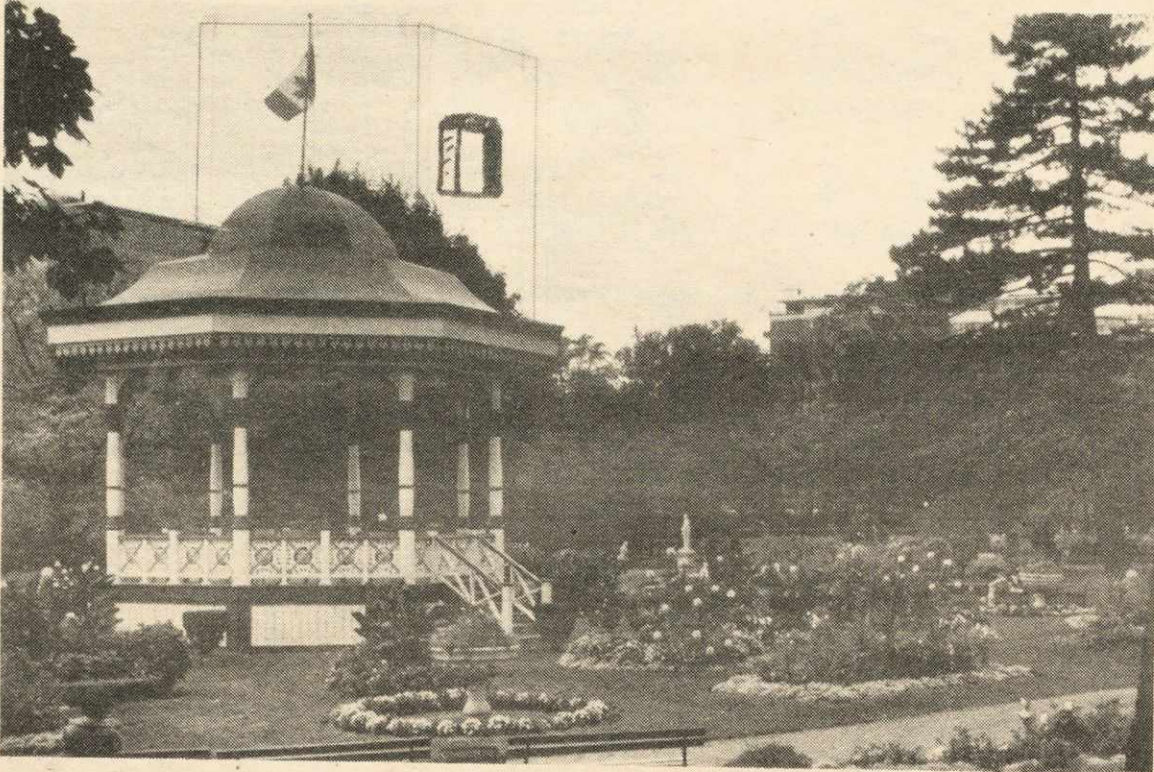


# A 'cool' million in the shade



View of projected United Equities condos from the Gazebo.

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## Differential fees criticized

by Geoff Martin

Differential fees for foreign students "are strictly a money matter," says Dr. Peter Butler, Senior Policy Advisor to Nova Scotia Education Minister Terry Donahoe.

Peter Kavanagh and Dr. Owen Carrigan disagree.

Kavanagh is Executive Officer of the Students' Union of Nova Scotia and Carrigan is a St. Mary's University professor and one of the authors of the influential report on foreign students, *The Right Mix*.

The forum, held Oct. 18 in the Green Room, was sponsored by International Students Association.

At present Nova Scotia, along with a number of other provinces, has imposed a differential fee on foreign students. The Nova Scotia fee is \$1300 per year.

Much of the discussion centered on what Butler termed as the present financial crisis in education, which he blames on the federal government.

"There is a problem and it has to be addressed by the feds, and the problem is a lack of money," Butler said. "The federal government created the present post-secondary education system, and they have stopped paying for it," he said.

Butler maintained Nova Scotia taxpayers are not willing to pay for the education of foreign students, despite the cultural, economic and education benefits they provide Nova Scotia.

Both Kavanagh and Carrigan expressed their hostility to differential fees, citing their belief in the "universal nature" of university education. Carrigan also criticized government obsession "with the costs of universities without looking at the benefits.

"I do not know of any business ... which looks only at the costs

of something, yet governments in this country look at universities in the context of cost," Carrigan said.

"But the benefits far outweigh the cost, and I find it almost offensive that people who talk like that in government all have university degrees, and would not have their present jobs and big salaries were it not for the same education," he said.

Despite arguments to the contrary, Kavanagh said the money foreign students bring into Canada compensates for the "burden" they supposedly represent.

"Only 5% of Canadian university students are foreign. We could hardly call this a burden on the system," Kavanagh said.

In addition, Kavanagh said that to put the foreign student issue in the foreign affairs category is a form of "double-speak," since education is not simply a provincial matter. "Nova Scotia does not have a monopoly on knowledge," he said.

Kavanagh, Carrigan and several speakers from the floor also suggested there are few extra costs sustained by universities because of foreign students as they are generally enrolled in already-existing programs.

Kavanagh added that Canadian graduate schools, and the research and development which are a product of them, are also dependent on foreign students.

## Allen: Streamline the administration

by C. Ricketts

Newly-elected DSU VP Academic Jill Allen sees a three-pronged mandate for her term.

"A long-term academic policy from the students' point of view, an established course evaluation procedure and professors' tenure are the key areas," she said.

Allen was elected at the Oct. 16 council meeting. The VP Academic position became vacant in Sept. when then VP Academic Alison Dysart resigned from the position in order to continue his studies at McGill University.

With Dalhousie currently under "restraint and renewal" it is important for students to take part in the discussion of what academic priorities are, said Allen. "If we don't have something prepared then students will always be responding and reply-

ing to university initiative," she said.

Restraint and renewal is an exercise in balancing the university's budget. It was invoked by university president Andrew MacKay in mid-October, 1982, and involves examining all services and programs. To maintain a quality university environment, finite resources must be channelled into priority areas while other areas are phased down or eliminated.

"We can't look at cutting back on academics," said Allen. "We need to look at streamlining the administration."

Course evaluations are one way of getting feedback on courses to departments, professors and students. "If a course evaluation is taken seriously it gives a chance for problems to

by C. Ricketts

The sale of the Hart-Butler property begs some multi-million dollar questions.

United Equities bought the property from Dalhousie last February and proposes to build two luxury high-rise condominium towers on the site.

Friends of the Public Gardens co-ordinator Charlotte Lingren says the local group's concerns are the impact the project will have on both the environment and Halifax's architectural heritage.

"My question is - what does the city get out of this?" she said. "It's debatable that tax revenues will increase, and who wants clone architecture in place of historic buildings you can't find anywhere else?"

Steve Mills, another member of the Friends of the Public Gardens, says if United Equities' rezoning application is approved, it will be a clear violation of the current Municipal Development Plan (MDP). "There are particular implications when the municipality starts to come under pressure with offshore development," he said. These would include land speculation, he added.

The sale of the Hart-Butler property, bounded by Spring Garden Road, College and Summer Streets, is conditional on United Equities' ability to have the land rezoned from its current university designation to high-density residential.

In addition, United Equities wishes to have city by-laws amended which in effect would permit them to be legally transgressed. The proposed amendment reads: "Council may, by resolution...permit residential development which would not otherwise be permitted by this Bylaw..."

In a letter to the Municipal Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) dated June 1, 1983, chief executive officer for United Equities J. Keith Allen stated council would then "approve the proposed development on a contract development basis."

"Companies will see that the city is not willing to plan, despite a lot of time and money spent on producing the MDP. As soon as a

developer comes along, city council will be willing to alter it," said Mills.

"It's equivalent to no planning at all," he said.

The MDP guidelines for the area surrounding the Public Gardens places height restrictions on both low- and high-rise buildings. This is to keep shadowing effect on the Gardens minimal during the growing season and after 10 am during the winter months.

United Equities is asking the city to permit them to build even higher than regulations allow. Shadowing effect studies conducted by the PAC claim the effect on the Gardens will be negligible. An August 31 report to the committee says drops in ground temperature caused by shadowing during the winter can be offset by extra mulching.

Horticulturist Carol Goodwin-Hatt disagrees. Her information indicates increased frosting will not be offset by mulching. "Halifax and the Public Gardens are a micro-climate. There are plants that grow here that do not grow anywhere else in Nova Scotia," she said.

Goodwin-Hatt says the change in temperature won't be tolerated by mature plants, and younger ones would eventually die out. "The Don redwoods and umbrella pines could be replaced with hardier species," she said. "But why should they? The Gardens should be preserved."

As an example of what would probably happen to the Gardens' vegetation, Goodwin-Hatt said trees on the north side of the 5770 Spring Garden Road apartment building are already "half the size they were" before the building was erected. The branches in effect "grow back" as frost kills branches and twigs, and new growth must start closer to the tree trunk.

Lingren says wind studies submitted by United Equities are inadequate. "The report they gave from Dr. Isymov from the University of Western Ontario stressed there had been no wind tunnel experiments conducted," she said. The August 18 report states "winds along College and between Summer and Carleton streets could be adversely affected."

Apart from the wind-chill factor, which increases ground freezing, a report from Fran Thakston, a consulting engineer in Guelph, Ontario, states that with Halifax's prevailing winds "often all the debris such as paper, snow, leaves, etc... would be deposited in the Gardens."

The municipality would have to pick up the extra maintenance costs said Lingren.

The city would lose even more money because of a loss of tourist dollars. Lingren says the Public Gardens is the number one attraction for tourists in Halifax. If it is taken out of its Victorian context, should the Hart House and Summer Street row houses are torn down, it will lose a lot of its charm.

Mills concurs. "The Hart House is the visual anchor for the Gardens," he said. "Lots of tourists take photographs of the house while they're here."

come to light and be corrected," said Allen.

This process in turn would tie in to tenure, says Allen. She says tenure is awarded mainly on the basis of a professor's research record and not his teaching ability. But, says Allen, this is not much good for students who need to be taught.

There has not been a university-wide course evaluation since the early 1970's but, Allen said, it appears that research into different course evaluations have been ongoing sporadically since 1975. "There's a sheaf of old material in my mailbox," she said.

Allen is currently in her first year law and has been attending Dalhousie since 1978.