

Interest poor

Carleton House needs support

by Cheryl J. Rowe

Members of the Carleton House Committee are quite used to setbacks. They have been coming continuously monthly for the past four years during their never ending battle to secure a house where people from the lower campus can meet freely and happily to interact during lunches and evenings or whenever they have spare time. However, they weren't quite prepared for the "setback" they received a month ago telling them that the house they had just opened would be completely destroyed on January 1. After initial shock, anger and depression, we all decided to hold our last meeting Jan. 1, jump on the wrecker's ball and chain as it crashed through the wall and go out in a blaze of glory that would be remembered for years to come—perhaps being the first piece of information to be stored in the annals of the new N.S. Public Archives Building to be erected in that very spot. That idea was soon discarded (by everybody but me).

Things are looking up. Not only has the University offered another house to the Students' Union and Carleton House Committee, but there is also a good chance that we will be able to stay at 6030 University Avenue until May.

We are now faced with another problem. There are undertones, however subtle, coming from the Students' Union and filtering Carle-

ton campus way that perhaps there is no real need for a Carleton House and that it's not worth putting up the money for another one. Though it's our first response to go all hairy-scary, kick the S.U. executives, and set fire to the SUB in protest, it may be more profitable to analyse the situation (and then proceed to response number one!).

6030 University Avenue (we dislike calling it Carleton House since it will soon cease to exist) has been open for a month. During that time it has been used sparingly except when special-occasion parties or society gatherings have been scheduled—which have filled the place to capacity. It is disheartening to members of the Committee to see the Tupper cafeteria filled at lunch-time but only 10-15 people eating at C.H., and virtually no one there on Friday night. (During the first week bartenders at C.H. were pulling drunks off the street so they would have someone to talk to!).

However it is important to note that business at lunch-time is picking up slowly but surely, and that more people are developing the tendency to drop over to C.H. after studying at 10:30 or 11:00. STUDYING is a key word in this analysis. It should be noted that by virtue of their chosen fields, that most dentists, doctors, nurses, pharmacists, physios, and health eds spend their mornings in classes; their

lunches in meetings or studying; their afternoons in classes, studying, or terrorizing patients; and their evenings studying. Now life may not be as bleak as it sounds here, but the truth is, we have a hell of a lot of keeners on the lower campus.

A slight change in life-style, where people corner their friends at C.H. for an hour instead of the Tupper Link or Nurses' study lounge is going to have to take place. Remember that the purpose of C.H. was to have a central place, close to the lower campus, a house where people could meet for lunch or in their spare time, a house where members of the different health professions could meet each other and discuss roles, a house where people could eat a sandwich and play cribbage for a couple of hours, and a house where people could put on society functions, meetings, parties, or whatever. These needs have not changed. And at a time when members of the lower campus are seriously questioning what the Students' Union is doing for them, it is important that the Union realize that these needs have not changed.

Some of us see a solution to the "non-use" problem with a coming of the new old place on Edward Street. It has been suggested by the University (which makes one immediately suspicious of motives,

Comment is an opinion column open to members of the university community who wish to present an informed opinion on a topic of their selection.

i.e. killing two birds with one stone) that the new place be more than the original C.H. concept, but that it be a kind of "interprofessional center" composed of the lower campus societies plus law and perhaps others. Immediate questions are: "what is a professional?" (we'll let law answer that!) and "how many people does this entail?" Yet the house on Edward St. is beautiful and huge and it can hold many more people than 6030 University Avenue. Including more people into the house, people with different schedules and free time, could also help alleviate the "non-use" problem. Besides, it furthers our goal of decreasing the isolationist tendencies of the different professions and may yield many profitable interactions between different groups.

So—should the Students' Union help finance the renovations and getting started of a "new" Carleton House on Edward St.? We of the lower campus say a definite YES! Should the Students' Union press for continuance of the present Carleton House until the new one is ready? Again YES! The onus is on the Union for continued support, and on the students of the Carleton campus to make better use of the house we have now. It's taken four years to get a place of our own, surely it will take more than four weeks to either condemn or praise its' operations.

catching up. For those who can't catch up, it means a hard fall at Christmas time, and in some cases it can be so devastating as to be tragic. It is not uncommon for first year students coming from their respective high schools with high marks to be suddenly faced with the possibility of failure. The pace can be merciless for some, and after all, poor Christmas marks will make a considerable dent in the final marks, which certainly has to be a discouraging prospect for those students returning in the second term.

For those students who are living in residence, it gives them a chance to get home for a decent while and see their families, which for most people (especially freshmen) is a welcomed cure for homesickness and an important source of moral support.

The break, I hope, would ease the pace of learning, making it more enjoyable and effective without lessening its nature as a challenge.

I do hope you will all give this matter considerate reflection and have some constructive criticisms to put forth next meeting.

Wants mid— November break

"Much learning doth make thee mad."
Acts. XXVI. 24

Science representative Andrew Link believes Dalhousie should have a November mid-term break. He sent the following letter to Dal council members.

Fellow Councillors:

It has become increasingly apparent to me that much anxiety and tension over studies exists here on campus and is adversely affecting the enjoyment of learning for many Dal students. As you know already, not only do we have the highest tuition fees in Canada, but we also have the shortest school year of any Canadian University. Consequently, the learning process here at Dal is inclined in cases to become a cramming process, even for the best students. For those students who are sincere, the pace is most certainly high-pressured and demanding. It is my belief that we be offered a good challenge, yet what worries me is that many students lose sight of the fact that they're here to learn and tend to have the attitude that just getting a "pass" is what it's all about. Even for the better students, just getting good grades becomes an expedient pro-



cess. Shouldn't getting a good education first, be our prime objective as students? Ideally, marks shouldn't affect our learning any more than a thermometer affects the temperature outside. They should only serve as indicators as to the amount of effort we put into our education.

What I propose is a mid-term break for the first term. The way we might work it is to start four days earlier in September, thus allowing four days to be combined with the long weekend in November to give a full nine days off (two weekends plus five week days).

This would allow those who are sincere about going to university (after all, this is an academic institution established to serve those who want to learn) a chance to get their affairs organized so as not

to be worried with problems of the normal workload when the time for preparation for exams draws around. This might include getting all those papers written in advance as opposed to those last minute jobs from which the student in the long run gains little benefit. No doubt an opportunity for doing a good job on these papers would exist since there would be more time for research and reflection. What about all those reading assignments that go unread because there just isn't enough time to keep up? Because of the short academic year, these readings are important because there just isn't enough lecture time to cover all the relevant materials.

Many new students lose a month in adjusting to the enormous academic and cultural transition they must face, and so by the time they've got their act together and can cope, they find themselves well behind and face the new problem of

CKDU investigates

To the Gazette:

In response to several comments concerning the pricing of books in the Dalhousie Bookstore, myself and Bill Girdwood, both from CKDU, are conducting an investigation into the policy of pricing. We will also compare prices found in the Dal bookstore against the publishers' suggested retail price and the prices found in other Metro Bookstores.

We need your help in this investigation as we are both full-time students, so if you find any discrepancies please list the books, publisher, the price and point out where the difference lies, and leave it at CKDU addressed to either of us.

Also, if anyone has any suggestions about the services they would like the Dal Bookstore to provide please list and leave at CKDU.

This is one of the many student services that CKDU endeavours to provide.

Yours truly,
Karen Janyan



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