

Singin' the Green Room blues

by Tim Covert

Got the Green Room blues?

You probably do if you're one of the dozens of users of the SUB lounge space who have been wandering aimlessly since it was locked up last Tuesday. The popular meeting area was closed as a result of a consensus decision by SUB staff and DSU officers on the 16th of January.

One of these officers was Vice-President Executive Tiffany Jay, contacted on Monday. In explaining the

decision to temporarily close the Green Room, Ms. Jay cited garbage everywhere amounting to a "pig sty," furniture that has been vandalized, and an incident last month where one of the chairs was set on fire. She indicated that although the problems are not unique to this year, that the past two years have been particularly bad.

Ms. Jay said that part of the reason to shut the room down to everybody, and not to try to single out individuals, is that this way every-

body will become aware of the problem. She stressed that the problem can't be solved unless students "take responsibility and be a part of the solution."

*be a part of
the solution*

If students see damage being done to the Green Room, Jay says, they simply have to report it to the enquiry desk. If students have suggestions on how to improve the lounge area, she asks that they drop a note to the DSU offices.

Ms. Jay said that closing the Green Room permanently is not an option. "It's our [the DSU's] desire to continue to provide lounge space," she said, adding however that a solution must be found.

Hiring a security guard seems like an extreme idea but Jay said it has been done in the past. Another suggestion is to increase the number of garbage and recycling bins in the room but Ms. Jay related that these bins are expensive and that on many days the room is covered with garbage yet the bins are empty.

She said the DSU has also considered improving the SUB lounging areas in general. Some of these ideas include opening up the lobby for relaxing in and improving the layout of the cafeteria to increase the seat-

ing capacity.

Above all, Ms. Jay urges students to respect the space because any money going into the Green Room is coming directly out of the students' pockets through their fees. She indicated that the DSU has actually been considering aesthetically improving the room by replacing the carpet and adding some new furniture but that expenditures of that kind are difficult to justify when it is unsure whether the funds will be spent in vain.

"Treat the Green Room as you would your own home," says Jay. Sound advice, especially if you're one of the many who spend more time in the Green Room than you do at home.

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Women's Council dead?

by Lisa Lachance

"We are in touch with women. Is the government?" demanded Dawn Rae Downton of the Halifax YWCA. She was one of approximately 20 women who gathered in Halifax on Thursday, January 17 to express their concern over the recent announcement that the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women (CACSW) may be closed.

On Monday, January 16, the Honourable Sheila Finestone, Minister Responsible for the Status of Women announced possible reforms that would take the CACSW and the Woman's Programme (currently in the Department of Human Resources) and place them under the jurisdiction of Status of Women Canada.

The women in attendance at the press conference Thursday spoke on behalf of their organizations and expressed various concerns about the proposals.

In a press release, Backgrounder, the Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women emphasized the CACSW's role as the only

independent and recognized federal government critic.

Muriel Duckworth, long time activist, speaking on behalf of the Voice of Women (VOW), pointed out that Canada still has a long way to go addressing women's issues: "The U.N. Human Development Fund ranked Canada #1 in its annual poll but if you include women's

women have only recently felt comfortable in accessing many of these programs... our women will once again fall through the cracks." Representatives of Second Story Women's Centre in Bridgewater echoed the fact that their role in rural outreach will be threatened.

The closing of the CACSW will also have serious implications for women students and faculty. Pat Baker from the Mount St. Vincent Women's Studies programs pointed out that such departments cannot fill the research gap left by closing the CACSW. Women academics need the type of gender analysis found in CACSW research.

Sue Drapeau of the Students Union of Nova Scotia (SUNS) noted that the CACSW maintains an up-to-date response process: "Social Security Reform has many implications for women. No one has been discussing this, with one notable exception—the CACSW."

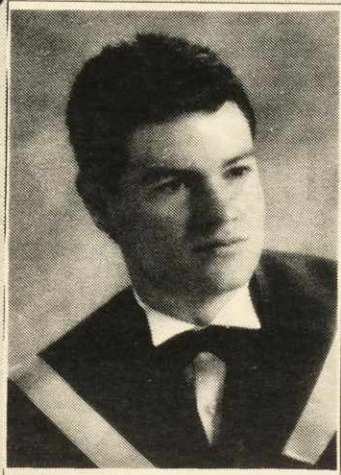
The feeling of the room can best be summed up with a quote from Pearl Sparks of the African Canadian Baptist Association Women's Institute: "United we stand, divided we fall."

*The closing of
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issues Canada drops to 9th place... The real population is obviously

The Women's Programme, currently under the Department of Human Resources Development, provides support to rural women's centres and regional projects.

Dolly Williams of the Congress of Black Women stated that "Black



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