

If you build it...

Volume 132, Number 1.

Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Thursday, September 9, 1999.



Frosh week comes to a sunny close

Computer Science building behind its time

BY DONNA LEE and SALLY THOMAS

The new Computer Science building is behind schedule because of a self-imposed time crunch and the strong smell of a new building.

If you were to walk into the building, you would see balls of wire hanging from the ceiling. There's furniture wrapped in plastic laying all over the floor, and a thick layer of dust and wood shavings cover everything.

Bill Lord, from the Department of Facilities Management, says the building will be finished

by September 17th. The faculty and administration agreed not to officially open the new building until October 4.

He says the university knew from the beginning the new building would be touch and go with construction. The plans were not finished by the architect when construction began.

"We knew it was going to be a real struggle to get in on time," Lord says. "The architects are keeping one step ahead of construction."

Bryan Mason, Dalhousie's Vice President of Finance and Administration, cites several

reasons for the delay in the construction of the building.

He says construction operated on a 'fast track' design-build project. This is where architects still work on the design and the faculty's requirements while construction had already started.

"They've always been working ahead of us," Mason says, "and it makes for a more complex project, there's no question about it."

The limited time frame is due to the department's discontin-

continued on page 3

Financial strain, student costs publicly recognized

DSU lobbies for financial support

BY AMY DURANT

Steven Cote probably never expected his daily rituals would get him on national television. But anyone who turns on Canada AM — Canada's national morning news show — on Monday will see the Dalhousie Student Union Vice President Internal shopping at Omni and applying for his student loan.

Cote talked to the program's journalists about the rising costs of tuition and the everyday expenses of university life. He hopes the show will help students gain more support throughout their times of financial stress.

"Every student expects to pay at least \$12,000 during a year at school," said Cote. "They also expect to have a big student loan to pay off at the end of four years."

Student representatives, like Cote and his colleagues at the Dalhousie Student Union (DSU),

are petitioning to change the financial situations of students across the country.

"We've been working on lobbying the government to [take action] on student loans," said Cote.

Kelly MacKenzie, DSU president, and Mark Galley, DSU Vice President of Student Advocacy, are working with the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA), with several goals in mind, like having the GST eliminated from the cost of textbooks.

"Textbooks are a required learning resource," said Galley. "It's ridiculous to have the government tax them."

CASA is also looking for increased funding for universities and colleges, and an improved student loan and bursary program.

MacKenzie is watching student loan procedures closely, because of the new section on loans which deals with designa-

tion based on employability.

"It basically says if you're a music student you aren't as important or as deserving of a student loan as an engineering student. We don't believe that at all," said MacKenzie.

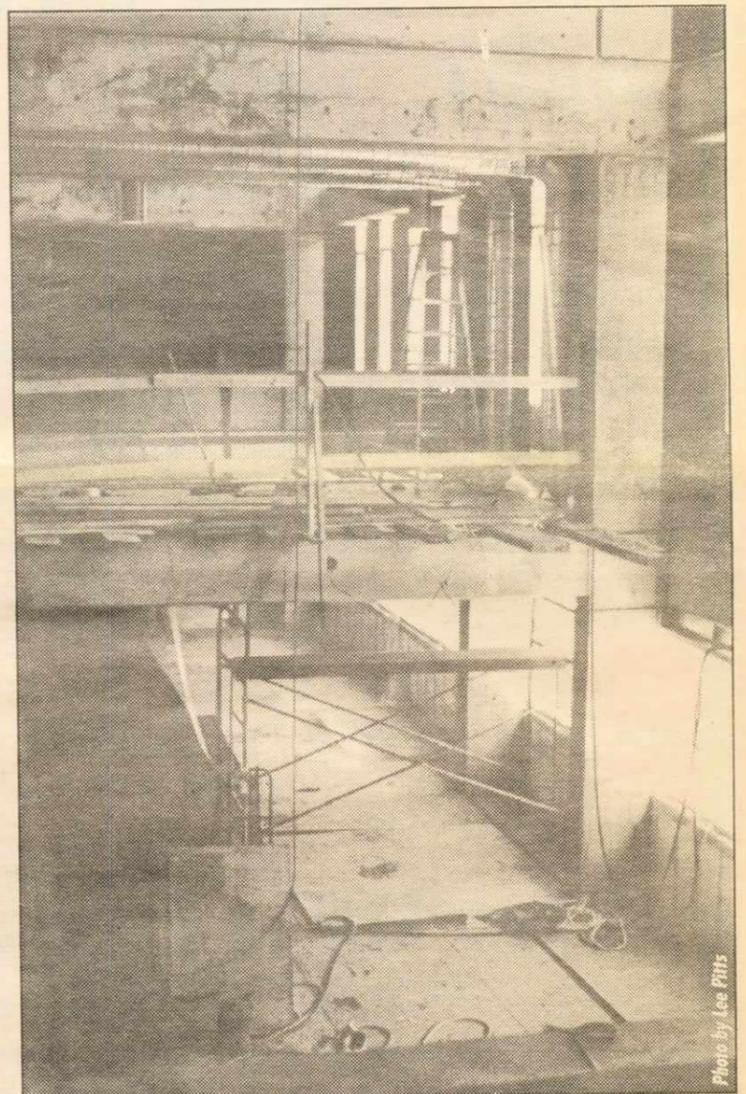
Meanwhile Galley is looking forward to conferences he and MacKenzie will be attending for CASA.

Jason Aebig, National Director for CASA, will be speaking to our student council about this year's campaign, whose theme is "Education builds a nation".

CASA has plans for three conferences, two of which are timed with the national budget.

"We'll be in Ottawa lobbying when the politicians are working on the budget in October and November, and we'll be back there in February when the budget is announced," said Galley. "That

continued on page 3



Weird science: construction continues on the new Computer Science Building

Frosh Week welcomes Dal students

BY JEMERY NELSON

The bigger ticket price on this year's frosh week has not kept first year students away from the events, with an increased number of events attracting more students than years past.

Students Union president Kelly Mackenzie says more students, especially those living off campus, are participating with more enthusiasm than in the past. She believes the small increase in costs is more than justified given the important role Frosh Week

plays.

"I think orientation week is about welcoming new students to the campus," says MacKenzie. "If you give new students a good sense of Dalhousie community, then they're more likely to keep that with them for the rest of the time here."

In order to participate in most Frosh Week events, students must purchase a Frosh Pack which allows for entrance into all but seven frosh week events, as well

continued on page 4