

Growing pains ail Computer Centre

by Arnold Mosher

There is gross overcrowding at Dalhousie's Computer Centre, said Karl Linkletter, president of the newly formed Dalhousie Computer Science Society.

The administration-run Computer Centre, situated in the basement of the Killam Library, provides computing services for students in various departments along with handling registration for the administration.

Linkletter said various departments (like Math and Business Administration) had expanded without considering the ability of the Computer Centre to handle the extra number of students. He said there had been an approximate 30 percent increase in the number of students using the computer this year versus last year.

Many professors are not showing students how to use the computer properly so

students waste time learning by themselves, which slows things down, said Linkletter.

Linkletter said a lack of funding via the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC) to Dalhousie's Computer Centre had slowed expansion of facilities. The funding, said Linkletter, is going to Acadia to support their computer program.

Linkletter said the MPHEC sees fit only to recognize one university granting degrees in Computer Science in the Maritimes. He said the MPHEC feels that Acadia would have a cut in enrollment if Dalhousie had a similar program said Linkletter.

Intab Ali, director of the Computer Centre, said that funding was not the main problem but inter-departmental communication.

Though there had been overcrowding in the past two months, these months, according to Ali's statistics, are usually busy. Ali said steps are being taken to increase the

time the computer is available for students.

There was the usual seasonal increase in computer usage in October, Ali said, but this year saw a real growth in the number of students using the Computer.

In order to expand the computer facility, parts must be ordered which can take up to 10 months to get here because of the demand for such parts. Various (unnamed) departments offering new computer courses had not taken such things into consideration and had not told the Computer Centre of their plans, said Ali. As a consequence students suffer, he said.

Ali said better communication is planned between the Computer Centre and departments in the future to prevent further such occurrences.

Ali advises students who want to use the computer to book ahead for terminal time and not to wait for the last day to do assignments.



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'Break-even' bookstore hauls in \$55,000 profits

by Paul Creelman

Figures released by the bookstore committee show that the Dal Bookstore made \$55,000 profit last year.

Kirk Irving, bookstore manager, says that although the bookstore is supposed to be run on a break-even basis, there is really no profit considering the huge operating losses in past years.

"What you've got to do is look at the operation of the bookstore for the last three years. The year before I came here, we had a loss of \$100,000. The year I came here, the bookstore had a loss of \$80,000. I don't know where the administration came up with this amount of money, but they had to underwrite these losses."

Nevertheless, the operation currently seems to be running at a healthy profit, thanks to Irving Kirk and his staff. Jeff Champion, the student representative on the bookstore committee, says that the operating report has been given to the finance committee for study.

"It's too early to say anything about the report," said Champion.

"First, we're going to have some students that really

know something about accounting look at the report. Then after that, they may wish to make recommendations that the bookstore subsidize text-book prices a little more, or whatever."

Bruce McGowan, member of the finance committee, said that the operating report shows a \$55,116 profit for the 1979-1980 fiscal year. The previous fiscal year, however, they only made \$16,225. Increases in revenue between these two years occurred in the categories of trade books and sundries. The percentage of total returns rose from 1.6% of sales in 78-79 to 4.2% last year.

Kirk says that he doesn't think subsidizing text-book sales will be done at the bookstore.

"As I explained before, one of the ways we have cleared up the operation is by cutting capital expenditures. I think they should be dealt with first.

Such things as our rug, the cash register have to be replaced and we may have to become automated in the next few years. The business office over at administration is automated, so we may have to as well."

Kirk adds that text-book sales per se are still operating at a loss.

"If you looked at the amount of sales on the textbooks, we only get a 20% discount on list. We buy at 20% discount and sell the book at list price. Where the increases in revenue come in is in the sale of trade books."

Trade books are any books that are not required for a course, but this category still includes many optional medical and English books.

The bookstore's assistant manager Joe McFee noted that it doesn't really matter if the bookstore makes a profit or not since the money all goes back to the university anyway, so it would just reduce tuition costs.

Jeff Champion who is also the Student Council vice-president, doesn't agree.

"Well, speaking for myself," says Champion, "I'd rather have the cheapest possible textbooks. I'd say it depends on how many books you have to buy — that's one way to look at it. Still, just because the university has money coming in from a new source doesn't necessarily mean they will reduce tuition."

U of O bans skin mags, Carleton declines

OTTAWA (CUP)—At Carleton University it's called a dangerous form of censorship, but at the U of Ottawa it's referred to as "getting rid of old traditions."

Playboy, Playgirl, Penthouse and similar publications will no longer be sold at the University of Ottawa student federation-run store. The federation voted 13-12 in favor of the motion, proposed by councillor Linda Cardinal at a council meeting.

The Carleton University student union, however, will continue to profit from the sale of skin magazines on campus.

After four hours of debate on November 13 the student council voted 9 to 7 in favor of the continued sale of the magazines, but condemned the contents.

Arts Representative Jim Saunderson said the ban was a dangerous form of censorship in an institution devoted to the exchange of ideas.

Finance commissioner Chris Henderson said "societal norms" are not at a point where banning the magazines would be accepted. He said a ban would bring a backlash against anti-sexism and create a polarization of positions.

Student union president Greg McElligott supported the ban and said "I'm not afraid of

being idealistic." He said council had to get rid of the magazines to establish credibility for its anti-sexism campaign.

Deb Powell, another Arts representative defended the banning of the magazines, saying "This is only the first step but it is very important that we take that step."

At the University of Ottawa, councillor Linda Cardinal said their federation had to decide if they supported the selling of the skin magazines and further stated that, "it's not a question of censorship but of getting rid of old traditions."

Student federation president Pierre Chabot defended the ban in the name of social change. "We must take a stand, clean out our houses before we can clean out others."

Academic Affairs commissioner Pierre LaFrance said, "We're not deciding if people should read them or not, but whether the federation should present them in their stores."

Science representative Scott Meyer would like to see the federation establish guidelines to decide which publications should be sold.

Two Administration representatives said they had surveyed 365 students in their faculty and found 65 per cent were against banning the publications.