

Caffeine for the soul

BY MARK REYNOLDS

If you're looking for something to do Friday nights that's a change from the usual bar-hopping, you may want to look into what is perhaps the most distinct coffee house experience in Halifax.

The Trinity Coffee House, located in the Trinity Church on the corner of Brunswick and Cogswell street, has been in operation for nearly four years. It was set up by members of the Trinity Church congregation who felt that the needy members of the Halifax community needed a place where they could sit back and socialize.

When "Hell's Hotel", an abandoned building used by homeless youth for shelter, burned down in 1993, members of the Trinity Church felt that they should do something to alleviate the hardships of the homeless and underprivileged in the city.

Though its clientele do receive the services of other organizations

such as the Salvation Army and Hope Cottage, the Trinity Coffee House fulfils a different need.

"I don't think people realize what a need there is for this. There is no place for these people to just sit down and mingle," said Joyce Warnell, one of the coordinators of the Coffee House.

Though the Coffee House provides free doughnuts, coffee and tea, its primary function is a social one. The Coffee House usually has about 30 people on an average night, and as many as 125 for a special function such as the upcoming Valentine's party.

"We have cards, chess, checkers, crib games... (coordinator Garth Oxner) will get up there and play guitar, and people will sing along," said Warnell.

While most of the people who go to the Trinity have a variety of problems, Warnell says that most are just down on their luck.

"I consider them all my friends, I know them all by

name," she said, adding that she has had some over for dinner at her house.

Warnell said that they have had the same people coming for the past four years, and that they range in age from 17 to 60 years.

"I've had people come up to me that have said that they wished it was open every night," said Warnell.

If you are interested in volunteering at the Trinity Coffee House, contact Garth Oxner at 469-7016, or Joyce Warnell at 422-7297, or stop by the Trinity Church. The Coffee House operates every Friday from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m.



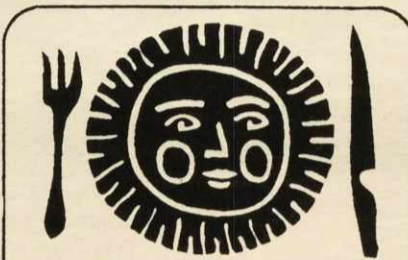
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Up to three awards can be made each year, for exceptional contributions or leadership in the extracurricular realm in such areas as university governance, development of a sense of community on campus, community service, internationalizing the campus, visual or performing arts, minority access or athletics. To be eligible, students must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 or equivalent. Otherwise, all students - full or part-time, at any stage in their academic career - may be considered for an award.

Recipients are chosen by a committee consisting of the President, three members of the Board of Governors and the Vice-President of Student Services. Nominations are invited, but the committee may consider other persons as well. Awards, in the form of a plaque, will be presented by the chair of the Board or designate at the Student Appreciation Night.

Nominations should include a brief description of the student nominee's contribution to the University and the names of persons from whom further information about this contribution could be obtained. Nominations should be forwarded on or before Friday, February 28, 1997, to:

The Office of the Vice-President
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