

Education priorities

Dalhousie may have to bite the bullet on education.

A report leaked Monday advocating that only three post-secondary schools in the province continue to offer teacher training is coming under attack. But the report should be carefully looked at before it is dismissed out of hand.

The report, written by Bernard Shapiro, a long-time civil servant now at Montreal's McGill University, recommends that only Acadia, Mount St. Vincent and Université Sainte Anne in Pointe de l'Eglise retain Schools of Education. Dalhousie, Saint Mary's, St. Francis Xavier, the Nova Scotia Teacher's College, University College of Cape Breton and the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design would all lose theirs. The report will be studied by the Nova Scotia Council on Higher Education.

Although it would be easy to say that Dal shouldn't lose its program, it may be for the best that it does.

There are approximately 600 students graduating each year in Nova Scotia with teaching credentials, at a time when only about 100 places are available for them each year in the province. It makes little sense having nine institutions offering this when so few can get jobs. Doesn't it make sense to have fewer graduates with a more realistic chance of using the skills they have learned?

There is a belief that a university should offer all things to all people. Although universities, like secondary schools, should offer a basic grounding in undergraduate courses to students, the question remains whether so many schools should offer the same postgraduate programs.

Even though Dalhousie's education program would be eliminated if the report is recommended, the university should think seriously about agreeing with the report in the interests of avoiding duplication.

As a university with a long and prestigious history in Canadian education, Dalhousie should continue to try and be innovative and unique rather than just another university.

The health care system manages to avoid the kind of redundancy from which Nova Scotia universities suffer. Not every hospital tries to offer services such as open heart surgery or organ transplants and neither should every school try to offer every graduate program.

For instance, Dalhousie offers only one of three law degrees in the Maritimes (the other two are at l'Université de Moncton and the University of New Brunswick) and the only medical degree. It's a system that seems to work for students in those disciplines. Why can't it be the same for education?

Dalhousie should concentrate on what makes it special.

Some things which make it unique are programs the university wants to cut, such as: music, theatre, costume studies, public administration and library and information studies.

The administration should show some vision and accept the report. It should also take another look at its plans to cut programs which make the university an institution different from the rest.

Frank MacEachern



LETTERS

The Dalhousie *Gazette* welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should not exceed 300 words in length and should be typed and double-spaced. The deadline for letters is Monday noon before publication. Letters may be submitted on MacIntosh or IBM-compatible 3.5" disk.

Help centre

To the editor:

The Dalhousie Women's Centre is scheduled to renew its lease with Dalhousie University on February 1, 1994. At present the contract is for a one-year period. It is the hope of the Women's Centre to extend this contract to a three year lease. This would allow the Centre to make long term plans and improve the services currently available to all women at Dalhousie... students, faculty, staff and administration, as well as the surrounding Halifax community.

One of the chief concerns of the Women's Centre is that it is not physically accessible. This issue is very important to the Women's Centre as it does not allow all members of the community to use its resources. With a three year lease, we will have the means to make the necessary changes to the Centre, and this will ensure a long-term physically accessible environment.

The Dalhousie Women's Centre is located at 6143 South Street. This location has many assets: it is situated next to the Security Building, it is convenient and well-known to both the Dalhousie and the Halifax community, and is located on a major bus route. These attributes have made the Centre safe and available.

Over the past year, the Dalhousie Women's Centre has made a place for itself at its present location. The Centre provides a drop-in and referral service, a resource library, special events programming, as well as a safe environment for any woman in need of a quiet space. We believe that these services have been enhanced by the space currently used. A longer term lease will allow us to continue to improve the services offered, enabling us to reach a wider circle of people within the community.

The Dalhousie Women's Centre is asking for the support of all students, faculty, staff, and administrators in its goal of attaining a three year lease. The Centre will have a table in the Student Union Building from Thursday, January 13 to Tuesday, January 18 where everyone can sign a postcard supporting a three-year lease that will be delivered personally to President Howard Clark. Please take the time to visit the table and show your support!

Dalhousie Women's Centre
Management Collective

chord in my heart of the hardships that we face as women. It is always heart-warming to feel that I am not alone in this male-dominated society. We as women have to stand up and let our voices be known. We are equal and deserve the respect and adulation that you (men) give yourselves. The tragedy at Ecole Polytechnique serves to remind us of the atrocities we still face as women. The latest murder of a woman in Montreal, who was pushed from a train platform by a Polytechnique student because he was turned down for a grant by a woman, reminds us that we still have a long way to go before the rights of women are fully recognized. I would like to say thank you for your effort in bringing our plight to the attention of readers. Hopefully, the Week of Reflection has touched the hearts of many and will spark a concern for women's issues all-over this land.

Carrie Toussaint

Dear Mr. or Ms. 'Concerned Student':

Thanks for your submission, but after a careful reading we went out on a limb and guessed that that is not your real name. Please come back and sign your letter for real.

The eds

Great section

To the editor:

Thank you for the full-page section in *The Gazette* on the Week of Reflection. The poetry displayed touched a

Founded in 1869 at Dalhousie College, *the Gazette* is Canada's oldest student newspaper. With a circulation of 10,000, *the Gazette* is published weekly through the Dalhousie Student Union by the Dalhousie Gazette Publishing Society, of which all Dalhousie University students are members. • *The Gazette* exercises full editorial autonomy and reserves the right to refuse or edit any material submitted. Editorial decisions are made by staff collectively. Individuals who contribute to three issues consecutively become voting staff members. • Deadline for commentary, letters to the editor, and announcements is 4:00 pm on Monday before publication (Thursday of each week). Commentary should not exceed 800 words. Letters should not exceed 300 words. No unsigned material will be accepted, but anonymity may be granted upon request. Submissions may be left at the SUB Enquiry Desk c/o *the Gazette*. • Advertising copy deadline is noon on Monday before publication. • *The Gazette* offices are located on the third floor of the SUB, Room 312. • The views expressed in *the Gazette* are not necessarily those of the Dalhousie Student Union, the editors or the collective staff.

the Gazette

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