

"the place was a pig-sty", says councillor Gilkinson.

# Green Room chained shut

by Paul Creelman

The Green Room in the Student Union Building has been chained shut until the SUB operations committee decides what to do with the chronic problem of garbage and spilled food, says Health Rep Marie Gilkinson.

"I had to be lead by the hand down to the Green Room to see the situation", recalls Gilkinson.

"I wouldn't believe how bad the situation could be just by being told about it. The place was an absolute pig-sty. There was food under the chairs and ground into the rug. It was so filthy dirty that it was a health hazard."

Last Friday, the problem was brought to Jeff Champion, the vice-president of the stu-

dent union. After investigating the situation, Champion chained up the Green Room doors. The lounge area, which was a popular spot for students to relax during the day, will remain closed except for special functions.

Gilkinson, who is also the chairperson of the SUB operations, states that the lounge will only be reopened after her committee has had a chance to examine the problem and come up with a solution. A meeting of the SUB Ops committee has already been held, with a consensus that their recommendation will be the banning of food and drinks from the Green Room entirely.

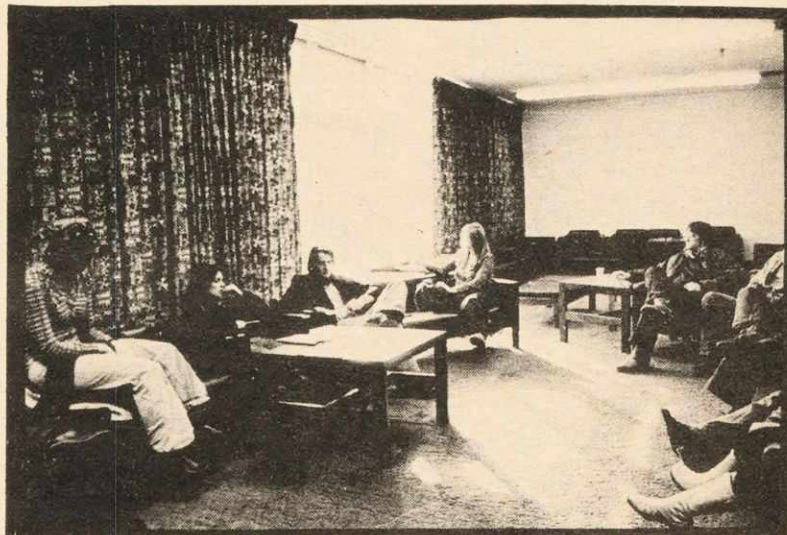
The litter in the Green Room has been a troublesome issue for Council all year. Faced

with increased costs in the cafeteria (since it is cafeteria staff who clean up the Green Room during the day) Council tried to ban food and drink from the lounge at the beginning of the term. Faced with a petition of one hundred signatures gathered with the space of "an hour and fifteen minutes" which was presented at a Council meeting in September, Council reconsidered the policy.

Says Gilkinson:

"I was one of the ones who felt that if students were given a chance, they could keep the place clean by themselves. Since this was going to be one of the number one things for the SUB Ops committee to look at, I got involved. I'm sorry now that I'm on record saying that I felt the students should be allowed to have food and drink in there."

After discussion of the problem in SUB Ops and again in Council, it was decided to post warning signs in the Green Room to try and control the litter. These signs were torn down within two weeks of posting, and the similar table card notices vanished almost immediately. A second batch



DAYAL/DAL PHOTO

The pig-sty, alias the Green Room

of posters and table card notices was printed, and they too disappeared. However, the problem of litter abated for quite a while during the fall, and only reappeared in the period between November and December to haunt Council members and SUB Ops.

Vice-president Champion states that Council can't afford a huge bill to clean up the Green Room every week. Noting that the staff in the Garden cafeteria are the ones who must clean up trays, Champion wonders how many students know that the mess in

the lounge is one of the reasons for higher prices of food in the cafeteria.

Another problem with the Green Room appears to be damage of the furniture. According to Student Union manager John Graham, there has been about 1500 dollars worth of damage in slashed chairs this year. There are also unconfirmed reports of theft of SUB furniture. Umesh Jain, Si ex-Science rep on Council, states that tighter control of the Green Room stairwell should be put into effect to prevent theft.

## Abortion info

by Pina DiPierro

The Abortion, Information and Referral Service (AIRS) gives information to women who must decide whether or not to terminate a pregnancy.

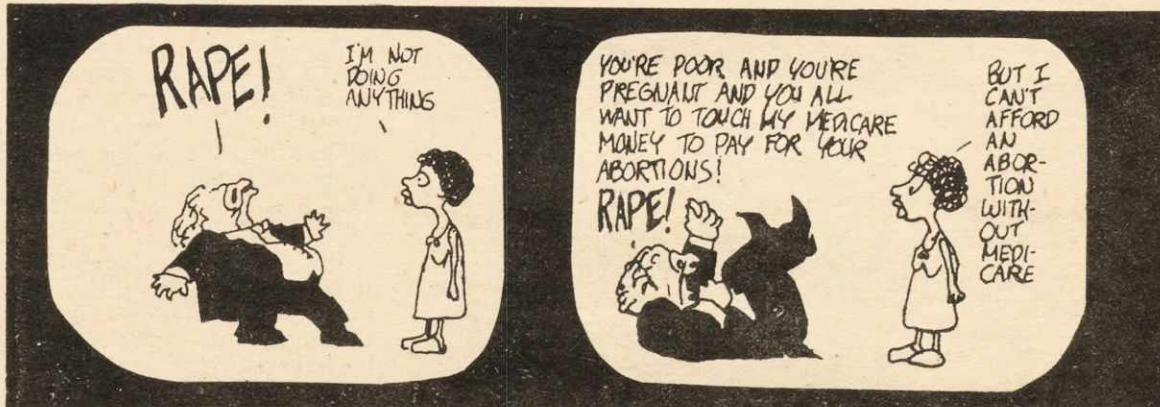
At present AIRS is composed of fifteen women, four of whom are members of CARAL (Canadian Abortion Action League). They and the other eleven pro-choice women feel that any information given will help the individual make a wiser decision. Information given includes birth control, post-abortion information, lists of reliable clinics and the names of sympathetic doctors.

Women desiring advice about their own situation are not the only people who contact AIRS. Mothers, friends, boyfriends and doctors may also take advantage of this service which is conducted on a confidential basis. In many cases names are not mentioned. All information is free of charge at AIRS. Financial

support is obtained mainly through the solicitation of money from sympathetic friends and doctors. Generous contributions and donations have also been a great help to the service.

What are AIRS beliefs on obtaining an abortion? The first is that women have rights. This includes the right to choose what is best for her health and well-being. If continuing a pregnancy will jeopardize a woman's health in any way, AIRS feels that an abortion should be granted. A representative of AIRS says that women do not make such a decision lightly. Callers to AIRS tend to make intelligent decisions; wisdom being a virtue that is not lacking on the part of women faced with this dilemma (they say).

Everything possible is done at AIRS to help those who must decide whether or not to continue a pregnancy, however, illegal abortions are never urged by this service.



Womens' desperate attempts at self abortion should not have to continue. According to the AIRS representative a woman feels that an abortion would be the best thing for her, she should not be denied one.

It is estimated that one out of every five pregnancies in

Canada end in abortion, the international figure being one out of four. The AIRS rep believes that these figures could drop if more young girls were given access to birth control information and family life education. In her opinion, such a practice would enable these girls to take control of their

lives and perhaps result in a less promiscuous society. However, many young females lack this information and are often faced with the decision of whether or not the unwanted pregnancy should have to continue.

AIRS feel they can help.

## Dal going to model U.N.

by P.J. McManus

Two delegations of Dalhousie students will represent Chile and the Bahamas at the International Model United Nations this spring in New York City. The twenty-five students involved will play the roles of delegates from the two countries, acting on several United Nations Committees and the General Assembly.

The Model UN is a simulation of the events which have taken place in the United Nations over the past year. Originally, a brainchild of Harvard University in the 1920's, the Model UN has grown to involve over one thousand students from across North

America and is held each year in the actual United Nations in New York. This year only two Canadian universities will be attending; Dalhousie and Quebec's Bishops University.

The Dalhousie students, most of whom are political-science majors, began organizing last fall. Reference materials from the Embassies and UN Library were gathered and studied. The students learned the inner workings of the United Nations and its different bodies and the foreign policies of the countries they would represent.

"We have to understand the broader questions before we can deal with the specific

issues," said group head Sue Whitney. "Once we have the whole sweeping scope we'll begin researching the specific issues of the committees we will serve on."

Whitney says her people have been working very hard and know their roles well. "Money is still a problem though," she reflected, "We've written an awful lot of letters and are trying to nail local governments and corporations for contributions."

The total cost for travelling expenses and accommodations is \$8,500. Political Science Professor Harv Silverstein feels confident the students will secure necessary

funds. "The students have shown great initiative. Their interest, their enthusiasm is far more convincing than a faculty member getting on the phone and pleading for money."

It was Silverstein who originally introduced the idea of attending the Model UN to his class. He was immediately taken aback by the tremendous enthusiasm the students displayed at the prospect of participating. The students soon took charge and were responsible for the entire project. Silverstein was glad to admit that his role became more of a "couch/advisor."

Silverstein considers the ex-

perience the students will receive invaluable. "I think the students will learn many things not only about the UN but in terms of communications, developing policies, and trying to operate in a semi-diplomatic atmosphere. They will meet with diplomats from many different countries as well as members of the UN Secretariat and get a first hand look at global politics."

Silverstein also expressed optimism about the upcoming Model UN. "I think it would be reasonable to say that our chances are good that we become the two top delegations at New York."