

Medical Students Revolt

by Mary Pat MacKenzie

The Medical Students Society and the Student Union Executive held a meeting on January 28 to discuss the future of the society as Union members. The panel consisted of Ann Dayton, John Hamilton and John Baker for the Med Society and Dan O'Connor, Lorne Richardson and John Graham represented the Union. Each side of the panel gave their version of the future of the Student Union and its relevance to the Lower Campus.

Dan O'Connor began the discussion with a brief description of the role of the Union in student life. He explained that though students are the most numerous members of a university community they are also the most powerless. The Union helps students pool their resources and the combined numbers of all students can exert influence on decisions affecting the whole university. He went on to describe some of the areas where the Union is presently active in attempting to better the lot of students: rent control, better student aid programs, intercollegiate and interfaculty athletics, married students housing, etc.

John Hamilton said that although the Student Union may have political clout that is not the point for the Med students. The Medical students feel that they are being

ripped off by the high student fees they are forced to pay. Hamilton pointed out that almost all the Student Union social activities are geared for undergrads and the graduate students feel cheated. He suggested that the Medical Society should renegotiate the fee schedule with the Union and possibly work out a sum that would more closely reflect the actual benefits accrued to the Med students.

Lorne Richardson pointed out that the lack of communication between the Medical Society and the Student Union does not exist in the School of Pharmacy. Pharmacy is half the size of Medicine but is very active in the Union and works at getting its money's worth out of the Union. The Task Force formed this year has provided concrete changes in the other health professions. It is up to the Medical students to cooperate and communicate their wishes to the Union. Richardson said that ideas for change must come from the bottom up and not from the top down.

The discussion was opened to the floor and many of the Medical students brought out their views on separation from the Union. It was pointed out that some of the Med students don't care about being left out of Union activities. Because of their heavy work schedules most Med students don't have the time to participate in SUB functions. If it wasn't for the bank in the SUB they would probably never enter the building. They feel that they could make more efficient use of their Union fees in their own school and want their money back.

Among the Union benefits they would lose by secession is the free drug program. According to one member of the audience the Med Society could organize their own program. It was pointed out by Ann Dayton, however, that this is just not possible. 400 students just do not have the same funding or clout that 6000 do and to work out a free drug program like the



one presently available would be unfeasible.

John Graham suggested that the dissatisfaction with the present fees could be seen in the same way as taxes paid to the government. The benefits are not always obvious in terms of dollars and cents but they are there if they're needed. One doesn't refuse to pay city taxes simply because one has no children in the city school system or has never had a fire.

O'Connor admitted that the Medical Society should be getting more services from the Union for the money it puts in but the general cash shortage has meant that some things have had to suffer. He suggested that the Society prepare a budget and submit it to the Union within the next few weeks. The Union budget for next year is being prepared now and with the \$10. increase in fees there will be more money to go around.

The general consensus of the meeting seemed to be that there has been a severe breakdown in communication between the Medical students and the Union. A central administration is certainly more efficient and cheaper to operate - with a greater degree of communication the Medical Society can gain more by staying in the Union than by getting out.



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Enthusiasm marks Woman's Association

by Chris Nielson

The Dalhousie Women's Association held its second meeting Jan. 22, 1975. Attendance was up from the first meeting of forty participants to sixty that week. A continuous flow of questions, comments, and discussion showed that enthusiasm was at a high level.

The participants came from many different sections of the university. Secretaries, faculty, full-time, and part-time students, residence and off-campus students were represented. However, concern was shown for the lack of freshman students at the meeting and it was decided that a definite effort should be made to reach this section. Also, it was decided that we should try to make contact with some of the other working women in the university such as the cleaning staff and the cafeteria workers.

The purpose of the meeting was to elicit some ideas for the activities of the group, and the basis of the organization. Suggestions raised were the setting up of a grievance com-

mittee, presentation of films and speakers, forums, workshops, and programmes for Intro Dal. One person thought that the programme for Intro Dal should center around discouraging high school women from entering the traditional female professions. The idea was opposed since 'subtle put-downs' of those who are in or who wish to be in these professions would only drive women away from our organization rather than bring them in. This idea was supported in the main.

Few definite conclusions were reached as to the nature and purpose of the association at this meeting. However the steering committee set up at the end of the meeting, met on the weekend and will be presenting a report at the Thursday meeting.

On January 30th, the Dalhousie Women's Association began with a report from the steering committee.

The first item discussed was the name of the organization. It was decided to retain the idea of its being exclusively a Dal-

housie organization but to change the word 'association' to 'union'. The organization is now called Union of Dalhousie Women.

The proposed outline for the structure of the organization was discussed.

by Richard Whitby

Students in the Education department of Mt. Allison University began a boycott of classes Monday in protest of the denial of tenure to a popular professor in the department. The professor, Dr. Cary Grobe, was recommended by the head of education, Dr. Rummington, in November, but his application was unanimously voted down by the Board of Regents of Mt. Allison. A letter by Dr. Rummington urging them to reconsider was accepted but the verdict was the same, prompting this latest action by the students.

In a meeting, last Thursday, of the education society, at which there were

seventy people, including some professors, the students voted 35 to one, to boycott classes indefinitely and to set up pickets at 8:30 am Monday. The student council has issued a statement supporting the boycott in principle and supporting any students who wish to strike in sympathy with the education students. Further, it has been rumored that a number of professors have been cancelling classes. It was announced that the question would be reconsidered again by the Board, but this has prompted even more outrage though until now tempers have remained cool.

No concrete reason has been given as to why tenure

organization is to be held every two weeks to inform the members of the activities of the committees.

At the end of the meeting people wrote their names down for whatever committee in which they were interested.

Students boycott classes

was denied to Dr. Grobe, but upon asking for a verbal reason, Dr. Rummington was told that Grode had received poor marks in his sophomore year in university, fifteen years ago. This has created an uproar, and has resulted in a wave of support for Dr. Grobe. Letters from high school principals, students, and faculty members have been received, all attesting to his helpfulness and ability. The president of Mt. Allison, Dr. E. L. Caragg, however, has refused to make a statement on the matter, and as of this time, little in the way of progress has been made. The students are planning to meet again Tuesday or Wednesday to discuss further strategy.