



Students rejoice at their return to Dalhousie at the renovated Grawood lounge. New Wall panelling and lights, a stand-up bar (better for pick-ups, as one bartender said) and live entertainment on Tuesday night, make up the \$15,000 look.

DeLaney/Dal Photo

Youth Federations battle campus apathy

by Lawrence Brissenden

"Sex and politics are a lot alike: You don't have to be good at them to enjoy them."

The above quotation is from an advertisement for one of Dalhousie's two active youth federations. These groups are trying to go against the current wave of apathy towards the provincial election. This is no easy task. Students feel their apathy is justified by their inability to have an impact upon the system, as individuals or as a group. Because students feel irrelevant; they don't care about politics.

This is shown by the levels of participation in the two - Liberal and Progressive Conservative - youth federations. The Tories, for example, claim some sixty members on campus. This is a matter of debate as their total turnout was only eleven at their September 17th meeting. The Liberals' estimate is a more realistic figure of twenty members. In either case, the youth federations are not making much headway.

"Our function is to try to make students more politically aware," states Paul Robertson, Conservative Youth Federation president.

On this account, the federations are failing. They are only able to muster a minimal

amount of awareness because of their minimal size.

However, the federations do provide practical political experience to their members. The average federation member will recall many escapades at conventions or on the campaign trail. These are reminisced as positive experiences of a social as well as political nature.

The youth federations also influence party policy. The federations are allocated a block of votes at party gatherings, often twenty-five percent or more. This, in theory at least, is where student concerns are voiced. The results of these concerns upon party policy is a matter of debate. The political system is too concerned at the moment with inflation and unemployment and is forced to view student issues as low priority items.

This is naturally a major cause of the indifference students feel towards the parties, a feeling not unique to the Grits and Tories. The New Democratic Party has been unable to form a youth federation on campus this year. Therefore, few alternatives are available to students unsatisfied by Dalhousie's two federations.

The apathy towards politics will most likely continue. Until this general attitude changes, youth federations are going to remain as an impotent force.

Dal Employment Committee hopes to alleviate discrimination

by Bruce Galloway

The committee on the Employment of Women, Handicapped persons and Members of Minority Groups has been formed to examine hiring and employment practises at Dalhousie University. The President's advisory committee consists of representatives from the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) local 1392, Dalhousie Staff Association (DSA), Dalhousie Faculty Association (DFA), Senate and the Administration and was formed last spring and has met three times during the summer.

The Committee is tasked with proposing a policy that will increase the percentage of women in faculty, and access the need for a similar policy with respects to the handicapped and minorities. The elimination of possible hiring and employment barriers which effect women, the handicapped and minorities in the non-academic staff will also be examined.

"We must ask ourselves whether or not our hiring practises are correct", says Dr. Horrocks, chairperson. "If qualified, are people in these groups encouraged to apply for positions at Dalhousie?" he asked.

Committee members cited other areas which they feel should be examined. Professor

Judith Fingard, a Dalhousie Senator, sees the very small percentage of women applicants to faculty positions as a "most serious problem." Monique Dancause of the DSA notes that the inflexibility of "job tasking" (functions relating to a specific position) is a deterrent to the hiring of minorities and the handicapped. Dancause also points to the almost total absence of women in technical and supervisory positions and feels action should be adopted, to correct this imbalance.

Is there the possibility that the recommendations proposed by the Committee will be ignored? "Not likely", says Horrocks, and cites as his reasons the enthusiastic support of President McKay and the concern expressed by both the DSA and DFA. However Professor DeMeo (DFA) notes that recommendations which involve financial expenditures will face an up-hill battle, when they come up for approval.

The Committee will file a report on means of increasing the percentage of women within the faculty no later than December 31, 1981, and Dr. Horrocks is hopeful that the rest of their findings will be presented sometime early in 1982. People interested in submitting

viewpoints to the Committee are urged to do so by contacting Dr. Horrocks at the school of Library Service, third floor, Killam Library.

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