

Council briefs

The Grants Committee awarded the following amounts: \$300 to the Ecology Action Centre; Education Graduate Students Society, \$250; and \$225 for the Music Society.

The Committee mandated to draw up alternate motions concerning the relationship between the National Union of Students and the Association of Quebec students presented a motion to council which was approved. "Be it resolved that NUS recognize the importance of the founding principle of biculturalism within the Canadian Nation; Furthermore be it resolved that NUS put pressure on the Federal Government to promote biculturalism in Canada; and that NUS recognizing the bicultural concept within Canada, recognize L'ANEQ as a non-fee paying voting member of NUS. Further that NUS reconsider the motion to have a French Canadian member on the Central Committee. As well that NUS encourage membership of French Canadian institutions in the organization."

At a previous meeting council had defeated a motion calling for recognition of Quebec's right to self-determination.

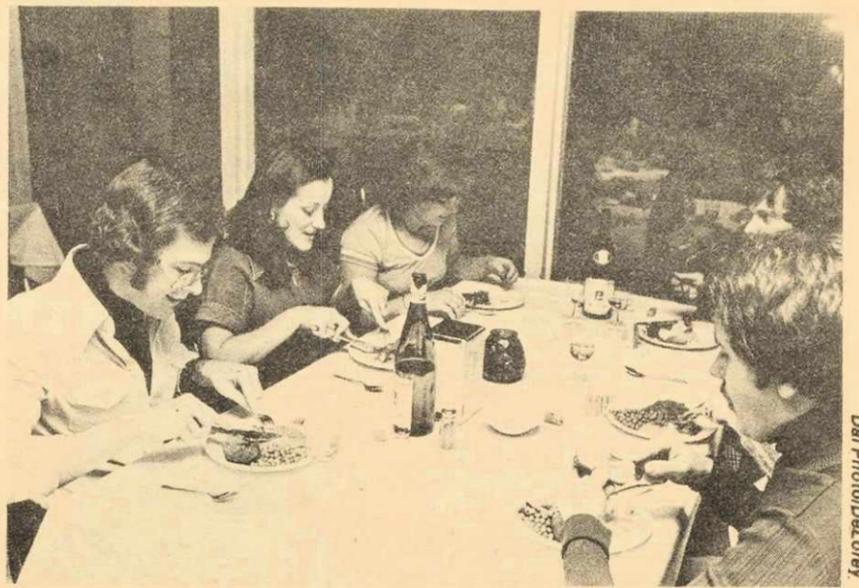
Call ombudsman if you need help

If the word "ombudsman" sounds strange to you, it's because it is a Swedish word which means "a representative or agent of the people." The institution began as an agency of government to protect the citizens from misuse of administrative power. The ombudsman's job was to receive complaints from citizens about decisions of government officials, to investigate these complaints, and, when the complaints were justified, to seek a remedy. The office holder has also been called a public protector or grievance person.

It has only been within the past ten years that the ombudsman

concept has spread to Canada. Most of the Canadian provinces now have an ombudsman and many private and public institutions, including universities, have introduced variations of the scheme.

There are several features common to all ombudsman offices. One essential characteristic is that the ombudsman is impartial. His or her function is to investigate and to find out all the facts before deciding whether or not anyone is at fault. The process of investigation is informal, direct and quick. The power of the ombudsman comes from his/her access to information sources and the ability



Dal Photo/DeLorey

In an effort to increase interest in Dalhousie council meetings, student representatives held Sunday evening's meeting in the men's residence, Howe Hall. Prior to the meeting council reps were treated to a candlelight and wine dinner. Candlelight dinners have been very popular amongst Howe Hall residents this year.

to publicize findings regarding improper conduct of officials.

At Dalhousie an office of Ombudsman was set up in 1971 to deal with problems of concern to anyone connected with the university. Complaints may come from students, faculty or staff. The ombudsman is able to bridge the gap, so to speak, between students and administrators by creating a two-way channel of communication.

Whenever a method of appeal already exists to handle a specific complaint, the ombudsman will first direct the aggrieved person to this source of appeal. To take a

common example, if a student is unhappy with a mark received for a course, his/her first step ought to be to discuss it with the professor of the course. Or, if a student wants to be given credit for courses taken at another university, he/she should first write to the Committee on Studies. If this approach doesn't bring satisfactory results, the ombudsman may be able to suggest ways of supporting appeals or may intervene directly.

Anyone who studies or works at Dalhousie is invited to see the Ombudsman (Cheryl Tynski) or the Assistant Ombudsman (Nick Pittas) regarding any type of campus problem. Referrals may also be given to sources off-campus if you have complaints which are not directly connected with the university. The office is located in Room 324 of the SUB, phone 424-6583. Office hours are posted.

Students to protest cut

As most of you from Cape Breton already know the Provincial Government is planning to close the General Hospital in Glace Bay and make a forty to sixty bed addition to St. Joseph's. To date both hospitals are filled to capacity. With the addition of two new mines in the immediate area, the government's projected facilities will be inadequate.

In a response to Health Minister Maynard MacAskill's announcement to close one of the hospitals, a group of concerned citizens including 17,000 names on a petition have formed a committee, calling for a new hospital.

This committee is planning to make a presentation at Province House on February 17. The group will be pushing a bed through selected towns on route from Cape Breton to Halifax to gather support. Once in Halifax the group, along with any interested citizens and students, will leave the Dresden Arms at 9:30 Friday morning, pushing the bed down to the Legislature.

This recent cutback in the social services for Cape Breton is just another in a disturbing trend. In a period of high unemployment and escalating costs it is time for the government to stimulate the area in both jobs and services.

There will be a meeting of all concerned Halifax students Thursday, 7 p.m. at St. Mary's University on the fifth floor of the Student Union Building. I urge you to turn out and make this march a success.

THREE MINI-WINNERS

Janny Jung
Simon Fraser
University
Vancouver, B.C.

Mariette Stoop
George Brown College
Toronto, Ontario



Debra Evans
Saint John School of Nursing
Saint John, N.B.

Congratulations on having won a brand new Mini, the Long Distance economy car.

We hope you have many years of enjoyable driving. And thanks to the 48,427 other students who participated.

Long Distance
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