

Grad students vote

by Paul Webster

"A union is a possibility", says Jennifer Kressner, the new President of the Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students (DAGS), when discussing plans for organizing Teaching Assistants at Dalhousie.

"The administration is aware there are an awful lot of disgruntled TAs" Kressner says, "This University has a poor history of labour relations"

Kressner was secretary of last year's DAGS executive, along with President Scott McKinnon, Vice President Steven Hardy and treasurer Faith Outerbridge. While next year's treasurer and secretary have not been chosen, Frank Carson will work with Kressner as Vice President.

DAGS represents 1200 full-time Graduate students at Dalhousie and 500 part time students. The Association has a budget of approximately \$50 000. Discussing DAGS recent work Kressner says "this year our biggest thrust was on placing society funding. We found that over the course of the year many societies were not looking to DAGS as a funding source. We felt that it was an important part of our mandate to correct what we perceived as a communication problem".

The Executive and its 20 member Council worked to streamline funding guidelines, Kressner says, to advise "societies and graduate students how best to spend their money."

Kressner is worried by the fact

that Graduate Students at Dalhousie continue to have little organized solidarity, "one of the weaknesses of the organization has been a lack of interest, since Graduate Students have traditionally been a little myopic".

Kressner stresses that Graduate Students at Dalhousie, particularly Teaching Assistants, have much to be concerned about. Dalhousie Teaching Assistant frequently complain about being underpaid and unprotected.

Kressner stresses that low wages are "only a symptom" of the problems between teaching assistants, faculty and the administration. "Part of the reason wages are so low is that there is no standard criteria for the job: it varies widely from department to department".

Residence award phased out

by Allison Johnston

The 'dragon slayer', according to several Howe Hall residents, is an award given to the male who has slept with the 'ugliest' or the most women.

Traditionally, the five houses of Howe Hall have given out the 'dragon slayer' award at closed banquets.

The residents of Howe Hall do not try-out for the awards. The councils of each individual house determine who the 'dragon slayer' will be, said John Doiron, president of Smith House.

This year, some of the houses gave out the award during their Christmas banquets. The new president of Henderson House,



Jennifer Kressner, President-elect of DAGS.

Neil DeCoste acknowledged he was the recipient of the 'dragon slayer' at the end of first term.

Four of the houses have confirmed they will not be awarding the 'dragon slayer' this term.

Studley House president Peter McCracken said the 'dragon slayer' award in their house was being 'phased out'. He cited a seminar on sexism as the reason. "It isn't a proper award," said McCracken.

The seminar McCracken referred to was a workshop in Howe

Hall, given a couple of weeks ago by Jean Crosbie, a student doing her Bachelor of Social Work.

The pamphlet on sexual harassment, put out by the Dalhousie University's Sexual Harassment Advisory Committee, lists different kinds of harassment. One is defined as: "sexually-oriented remarks or behaviour on the part of a person who knows or ought to know that such remarks or behaviour may create a negative psychological or emotional environment for work or study."

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Dalhousie debating team takes New York

by Bernice Landry

Dalhousie-Kings' University National Model United Nations (DUNMUNS) team returned victorious after representing Iraq in a week-long simulation in New York city.

The team of 22 students received an honorable mention; they were the only Canadian team out of 16 to win one. Judges placed them among the top 20, out of over 150, delegations.

DUNMUNS, now in its 10th year of existence, is the only club besides SODALES that allows

students to participate in an intellectual club on a national level. Each year the club is designated a United Nations country, and it prepares academically to represent that country in a simulation of international debate.

Rob Hubert, the DUNMUNS academic advisor, said "there was no indication beforehand" the team was going to excel. He added that as he watched the team progress through the week, he would have been "very, very disappointed" if they had not placed in the awards ceremony. "The vast majority of the people [on the team] clicked,"

he said. "The team worked well together. I suppose, to a certain degree, it was due to the fact we were representing Iraq."

"On the whole, the DUNMUNS delegation was excellent," said Aaron Yarmoshuk, DUNMUNS' head delegate. "It was fun to be Iraq, simply because people wanted to hear what we had to say. We were the centre of attention, but not necessarily the centre of resolutions."

"I hated it when people would ignore us just because we were Iraq," said Christine Cleghorn, a

1st year Dal student. "I learned, though, that I can go to New York and not get killed. My self-confidence grew, and I learned about the structure of the U.N., not just how it works on paper. I had a good time."

Marcus Isa, a 4th year political science student at Dal, said he "found a lot of procedure monotonous... some delegates could not get beyond the words to the spirit of the resolutions. It was very challenging and interesting to try and remain objective about it, and try to sell something you don't

necessarily agree with," he said. "You get out of it what you put into it. The personality of the diplomat comes into it, and that's what makes it dynamic."

David O'Brien, a Kings' student, said "I find myself more knowledgeable about the subject. I didn't realize there were arguments towards the Iraqi point of view. The North American media isn't objective. We worked very hard, were aggressive and stuck with the policy of Iraq. I think that's why we won the prize. For sure, I'm coming back next year," he said.