

In the corner of the cautious

Through sheer timidity, student union council has backed itself into an interesting corner.

When the Interfraternity Council first took its bid for a seat to the student council, they thought they would have some friends in the Council Chambers. Executive vice-president Sandra Bell is a sorority member and she and her running mate, DSU president Jamie MacMullin, made the revival of school spirit the focus of their campaign last year.

Council, squeamish about making a political decision on the merits of whether the 150 fraternity and sorority members should have their own representative on the DSU, referred the matter to its judicial board at the end of last year to rule on whether the bid was constitutional or not.

The judicial board's decision that the IFC's bid is unconstitutional also puts the status of many other DSU societies in jeopardy.

At its last meeting, following the recommendation of MacMullin, council further referred the case to its constitutional committee (which now lacks a chairperson after the departure of council chair Dwight Syms).

At no point has council had an open discussion on the political

merits of the IFC's bid.

While they may disagree on other aspects of the case, both IFC president Mike Dunn and law student Carolyn Zayid agree council should have made a political decision on whether they thought the IFC deserves a seat.

"It was passed like a buck to the judicial board," complains Dunn.

"They should have first decided whether they wanted to give them a seat," agrees Zayid. "They can always change the constitution after — it's the exact same process."

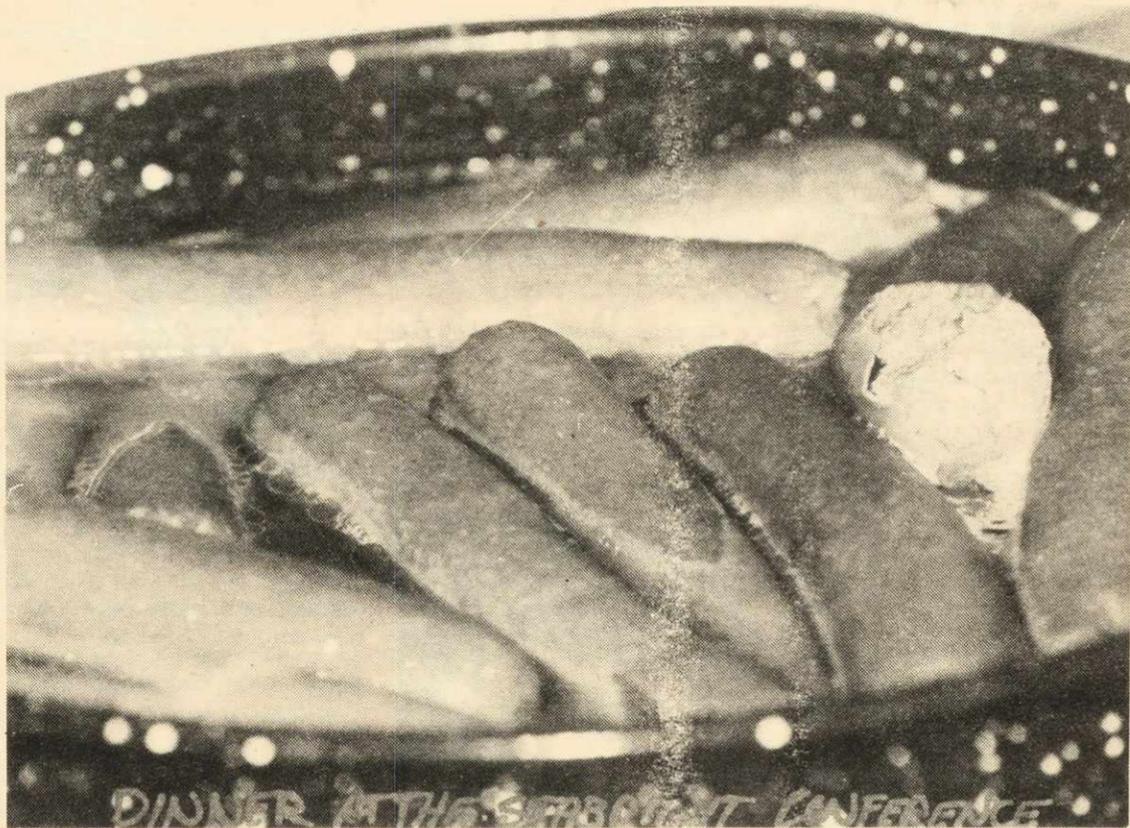
The IFC's reasons for wanting a seat on council are almost entirely self-serving. They simply want a stronger basis for their own social clubs.

But by refusing to confront this fact and trying to appear as friends to all, members on council are creating dissatisfaction on different sides of the campus.

If this year's DSU members are afraid to touch the issue, hopefully the candidates for next year's council will discuss the issue.

At the very least, it could make for an interesting campaign.

— Toby Sanger



LETTERS

Justice is blind

To the Editor,

This letter is actually addressed to the student who profits from working in the Killam library and lifting personal articles (kit bags, knapsacks, etc.) from unsuspecting students as they leave their cubicles unattended to stretch their legs or use the facilities.

Call me naive, but I'm appalled that a student could steal from another student without appreciating the fact that I'm probably as broke as they are!!

My knapsack (empty except for some prescription glasses) was

stolen from the third floor of the Killam Library today. Whoever you are, please have a heart — I can't afford to replace those glasses and I'm having trouble studying without them!

A broke and blind student,
Lara Merritt

Green plague

To the Editor,

I was under the impression that a university was a place for people who have a certain level of maturity and consideration, though it seems that I have been proven wrong by a certain (large) group of people.

The Green Room in the Dalhousie Student Union Building

is a place that is appreciated as a comfortable lunch area. However, on many occasions this atmosphere has been rudely disrupted by the boisterous antics of the aforementioned group.

Last night, for example, I bore witness to the immature extravagances of this group, as they disturbed other people, not only by carrying on very loudly, but by individually including them in their jokes. They way this group operated was not only irritatingly interruptive, but others, myself included, found their mannerisms, language, and actions extremely offensive.

They would individually approach people on a "dare" and insult and upset them by using them as the butt of their joke. One girl sitting next to me was asked if she would have sex with one of

the participants. Her reaction was one of anger and frustration, ending in her telling him to leave.

They also, and often, disrupted a number of people at a time by running through the room mimicking certain characters, standing on tables singing, and crawling along the floor, all of which resulted in roars of laughter.

Although I understand this was all in fun, and they probably did not intend to upset or hurt anyone, they did, and it was not their right to take that liberty.

Unfortunately, nothing can be done to rectify what happened last night, but I think that, for the future, the SUB staff should have the authority to "tame the animals".

— Yike Margaret and Samuel Book

Free scotch

To the Editor,

I am 20 years old and a student of Edinburgh University. I would like to hear from Canadian students who are interested in writing to me, so that we can learn about each other's lifestyle and culture, hopefully develop a friendship, and maybe arrange some sort of exchange.

I have a lot of interests and am keen to find out about life in Canada. I'll do my best to reply to all letters I receive, so get writing!
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Commentary should not exceed 700 words, letters should not exceed 300 words. No unsigned material will be accepted, but anonymity may be granted on request.

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