

# Lex kicks political football

By COLLEEN MACKAY

ALEX GIGEROFF, Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) president, says the outstanding issue of the student union

elections is the creation of a "viable football team at Dalhousie." Gigeroff regrets that he and Rusty James, DSU vice president, were unable to see the establishment of a football team before the end of their term.

"Seriously though," says Gigeroff, "the big one (issue) is the university's budget and cutbacks." Gigeroff says the issue is whether the university is going to make tough choices.

He expects student housing to continue to be an issue along with summer employment for students, and changes in student aid.

"Summer employment will be as bad, if not worse," he says. "It will be most interesting to see

what changes are made to the student aid programme, if any, due to the impact of the further restraints that the government talks about."

Gigeroff expresses concern about the overall quality of education.

"I think we'll see less and less funding," says Gigeroff. "The most important thing is the report of the Royal Commission on education. It may change the nature of post secondary education as we know it."

# Government cuts may close women's centre

By WENDY COOMBER

HALIFAX MAY LOSE ITS only women's centre and service agency to government cutbacks by the end of this month.

The Women's Information Resource and Referral Service (W.I.R.R.S.) has been refused a crucial operating grant and will officially close its doors March 29, 1985.

"W.I.R.R.S. has always been financially strapped," says its coordinator, Carol Wamboldt. "but it's never been in the financial crisis it's in now."

The agency has depended on government grants to keep it running since it opened in 1982, but since last December it has been operating on money raised by W.I.R.R.S. itself. Lack of funds has already forced Wamboldt to work without staff, cutting down on community workshops and committee work that were once part of her job.

Before W.I.R.R.S. opened its doors, services to women were provided out of the now defunct A Woman's Place which was opened with the help of the YWCA during International Women's Year. The agency now operates from a room in Veith House, providing a small resource library and giving counselling and referrals to women on issues ranging from sexual assault to housing.

"The other things that happen to women's service," she says, "besides running out of money, is the demoralization of the other (women's) services."

"You're so geared into (finding) funding that you stop being a service provider and become employed to keep yourself employed," says Wamboldt.

Wamboldt says she was sure W.I.R.R.S. would have received at least two other grants, but the CEIC grant was withheld.

Wamboldt says they would only tell her it was because of "economic restraint."

"The elections are over," she says cynically. "They've got another four years to fool around and convince people they're concerned about women's issues. In 1988 you'll see another surge of interest in women's services."

Every agency in the city, she says, is dependent upon the other and W.I.R.R.S.'s closing will create a void which the others will have to deal with.

Some of W.I.R.R.S.'s clients are trying to lobby the government to provide the necessary funding to keep the agency afloat but Wamboldt is pessimistic.

"With the bad economy, there's a subtle wish to get women back into the kitchen," she says. "The irony is that this is the end of the official dedication of women, and this is how we are treated."



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