

# SERVICES DOWN THE TUBE

A little while ago, the powers that be, brought about a small change in the student Union Building, that has had a rather startling effect on us here in the Gazette Offices. It was decided at the end of the summer, (for good reasons I'm sure) that the entrance to the Grawood (the Dal SUB's infamous third floor Pub.) should be switched from the South hallway to the North hallway. Now it just so happens that the North hallway on the third floor is bordered on one side a dark and empty chamber known as the Cultural Display Area (currently the temporary headquarters of Dals Housing office) and on the other side by the busy offices of Canadas Oldest College Newspaper"

Of course we at the Gazette have long been friendly neighbours of the Grawood, our back office wall runs smack into it, and while pasuing over a typewriter in moments of ffailing inspiration one can always here the muffled rattle and prattle of the Patrons inside.

These days however we are experiencing a unique priviledge No one can enter or leave Grawood without passing by the doorway to the fabled Dalhousie Gazette offices. It is this constant presence that brings us to the subject at hand — Drinking at Dalhousie.

This has always been a touchy subject with a highly Partisan student body. The Gazette has been branded, by some as the next worse thing to the Womens Christian Temperance Union for our solid stand against the expansion of the Grawood and for that matter a general disdain for expansion of any drinking facilities in the S.U.B.

The first point usually raised is the inconveniencence of having to line up for an hour to get a drink. Nobody has to line up an hour to get a drink there are plenty of Taverns and Lounges downtown just begging for your bussiness with lots of empty spaces, besides its kind of nice to get off campus once or twice in the three years that most of us spend here.

The Dalhousie Student Union is limited in the Space and money that it can provide for student services. To turn all its resources over to providing liquor for the masses would be a duplication of services readily available elsewhere in the city.

Outside of the semi-annual attempts to expand the Grawood, the union has recently been plagued with demands for double dances (liquor equipped) on weekends and provisions for selling beer all week long in the cafeteria. At least in terms of the cafeteria the Union Executive has seen fit to answer with a form NO!

While the beer flows and the rock bands play on at Dal, very little else seems to get accomplished. The contribution that the Student Union has made to Culture, Education (non-academic) or Creativity in recent years is virtually negligible.

Now we don't intend to drum up the notion that drinking is a disgusting decadent habit. Drinking for the most part is a civilized, sociable and relaxing pastime, however it should be regarded as a pasttime not a life style.

The provision of liquor should not be an overriding concern for the Dalhousie Student Union. Instead the Union with the support of the students should grant priority to the iniation of new programmes and the renewal and expansion of old ones.

One of the worst examples of a programme deprived of finances and facilities is the camera club. In 1972 over a hundred interested students joined up, eager to learn and participate. The only Facilities available to them were the Photography Departments single, two man Darkroom. An appeal was made for space in an empty office on the third floor and a plan was devised to construct two additional darkrooms at a cost of less than \$1,000. Instead the space had to be used to house the technical staff. They were moved from their orginal offices because Bar Services needed more storage space. Naturally, with a shortage of Facilities for the Camera Club the majority lost interest and the membership dropped to about 10 or 12. The Camera Club is today no better off than it was in 1972. It is only a single example of many programmes that need the attention of Student Union.

In years past the Cultural Display Area was always busy, it was a place for young untried artists to show their work. Probably it was the best of it's kind in the city, openings were regularly attended and the artists welcomed the Unions co-operation. It has since died with no effort to revive it.

The same fate has come to the Dalhousie Music and Dramatic Society since its demise, there has been no action on behalf of the union to reactivate it.

With a little bit of work and initiative all these programmes could be renewed and others could be started. Whenever you struggle through the crowd in the Grawood hallway the thought should always occur that if things had been done differently maybe these people could be learning, participating and creating instead of just waiting in line.

#### Canada's Oldest College Newspaper

The Dalhousie GAZETTE is the weekly publication of the Dalhousie Student Union. The views expressed in the paper are not necessaril those of the Student Union, the university administration, the editor, or the staff. We reserve the right to edit or delete copy for space or legal reasons. Deadline date for letters to the GAZETTE and outside contributions is the Friday preceeding publications. No anonymous material will be accepted, but names may be withheld on request if there are extenuating circumstances. The Dalhousie GAZETTE is a founding member of Canadian University Press.

Editor: Peter O. Clarke 424-2507  
Advertising: Paul Brooks 424-2507  
or 424-2140

Business Manager: Ken MacDougall  
Room 334, Student Union Building  
Subscription Rates: \$5.00 per year (26 issues)

#### This issue's staff and contributors:

Alexia Barnes	Dave Grandy
Micheal Bowser	Chris Hart
Paul Brooks	Mary Pat McKenzie
Peter Cameron	Tom Mooney
Catherine Campbell	Kevin Moore
Tom Clahane	James Neils
Peter Costwell -	Dan O'Connor
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Joel Fournier	Ram Raju
Lynn Garland	Sandra Decoste
Victor Lynch-Staunton	