

## Forrest gets facelift

By MELISSA MCDONALD

DALHOUSIE'S OLDEST building, the Forrest Building, erected in 1887, will be officially rededicated on Oct. 18 at 2:30 p.m. as the new home for the Schools of Nursing, Occupational Therapy, and Physiotherapy. In attendance will be premier John Buchanan, education minister Terry Donahoe, Halifax mayor Ron Wallace, and Dal president Andrew Mackay. At 3:30 p.m. there will be an open house with each of the professions involved depicting the roles they play in health care.

Before 1887, Dalhousie was situated downtown on the Grand Parade. By the 1880's, this site was deemed inappropriate for an expanding university; the site was too small and the military band too loud. As well, the city wanted the property. The original Dalhousie building now houses Halifax City Hall.

An exchange of the Parade for \$25,000 and property next to Carleton Street gave Dalhousie its second home. The Forrest Building, named after Rev. John Forrest, the president of Dalhousie at the time, was to house the entire faculties of arts, science, medicine, and law, with engineering and dentistry added in the early 1900's.

In the ensuing years, various faculties moved out of Forrest as Dalhousie added more buildings. In 1979, the building was closed down completely due to concerns that nearby blasting for the new Dentistry Building would cause it to collapse. At this time the building was being considered as the new home for Nursing and Physiotherapy.

In the meantime, Nursing was situated in the Phylae Temple and an old house on College Street and Physiotherapy was moved to various floors in the Sir Charles Tupper building. Physiotherapy was finally settled in the Tupper sub-basement next to the boiler room, while its main office was in the physical plant.

In 1982, Dalhousie reached an agreement with the provincial government. Under the agreement the Forrest Building would be refurbished to house Nursing, Physiotherapy, and the new school of Occupational Therapy. The government provided 80% and Dalhousie 20% of the pro-



Forrest building under reconstruction in 1983. Photo by Carlos, Dal News.

jected \$3.2 million budget.

Most of the building's original character is retained in the reconstruction. Most impressive is the main foyer with its oak staircase and ornate banisters. The huge marble tiles covering the foyer's floor have been turned over to allow for wear on the other side. The pine floors on the fourth floor are also original as is all the wainscoting. Wall coverings on

the ground floor have been removed to reveal the original stone and brick walls.

Although the schools moved back to the Forrest in July 1984, the refurbishment is just now complete. Dr. Robert Tonks, dean of the Health Profession Schools, says the project remained within budget despite delays caused by an electrician's strike in early 1984.

## Bookworm gets eaten

(TORONTO (CUP) — A former University of Toronto student who let his love of books get the better of him has been sentenced to seven days in jail for not returning hundreds of library books.

George Elia, a former Continuing Studies student was also placed under probation, ordered to do 300 hours of community work, and to pay \$3000.

Elia's case is believed to be the first time in Canada that anyone has been jailed for not returning overdue books.

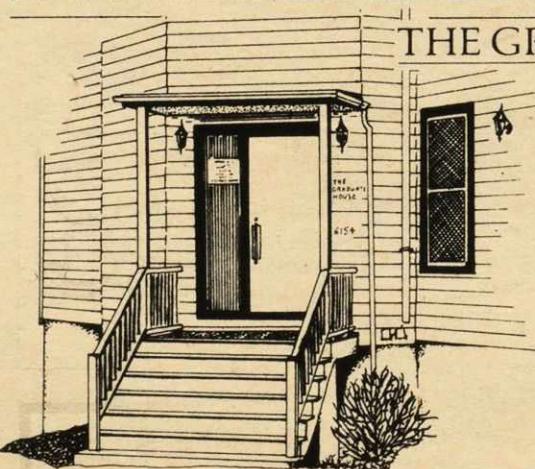
Elia, 48, registered at the U of T in 1981 and took out books from

at least five of its libraries over the next four years.

During their investigation, the police found 226 library books, mostly on archeology and Eastern religion, worth about \$13,000. Some of the books were also from York University.

Although Elia was blacklisted by librarians at U of T, a slight misspelling of his name when he re-registered in 1984 allowed him to get a new card.

U of T librarian Robert Brandeis equates Elia's actions with stealing cars or television sets. "It's plain theft. It's really important that the court has recognized the seriousness of this offence."



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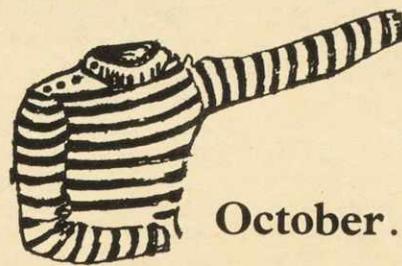
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