

It's soon to rise again

by Ellen Reynolds

It won't be long now before the Grawood as we know it turns its nickname, the Deadwood, into reality. In celebration and sorrow there will be a wake Thursday, March 24th, as the lounge closes its third-floor doors to move to the basement.

Not since the Grawood welcomed students with its new wood panelling and deep purple carpeting in 1972 has there been such a change. Formerly the Triple Room, the Grawood took its name from John Graham, SUB General Manager, and Clem

Norwood, SUB Operations; hence the plaque beside the bar.

The arts representative in charge of the '72 renovations had in mind a "low-key ambience" with "art-type entertainment". Students wanted more than a place to catch the overflow from Jazz & Suds and Pub Stop, student drinking holes way back when 75¢ was pricey for a beer. The University News reported on the renovations in November 1972:

"The program in this room is designed for those who wish to hear good music as well as have a

drink, not vice versa . . . It's a place where a guy can take his date and not worry about someone spilling a drink over her dress,"

said then DSU president Joan MacKeigan.

MacKeigan called the Grawood a start to solving the ever-present (even today) entertainment problems — to increase students' involvement in the SUB activities.

In '72, Norwood was complaining about the "humdrum activities of the SUB", but the wake planned for this Thursday will be anything but humdrum, according to Grawood manager Debbie Brown.

"We've worked our butts off on this and it's going to be one of the best, best times anyone could ever have at the Grawood," says Brown.

Everyone is supposed to don the "existential look", dressed all in black. "We'll make you feel like you're in a graveyard, with dry ice, a fog machine, a gravesite with tombstones, and even a coffin," says Brown.

There will be contests and prizes all evening, and the Swell Guys, who Brown says "grew up with the Grawood", will provide entertainment.

The Grawood will be open until April 9, and the new lounge, which may or may not keep the Grawood name, is scheduled to reopen at the latest by August 15, according to SUB Manager Steve Gaetz.

Brown says she's looking forward to the opening of the new lounge, but at the same time will miss the old one.

"To say goodbye to anything is sad. It's an emotional time. I've worked up here for four years, but . . . The new change will be good."

Back to the drawing board

by Heather Hueston

A big oversight in a campus society's fee referendum ballot resulted in an hour-long argument in Council and finished with the withdrawal of the motion to approve the referendum's results.

Before walking out, exasperated Dalhousie Science Students' president Rickesh Chehil accepted councillors' concerns about certain election irregularities and told Council the referendum would be held again. Science students were asked three weeks ago to pay an extra ten dollars in student fees towards a society house fund. The ballot said only, "DSS Referendum: Yes, No". 8.1 per cent of eligible voters responded with a 54 per cent majority for the Yes.

On Tuesday, DSS Executive Peter Kind said a DSS general meeting last week decided to postpone the new referendum till next fall in light of the other recent fee increases students have just passed. Kind said the society still "fully supported" the house idea.

Next year the DSS plans to offer more options instead of the "ten dollars or nothing" presented to voters this year. Kind said it was a "big oversight" about the ballot's wording this year.

Pointing to this month's DSU fee hike referendum, Kind said a society is not obligated to also mount a counter-campaign, but only to make funds available for the No side. He said the No campaign this year was funded by the DSS.

Science student Alison Dysart told Council he mounted a last-minute No campaign when he saw no-one else was doing it. He said he approached Kind after a referendum open forum and Kind agreed to cover his costs. Dysart said the electorate was not informed enough because of the DSS' failure to present both sides. Councillors were concerned by the lack of an election returning officer and election

committee. Dysart said the results of the poll were not "representative".

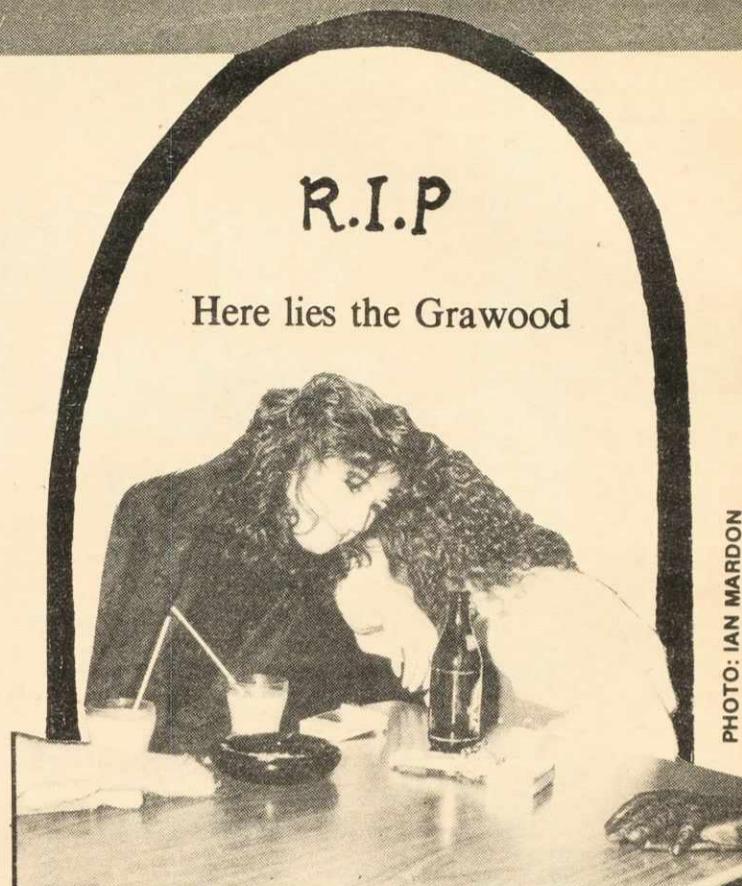
The ensuing discussion about required voter turn-out forced a fifteen-minute recess to allow DSU Chair Diane Hiscott to rule on the applicability of DSU bylaws to DSU societies. The DSS had based their 8 per cent minimum turnout on DSU bylaws, but had not elected a returning officer or election committee. Some councillors were concerned about this and the fact that "Yes" posters were left up behind polling stations.

Hiscott ruled that societies don't have to conform to DSU bylaws except where the two conflict. Debate roared on, stopped only when Chehil withdrew the motion from the floor.

The DSS, as student society, needed DSU council backing before their fee increase went before the Dal Board of Governors for final approval.



Home sweet home? No society house for Science students for a while. A referendum to hike students for a house fund squeaked by, but didn't make it through council.



Crying over your beer? The Grawood's dying, but they're having a great wake.

PHOTO: IAN MARDON

Seeing just where we are

by Heather Hueston

I feel like the average Dal student is an 18-year-old white person, doing a BA or BSc, who wears a Far West jacket and those little rubber shoes."

This was one student's view of mainstream Dalhousie culture, one that she felt excluded from as an Acadian minority member.

Roseanne D'Eon, a Maritime School of Social Work student, spoke last Tuesday at the Visible Racial/Cultural Workshop held at Henson College.

D'Eon's complaint was just part of the call for an affirmative action program to make Dal fully representative of Canada's cultures. Coming from a small Acadian community, D'Eon said her social work curriculum ignored rural for urban concerns, leaving her with skills unsuited for returning home. Although she's been told that she's not a "real" minority, but only "another white person with a language problem", D'Eon said she felt more courses dealing with minorities were needed.

Janis Jones-Darrell, President's Advisor on Minorities, Women, and the Disabled, said the 73 people attending the workshop left feeling very positive, with many recommendations to follow up on.

"I didn't really get the feeling of resistance that people usually have to the idea of affirmative action," said Jones-Darrell. She said she needs an agreement between Dalhousie and the Nova Scotia Human Rights

Commission so that for the next gathering of campus minorities, it will be easier to find out just where they are.

"I can't help them without that agreement," she said, explaining that it is only with a NSHRC exemption that people can be asked to give personal, racial background information.

The workshop was one way for Jones-Darrell to fulfill the mandate she was given when hired last August for one year to find out the concerns and issues about minorities, women, and the disabled. She will be drawing up recommendations within the next month to give to President Clark's Advisory Council.

Jones-Darrell wouldn't say when she expects an affirmative action program, calling that a "long-term project". In the meantime, she said, there is lobbying to do and projects such as getting minorities on committees and boards and working with unions on campus.

Dalhousie has had an affirmative action program for women since 1981. The university is currently considering draft proposals for a broader affirmative action program submitted to Dalhousie by the NSHRC. NSHRC Affirmative Action co-ordinator Carolyn Thomas, a panelist at the workshop, said Dal was one of the first to be approached because of its status as an educational institution and employer. (Dalhousie also comes under federal guidelines for affirmative action as a supp-

Continued on page 6

PHOTO: ROCHELLE OWEN