keeping, director of security, says the track will hold about 180 cars, the number that will be lost by the annex.

There are no plans for changes to the Studley field track, or to stop using it as a parking lot.

The old lab space will be converted into research and post-graduate lab space in another phase of chemistry expansion.