

This week in Dal history

It's amazing what you discover when you flip through a couple of ancient, brittle copies of Canada's oldest official student newspaper. The following are reprinted from copies of the Gazette from 10, 15 and 20 years ago.

THIS WEEK 10 YEARS AGO — JANUARY 9, 1986

Grawood refurbished

BY MARK ALBERSTAT

Veteran Dalhousie students who frequent the Grawood lounge will have noticed that over the past year or two the atmosphere of the bar has changed. It is no coincidence that this is the same period that Debbie Brown has been looking after the popular campus haunt.

Some of the changes made under Brown's reign have been the refurbishing of the walls, the institution of the Armchair Tigers (a sports club that caters to armchair athletes), better table service, sports prints on one wall and pictures of different activities on campus on another, and a cosier atmosphere in the area near the door.

Brown says that when she first came to the Grawood she "wanted to make it a comfortable place for the students to come and enjoy themselves."

Brown has started a lip-sync competition at the lounge, as well as theme nights.

One of Brown's ideas that should be popular with students is the notion of installing a dance floor.

Tim Pertus, head of Bar services, said the Grawood has been keeping its financial head above water. The major expense of running the lounge is the workers' wages. During the school year those amount to approximately \$5000 a month with liquor costs ranging from \$9,500 to \$10,000.

THIS WEEK 15 YEARS AGO — JANUARY 8, 1981

City council approves rink construction

BY GREG DENNIS

Halifax City Council has accepted Dalhousie University's application for construction of a new ice arena, but the proposed 1660 seat structure probably will not be completed before the homeless hockey Tigers open their 1981-82 season.

City Council granted unanimous consent to Dalhousie's application at a council meeting December 11, 1980. A 30 day appeal period, in which those opposed to the decision may plead their case, expires January 10, and the city's Planning and Appeals Board reports no beefs have been aired thus far.

Jim Sykes, the school's director of planning and development said some work, presumably the clearing and excavating of the ground site, will begin in February. If construction has not begun by the end of that month, the university risks losing the insurance money from the old arena which was destroyed by fire in May, 1978. The original terms of the policy stated construction of replacement facilities had to commence before December 31, 1979, but separate extensions of one year and two months have been granted since then. A further delay may or may not produce another extension, and Dalhousie might be skating on thin ice if no work is done before March 1.

For the past three years, varsity hockey has been played a considerable distance from the campus at the Halifax Forum on Windsor Street.

Construction of the new rink has been estimated at \$2 million.

THIS WEEK 20 YEARS AGO — JANUARY 8, 1976

Students now able to pay rent

BY MARY PAT MACKENZIE

On Monday, January 5 hundreds of Dalhousie students arrived at the Dalhousie Awards office to pick up the second disbursement of Canada Student Loans and were greeted with a rather shocking surprise. The loans were available, but when cashed were to go to the Dalhousie Business office against a student's tuition and not directly to the student. For many students this meant they would have no money for rent and food purposes until Provincial bursaries arrive sometime in late January or early February.

Apparently the federal government issued a directive to the Dalhousie awards office late last fall to the effect that Dalhousie's policy on issuing student loans to students should be changed. The government wants assurance that student loans are actually being used to pay tuition costs and not for student vacations in Bermuda or Europe.

For students who depended on their second loan instalment to pay rent and food costs until the bursaries arrived the situation could have been extremely critical.

Fortunately, the policy has been rescinded at least until next September.

The situation will then be that when a student loan form is submitted by the Dalhousie Awards office, the bank will be instructed to send the instalment directly to Dalhousie.

The new policy is supposed to cut down on the number of students who withdraw from University immediately after receiving their loans.

Doors closing on smokers

DSU passes policy restricting smoking areas in SUB

BY JOHN CULLEN

Smokers now have fewer places to get their fix.

Last Sunday, the Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) council passed a policy that restricts where smokers can light up in the Student Union Building (SUB). Under the policy, the Union Market, cafeteria, and all offices — where smoking was previously allowed — have been designated as smoke-free.

Smokers now have three choices of where to go — the Grawood, Corner Pocket, or Green room.

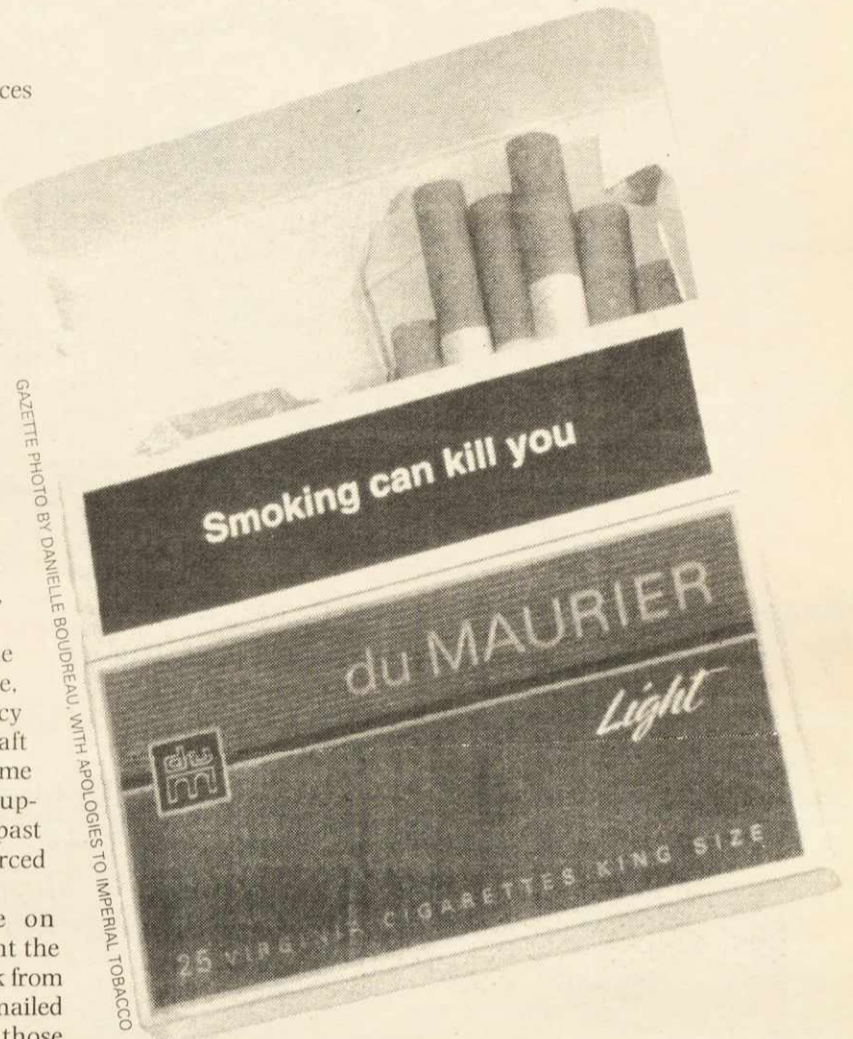
While this new law of the SUB seems sudden to some, the last revision of the policy was in 1991. The old draft states almost the exact same regulations that are being upheld now. However, for the past four years, no one has enforced the rules.

The decision to vote on whether or not to implement the policy was based on feedback from student surveys that were mailed out over the summer. Of those surveys completed and returned, 44.7% said they wanted smoking banned from the building entirely, while 51.6% said only in designated areas. Another reason for the change is that some students with asthma can't enter the building for fear of an attack.

Some smokers are finding it hard to adjust to the new regulations.

Mark McKinnon, a Bachelor of Commerce student, feels that smokers were left out of the equation. "I would have liked to have been in on the process," he said. "It was sprung on us yesterday, and we had only heard rumours about it."

Jackie Valentine, a Psychology student, feels that the building should have been more prepared. "They didn't get the Green Room



GAZETTE PHOTO BY DANIELLE BOUDREAU, WITH APOLOGIES TO IMPERIAL TOBACCO

"I sympathize with people who don't smoke, but I voted against [the policy] because of the financial interests of the DSU. We are the only place to go on campus if you want to smoke."
— Recently reformed smoker and DSU President David Cox

ready; there's no ashtrays, no ventilation units, and inadequate lighting for people who want to study," she said.

Opposition to the policy is shared by the DSU president, David Cox. The only member of council to vote against the policy, Cox feels smokers should have rights also. "I sympathize with people who don't smoke, but I voted against [the policy] because of the financial interests of the DSU. We are the only place to go on campus if you want to smoke."

If you forget the new rules, don't worry. There has been no talk about "smoking police" to embarrass you if you light up in the wrong area. The DSU will be erecting large signs and putting out ashtrays to mark areas that are smoke-friendly.

AIDS info line open to all

BY GAZETTE STAFF

"Need."

That is what Kirsten Schmidt, Acting Education Coordinator for the AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia, identified as the motivating force behind establishing an AIDS information line in Nova Scotia in 1988.

"There was definitely a need," she said. "Before 1988, there weren't any [AIDS infolines]. It's still the only one for Nova Scotia. And there still is a definite need — since 1988, AIDS services have been established in the Valley, Pictou, and Cape Breton."

Callers range from the young and innocent to the old and scared, said Schmidt.

"The callers range dramatically. We have high school kids looking for information for projects, as well as not being able to buy condoms in drugstores and looking for us to supply some, which we do," said Schmidt. "Also, we get calls from people who are not in the stereotypical risk group. Forty-year-old women who have nobody else to turn to call us. We also hear from people who have family members who have tested HIV-positive."

Approximately 300 calls were received last year.

Besides the phone line, the AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia office at 5675 Spring Garden Road is open to the public. There, such services as counselling, treatment, financial assistance, contact with doctors and other professionals, and support groups are available.

"Women with AIDS and Gay Men are two of our support groups," said Schmidt. "We also have workshops. We're offering one soon on meditation; and, we have one on long-term survival, which teaches someone with AIDS how to alter their diet and lifestyle to prolong their life."

In this age of information, Schmidt feels that the infoline fills a niche where previously, information was not always so forthcoming.

"People always need information. We offer an anonymous service that anyone can call. We send out information to people directly, or we can go through their doctors. We're accessible. We're here for your questions."

The line — 425-2437 in Halifax and 1-800-566-2437 for the rest of Nova Scotia — is funded by the Nova Scotia Department of Health. Information is available on an answering machine 24 hours a day, while volunteers take calls from 5-8 p.m., Tuesday to Friday.