

Rebate debate

by Danièle Gauvin

Students living in the Howe Hall and Sherriff Hall residences at Dalhousie are planning legal action against the university, in the hope of getting a partial rebate on their residence fees. Students feel that they shouldn't have to pay for cleaning services which were not provided during the 13 week CUPE strike. The rebate, if secured, would be divided equally between Sherriff and Howe residents although Howe residents suffered most from lack of services, according to outgoing Sherriff Hall president Gerry Geldhart.

Petitions circulating in the residences since December have gathered support from 75 per cent of Howe Hall students (370 out of 504 men) and 78.6 per cent of those in Sherriff Hall (330 out of 420 women). Geldhart said, "We pay our fees expecting to get services. Until we decided to go directly to a lawyer instead of losing time with the administration's delays, I was rather pessimistic. Now I think we have a good chance," Geldhart said. She added that Christine Irvine, Dean of Women, has given the students her moral support but that she isn't too optimistic

about their chances.

Councils of both residences took the issue to last Sunday's Student Council meeting and received permission to use the Student Union's lawyer without an additional charge to students. A motion asking council to pay for an outside lawyer was defeated earlier in the meeting. However, council passed a motion of moral support for residence students.

John Graham, general manager of the Student Union, is also Dal's Housing Director, which involved him early in the issue. Dick Matthews, council representative for Howe Hall, said that Graham was approached for a 'ballpark figure', so that students would have a rough idea of the size of the rebate which they should be asking for. Graham gave them a breakdown of operating costs for the residences, and pointed out that the university community suffers a \$200 loss for each student living in Howe Hall. "I gave them the figures they needed and told them to make their own decision and to come back when they were ready to discuss it," Graham said.

Matthews commented that, "the university is trying to

make us feel like ingrates. A

university costs are subsidized. We aren't going to sit back and say 'that's too bad, we had to live in filth but the university has financial problems so lets forget it and be nice guys'. 75 per cent of the men here don't feel like ingrates.

The administration's response is still non-committal. University President Henry Hicks told Howe Hall President Andros Vamos-Goldman at a function on Jan. 29 that students shouldn't expect a rebate.

Vice-President of university Services, Louis Vagianos, stated that "there has been no decision made, we'll have to inquire whether the whole thing is equitable." He added that several parents have written the university in support of the rebate. "Students have a perfect right to make the best case that they can; on our part we've made no arrangements and we won't have a decision for a few weeks.

Matthew and Geldhart are concerned that a decision will not be reached before the end of classes and that next Sept. the issue will have 'died'. The guys in here have had to wash their own sheets at extra cost,

endure filthy washrooms, unmade beds etc. If we wait too long to take action, next year's residents may be uninterested. That's why we are taking direct action now, going to a lawyer rather than through the university administration itself - which would only delay us."

Two Howe Hall residents, David McAnn and Sebastian Jones, started the original petition in Dec. after a letter to Hicks which 'took them nowhere', according to Matthews. He added that since three quarters of residence students are in favor of rebates, all candidates in the Council election are supporting their legal action.

The SUB's solicitor was unavailable for comment but Graham believes the legal

process could last, "for a year or two."

At Simon Fraser University in B.C. the \$30,000 saved from a Jan. 29 24-hour strike of support staff will go to the students "because they were the ones most affected by the picket line."

SFU Administration Vice-President George Suart said he will recommend to the president and Board of Governors that the money be put into the financial aid budget.

"The (financial aid) committee can decide whether it should be bursaries or scholarships," he said.

Suart said the role of the university in a strike situation is not to save money but to provide the best possible services under strike conditions.

Matthews and Wells victorious

Dick Matthews and Graham Wells were elected Student Union president and vice-president last night. They defeated Larry Worthen and Pat Gardner on the third preferential ballot, 832-665.

Matthews and Wells described the campaign as "utterly exhausting" and had many words of praise for their workers and supporters. Their campaign organizer, Ioan Astle, who also worked on Mike Power's successful campaign last year, attributed their victory to the "hustling" the winners did. "They really got out" said Astle. "They were being very articulate and came across well at the forums."

Runners-up Worthen and Gardner expressed disgust at the vote saying, "we are witnessing a new threshold of student politics. The progressive forces of evil have triumphed. They may have won the battle but they have not won the war. We'll move to Howe Hall next year and run again", they added.

Standings at the end of the first ballot were: Matthews and Wells, 548; Worthen and Gardner, 446; Baxter and Bain, 432; McCann and McKenney, 162; and Thompson and Fitz-Gerald, 82.

The bottom two teams were dropped from the race and their second choice vote was tallied. Matthews and Wells maintained their lead at 608, followed by Worthen and Gardner at 501. Baxter and Bain were then dropped and their second choice votes were added onto the top two teams.

In other results, Denise Soucy-Roberge and Penny Hoover won the Arts seats, Ian Wells and Debbie Naugler for Science, Ann Maher and Sandra Zed, Senate, Mike Lynk, Law, Jeff Champion, Fenwick, and Mike Book for the Engineers.

Almost 28% of Dal students voted.



Presidential team elect, Graham Wells and Dick Matthews share a toast with campaign manager Ioan Astle

Oppose differential fees

Dalhousie students are refusing to sit back and let the provincial government institute differential fees for foreign students.

The Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students has prepared a brief asking the government to establish a policy on foreign students. "This ad-hoc approach is bad", said Tom Keating of DAGS. "They need a comprehensive and coherent policy."

"Our opposition stems from the fact that these fees will serve neither financial nor political purposes, will provide minimal benefits at best and will involve significant costs not only to foreign students but to the residents and students of Nova Scotia", reads the DAGS brief.

"To impose differential fees would result in a severe loss of prestige for the province in the eyes of the international community at a time when the provincial government should be moving to establish

contacts with various governments around the globe in an effort to improve the provincial economy," the brief continues.

Keating said DAGS is trying to set up a meeting with education minister Terry Donahue. "He voiced his opposition to differential fees when campaigning in the fall election, so I think the meeting will be worthwhile."

"The uncertainty surrounding foreign students is from misconceptions, not from any deepseated hostility towards foreigners", DAGS believes.

George Adolf, Dalhousie's overseas student coordinator said the foreign community is very upset about the possibility of differential fees. "It won't bother students from the United States and Hong Kong that much", said Adolf, "but it will certainly effect the students from less developed countries."

Rep expelled

by Alan Adams

Bruce Thompson, a Student Council representative on the Board of Governors of Dalhousie, was expelled from council at Sunday's council meeting for missing three successive meetings. Thompson missed the December 3, January 14 and 28 assemblies.

According to the constitution, if a member misses 3 meetings in a row without valid reason he/she can be removed. Presence is recorded in the role call book. After checking the log the **Gazette** learned that Thompson has missed six meetings since September.

Council President Mike Power said Thompson told council "he didn't give a damn

about attending council meetings." Thompson added "it's not a productive use of time to attend these meetings because nothing happens at them that effects a large part of students at Dal anyway."

Power said that a letter is being drafted to the Board of Governors asking them to remove Thompson from the board. Power added that if the council's request is met, council will appoint a replacement for Thompson. Power said that he thinks that for future years both Senate and Board of Governor representatives should have to sign a paper where "they would abide by council decisions."

Thompson was unavailable for comment.