

Housing problems

Tales of horror

by Mark Simkins

This Tuesday, I asked students scanning Dalhousie's housing notice board, how the search for good, cheap, and close housing was going. Here are a few sample replies:

"It is the total pits. I've been looking for a month and it has been horrible."

"It's really a pain. Everything close is extremely expensive, anything reasonable is too far away."

"Anything decent is out of your range, and anything in your range is out of your way."

John Graham, Dal's director of housing, told me why. "Houses in the area are being demolished and replaced by highrise apartments like Coburg Gardens on Oxford with rents too expensive for most students," he said. "The situation is getting worse every year, as more houses are torn down and more apartments go up."

Graham maintains that the university can't fill the gap with its own housing. "There are no funds to do so," he said. "Federal funding for student housing is zero, and even if we borrowed money to build an apartment building, with the current cost of building at \$12,000 a bed, the loan's interest charges would be about \$500 more than we charge for one bed at Fenwick Towers." Graham held out the hope that the waiting lists were short at Howe Hall and Fenwick Place. St. Mary's University also had 300 spaces they were

offering to Dal students this year, he said.

Janice Ferguson, the Student Union's housing secretary, was visiting her home in New Brunswick for a few days, and unavailable for comment on exactly how many students are without housing.

The student union, however, in response to the annual crisis, has set up a 15 space hostel at 610⁶ University Avenue. The cost of a mattress for a night is three dollars. The place is open from 12 to 1 p.m., 5 to 7 p.m., and 11 p.m. to 1 a.m., and will remain so until October.



Polishing for kids

Friday, September 15 is Shinerama day at Dal. The Orientation Committee is once again embarking on a fund-raising campaign for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, with students at Dal, King's, and Mount St. Vincent shining shoes to raise the money. The committee hopes to have at least 500 students participating in the event, and have set their fund raising goal at \$5000. Last year students raised \$4000.

Eighteen per cent of the Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Foundation's revenue comes from Shinerama. Money raised in the Halifax-Dartmouth area is used to fund research at the Izaak Walton Killam Hospital for Children.

If you are interested in participating in Shinerama, meet in the Green Room of the

I've Had My Shine
IN AID OF
CYSTIC FIBROSIS



Dal SUB at 9 a.m. on Friday, September 15. "Remember," a spokesperson for the organizing committee said, "for each shoe you shine you are giving a child the 'Breath of Life'."

Cutback effects Councils to confer

Halifax student council representatives plan to meet September 21 to discuss the question of fiscal restraint as it affects quality and accessible education.

The meeting was called by the Mount Saint Vincent Student Union in light of recent Federal government announcements which, according to MSVU president, Diane Wright, "will adversely affect

the province's ability to fund the universities."

The students will undertake an assessment of this summer's youth unemployment, recent and proposed student aid changes and the decrease in the funding levels going to the metro universities.

Wright said she hopes the meeting will be instrumental in fostering cooperation between the councils.

Sawdust in your sandwich

by Fred Roberge

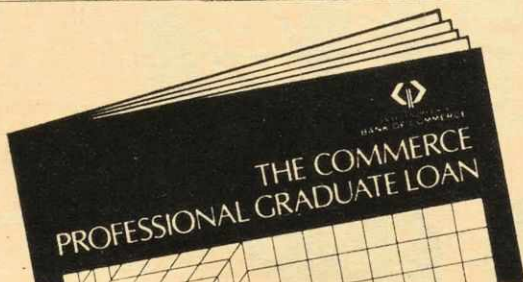
The Dalhousie SUB cafeteria is undergoing some drastic changes this year. According to John Graham, SUB general manager, the cafeteria needed some general repairs, and it was decided to renovate the cafeteria completely.

Work began July 17 and will be nearly finished by the end of this week. However, it is expected that the finishing touches will only be completed by the end of the month.

The total cost of the new look will be around \$69,000. The administration is footing \$49,000 of the bill. The rest will be handled by the student union.

The new platform arrangement will have built-in audio and lighting systems that will facilitate general meetings and social functions such as discos.

Although the changes will actually reduce the number of chairs, Graham anticipates that the cafeteria will now be able to accommodate more people because of its park-type benches and its quicker fixed seating for small groups of people.



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