

## Defining the Hack

BY SHELLEY ROBINSON

In the wake of last week's comment that only SUB (Student Union Building) hacks were asking questions about Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) General Manager Steve Gaetz's dismissal, I had to wonder, what are SUB hacks anyway?

So, are you a SUB hack? Well, it's easier than you think. Do you spend "a lot" of time at the SUB? Bingo. According to DSU Treasurer Bret Leech, source of the quotation in question, a SUB hack is "an affectionate term for people who spend a lot of time at the SUB." Including the cafeteria, the arcade, the Green Room, hell, even the bathroom if you spend enough time there.

For the sake of clarification though, it may be easier to divide the passel of SUB users into categories. The no-shows. Have you yet to cross the threshold? SUB chipmunks, you get what you need, you do it quickly and quietly, and then you scurry off. SUB cat, you come, you eat, chat, snooze a little maybe, but if you're here at night it's because there's something going on, you still have a life right? SUB rats... well, if you eat two meals a day here, know at least five staff members by name, get mail, and refer your calls here — you've got rodentus subus written all over you, Mickey.

From here on in, it's a political thing, which doesn't mean you've got to be on council. You've just got to be completely absorbed. If you've been around the political wheel a couple times, and talk (more likely rant) about SUB issues way past your bedtime, and find yourself saying things like "You've just got to play the game," you probably already consider yourself a SUB hack, as does everyone else you know. SUB God, an oxymoron the closest to which anyone has come would probably be, most recently, SUB Queen Lilli Ju. She's racked up two degrees, sat on countless committees, survived an eight year stint at Dal, served three times on executive council (including Executive Vice President this year), and was last year's copy editor of the Gazette.

# Battling censorship with SEX FM

BY GAZETTE STAFF

On Thursday, November 16, CKDU will broadcast SEX FM, a day of anti-censorship programming that will begin at noon and run until 2 a.m. Friday morning. SEX FM is a sequel to a national broadcast initiated in 1994 by the National Campus and Community Radio Association (NCRA) to protest CRTC Decision 94-106, which specified among other things "that sexually explicit material shall not be broadcast except between 9 p.m. and 6 p.m."

During last year's SEX FM broadcast, 24 Campus/Community Radio Stations from coast to coast aired the two pieces which resulted in CKDU's license restrictions: "Lily & Christian" by Hali-

fax performance artists Renee Penny & Michael Weir, and "Language of Desire" by Iroquois poet Beth Brandt. In addition, many stations dedicated other parts of their programming day to discussing the issue of censorship in general, and the possible repercussions of Decision 94-106 in particular.

CKDU's participation in the SEX FM initiative was particularly significant in both its length and quality. While most other stations ran between two to six hours of SEX FM programming, CKDU dedicated 16 hours of its programming day to the complex issues raised by their license restrictions, such as censorship, homophobia, and the nebulous nature of the terms "Sexually

Explicit" and "Community Standards." The quality of CKDU's SEX FM broadcast was recognized in June of this year when the station was awarded a Standard Radio Award for programming excellence. The awards, a co-presentation between the NCRA and Standard Radio Inc. are worth \$4,000 each, and awarded annually to five different Campus/Community Stations.

The focus of this year's broadcast is slightly different. While the impetus for the broadcast is still the specific repercussions of Decision 94-106 on CKDU and the campus/community radio sector, the focus will be mostly on censorship. Some of the segments planned for this year's broadcast include: an examination of the

deleterious effects of self-censorship; a look at Censorship on the Internet; an examination of the Butler Decision, which has affected the flow of literature between Canada and the U.S. and even within Canada; a censorship trivia Game Show, and much more.

As CKDU works its way through their second year under Decision 94-106, they hope that SEX FM 2 will serve as a much needed springboard to again work on publicizing and challenging the decision. Any comments or questions about SEX FM 2 can be directed to Steve MacIsaac, Program Director; Lis VanBerkel, Current Affairs Director; or, Jo-Ann Citrigno, Station Manger at 494-6479.

## Who guards the guardians?

*The student union spends lots of your money — find out where*

BY MICHELLE GREGUS

Thrust into the confusion that is university, as a frosh you hastily slap down your tuition fees and race to keep up with everybody else. It's in your frosh pack, among the hundreds of other pieces of paper, that your eyes probably first skim the letters DSU. Maybe for a millisecond, a vague memory of high school student council flashes across your mind. What is it student councils do? Special events or dances; hell, you never really thought about the council anyway. It was always just there, they did their jobs, whatever they were, and life went on.

So here's another one of those council things. You've flipped through *Dal: The Book* and there they are, pages and pages of smiling friendly folk welcoming you to Dal. "Stop by and chat!" they say, "Anytime! We're here for you!" Well, this is certainly enough to give you peace of mind about their credibility. Of course, you'd never really stop by because,

you don't actually know them, but just knowing you can because they want you to gives you a warm, fuzzy feeling inside. You study for those endless exams and slave away at countless assignments with a light heart because you are in competent hands.

Or are you?

Let's backtrack to the idea of a Student Union and Council. What are they and what are they supposed to do for you? Simply put, the Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) is the single voice of Dalhousie students. Every student is automatically considered a member and pays a student union fee as such. Each year, a group of students are elected — by the student body as a whole, or internally as is the case with the DSU Treasurer — to deal more effectively with daily DSU business. The executive student council is made up of the President, Executive Vice President (VP), Treas-

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urer, VP External, VP Academic, VP Community Affairs, and VP Communications.

The DSU is responsible for many things. According to *Dal: The Book*, the DSU is responsible for defending the rights of students, promoting accessible and quality education at Dal, and providing (affordable) services to students.

What does this mean? If you have a problem involving your rights, the DSU can help you defend them, ranging from privacy issues to academic policies.

Accessible and quality education? The Senate representatives deal with academic concerns, and levies help fund student accessibility.

As for services, these include Campus Copy, Corner Pocket, the Grawood, concerts, Student Advocacy Services, and the Student Directory, to name but a few. These services are not profit oriented, so they should be afford-

able to students.

All student activities on campus are organized through the DSU. Want to start a society? Organizing an event? Needs funds for your society? You have to go to the DSU. The DSU is also the medium of communication between students and the governing bodies of Dal such as the Senate and the Board of Directors.

Of course, all these generalities should be broken into small, numerous actions taken by the DSU. Further details are in the DSU constitution. So, the DSU has quite a bit of responsibility on their hands. They have to represent students on different levels, provide countless services, and of course, handle your money properly. One thing worth mentioning is that they have more power than your high school council did. With such a small group of people carrying this responsibility, it wouldn't hurt to check how they're handling it. After all, wouldn't you like to know who's representing your voice?

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