

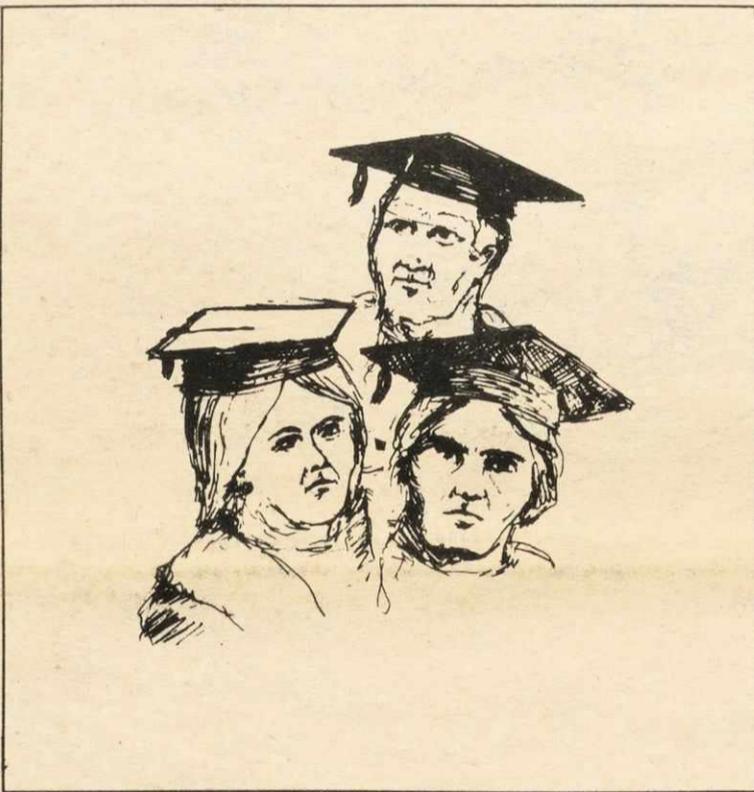
# Not for Women only!

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about us - page 9 - 16

## the Dalhousie Gazette

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### Alumni keeps women from Board of Governors



by Samantha Brennan

While university may seem to be the land of equal opportunity, that isn't always the case.

The Dalhousie Alumni Association still adheres to an outdated bylaw which states of three representatives elected to the university's highest decision-making body, the Board of Governors, two must be men.

As a result, while there are approximately equal numbers of men and women in the Association, representation on the Board consists of twice as many men as women. Three representatives are elected annually to three-year terms. Nine Alumni reps sit on the Board, out of a total of over 50 Board members.

Earlier this year Dalhousie's Student Council passed a motion asking the Alumni Association to drop all specification on the grounds of sex, allowing candidates to run freely for the positions.

The By-laws Review committee of the Alumni Association is con-

sidering this change but according to Alumni Association President Dr. Chester B. Stewart, "There's been relatively little discussion about the issue." Perceiving other matters, to be of greater importance, Dr. Stewart said the "bylaws have kind of got pushed into the background."

Women's committee chairperson Susan McIntyre originally brought the bylaw to the attention of the Student Council. Quotas, said McIntyre, tend to work against women. She feels the bylaw is "an antiquated requirement", though it may have served the purpose of getting women involved in the Board of Governors in the past.

Stewart confirmed this, saying the bylaw was originally introduced to work for women, though he admitted this may no longer be the case.

"There was a period, when names were put on the ballot without this specification and the men tended to be better known," Stewart said. For this reason women

who chose to run had a difficult time getting elected.

"It (the bylaw) ensures that at least one of the three representatives would be a woman. We may leave the rule so that there will always be the certainty that women will be elected," said Stewart.

At a meeting of the Alumni Association on March 1st, student president Peter Rans voiced concern over the bylaw, maintaining "it does more harm than good." When asked by Rans if they planned to drop the rule the Alumni Association indicated they are looking at changing it "in the right way."

Rans sees a willingness to change in the Alumni Association but feels it might be a while before action is taken. The bylaws cannot be changed in time for this year's election, said Rans, because the matter will "involve a great deal of argument" and the association has other concerns it must deal with.

"The members of the Alumni Association should vote for the best person. Sex shouldn't enter into it. That's only reasonable," Rans said.

### Commerce Society's lease may be terminated

by Catherine Ricketts

Commerce "Weepers" may become real tear jerkers if the Commerce Society has no home next year.

The Commerce Society received a letter from Director of Housing John Graham during Reading Week informing them the lease on their house at 1228 Seymour Street will be expiring "possibly...as early as summer".

The society has used the house for Friday Weepers (socials), parties, society meetings and sports gatherings for the last four years. Two students also live in the house, paying rent to cover the \$240 monthly rental charged the society by the university.

"Without a house we'd be just like other "B" societies - basically rinky-dink, to put it bluntly," said Chris Astrus, on the society's Housing Committee. He said the Commerce Society has undergone "astronomical growth" in the last three years. Without a house in which to socialize and conduct society business, students in the faculty would lose their sense of cohesiveness, he claims.

The university is terminating the lease on the building in accordance to the Space Study recommendations made last fall. While the uni-

versity is selling off property in municipally-zoned residential areas, it is trying to consolidate its holdings in areas zoned for university use, says Graham. The Commerce house lies in such an area.

The Commerce Society is one of the most active on campus, with approximately 300 of 800 students in the faculty actively participating in events. Commerce came first in recent Super Societies events and placed third in the President's invitational Sports event held last fall. Parties, speakers and other socials draw students from other faculties, and David Harris, Housing Committee Chair, thinks perhaps 30 per cent of people at the events are non-Commerce students.

The house, along with others across the street, will be renovated at an estimated cost of \$40,000 to upgrade the buildings to functional university use, says Graham. "If the houses concerned were left in that function and condition, we simply would have to knock them down," he says.

Aiming at a more permanent arrangement, the society struck a housing committee last fall to look into possibilities, consulting three professors at the School of Business Administration.

"This house is too small," says

Harris. The society would prefer a building able to contain 250 people for a function and allow 5 people to live in it, paying rent to cover the society's rental costs.

Administrative student council rep Mike Solway says the best situation for the society would be to deal exclusively with the university, either by leasing a house directly from them for 99 years, or by buying a house on university-zoned property, and then selling it on the proviso of a long-term lease. "This way the society will be covered under the university insurance and licensed under the Student Union Bar Services contract," he said.

The Housing committee first approached Graham in October with a proposal to fix the house in return for a long-term lease, but the offer was turned down. Harris attributes this to the fact the house "is on prime university land".

Solway said the next step was to start a housing fund, by raising Society fees to \$30 per member and placing \$17 per student into a housing fund.

Last spring the Dentistry students used a similar procedure to raise funds for their own house after the one in which they had been situated was sold by the



Hayes/Dal Photo  
The Commerce Society house - Where to now?

administration.

At a recent society general meeting to approve the fee increase, of 43 members in attendance, only one opposed the idea and two abstained on the motion. The fee increase must now be accepted by student council and ratified by the board.

Harris says the university is supportive of the society's request for a house because it realizes the value

of active societies. Graham says the university is open to proposals and the foreclosure is not yet a fait accompli. "The Commerce society will have to compete with others for use of the building," he said. Use will be awarded according to the University's priorities, Graham added.

"We just want to know where we're going to be next year," says Solway. "We have the support of more than just our society."