

New Halifax hostel in the works

by Kevin Ellis

A new hostel may soon be opened here in Halifax.

Dave Van Horne, the Executive Director of the Nova Scotia chapter of the Canadian Hostelling Association (CHA), says that if a rezoning application for a building on 2445 Brunswick Street is approved by the city, Halifax will be the site of a new hostel by June 1st.

A hostel is an inexpensive place to spend the night, utilized mainly by those travel-

ling throughout a country or province by foot or bicycle. There are thirteen hostels in Nova Scotia, and they are part of the over 4200 hostels located in more than fifty countries. All but the Wentworth hostel are in operation only during the summer months, but the Brunswick Street hostel would be open all year.

Rates are \$5.00 per night for CHA members, and \$7.00 for non-members. Fifty people per night would be able to stay

at the hostel, which could be expanded to increase nightly tenant capacity to 100. It would offer inexpensive, nightly accommodation as well as a cafeteria service to individuals or groups visiting the city, and would be available for use by university groups visiting the city on exchange tours.

Upon approval of the rezoning application, renovations on the hostel would begin. The \$50-100,000.00 required to make such renovations would

be raised by the CHA through a low-key fund drive among select businesses in the city.

The Brunswick Street house was originally owned in 1863 by the Merkel family, and was purchased by the Roman Catholic archdiocese twenty years later. The house was used as an orphanage, an old age home, and more recently as a New Options free school. In 1970, the building was leased by the community YMCA, after which it was used by the CHA as a hostel that operated from June 1st to

summer, but to remain in operation, the CHA needed to purchase the building and have it rezoned. The CHA made a purchase offer on the building that was accepted by its owners, the Roman Catholic archdiocese. Shortly after, the application to have the zoning changed from an R3 (residential) rating to a C2 (commercial) rating was made.

Because the hostel operated smoothly during the summer with no complaints from



"It's an ugly monstrosity," said Dr. Robert Fournier, chairman of the Department of Oceanography. He, along with members of the Oceanography Department, is angered with the placement of a trailer behind the LSC. "Why do they have to plant it right here in the most beautiful part of this building? The city zoning ordinance wouldn't allow this anywhere else."



September 3rd of 1980.

It was discovered in July, much to the surprise of the CHA, that because the building was not zoned by the City of Halifax as a commercial operation, the hostel was operating illegally. City officials declined to enforce regulations during the past

others residing in the neighborhood, and because of the contributions the hostel would make to city tourism and history, Dave Van Horne is optimistic that the city will accept the rezoning application. Halifax, then, should soon be the site of Nova Scotia's fourteenth hostel.

Women's rights gained

by Rachelle Henderson

Feminism gained momentum in Quebec when women began to question the Catholic Church's traditional view of their role in society, a visiting lecturer said at Dalhousie last week.

Judith Vaillancourt, a lecturer at the University of Montreal's Faculty for Adult Education, said the Church permitted women to become part of the labor force only so long as they worked in "maternal" occupations like social work, clerical and housekeeping positions. But Quebec women challenged their assigned role, in the process defying the Church's conception of women as "both virgin and mother".

"I wonder if the Church fathers knew this is strictly impossible," Vaillancourt quipped at a seminar on Feminist Issues in Quebec at the School of Social Work last week.

Typical of women's questioning of traditional values was their adoption of the birth control pill, she said.

The secularization of many

feminist groups has led to dissension within the movement itself, Vaillancourt said. The more "radical" organizations feel groups working within the Church cannot truly be feminist, because Catholicism and feminism are irreconcilable.

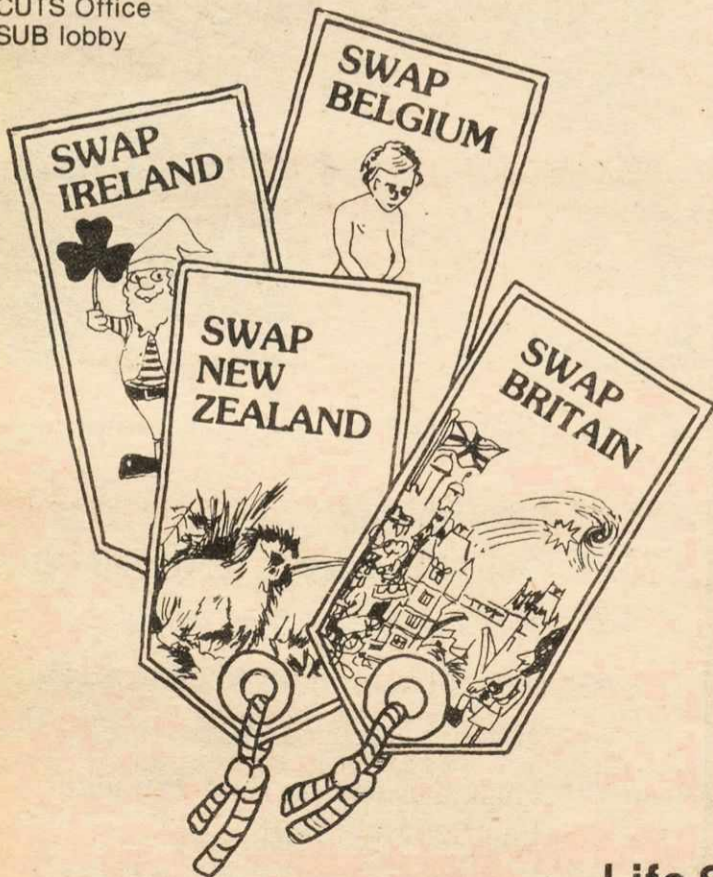
Within groups that are both Catholic and feminist, the Church's views are constantly being challenged, Vaillancourt said. "We question our faith . . . we don't like traditional theology."

The growth of feminist organizations has led to the decentralization of the movement in Quebec, something Vaillancourt said is desirable because it allows each region to define its own issues. This trend, she said, is a "decentralization of the fight, not the consciousness."

The fight for "equal status and respect" is far from over, Vaillancourt said.

"What women have in common is oppression. . . . It's a long process, this changing of mentalities, but feminism is a reality which Quebec must now deal with."

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