

# Why Senate meetings should be open

The international phenomenon of student discontent, the increase of what has been termed "class consciousness" on the part of students, the rise of student activism and "student power", the exhibition of positive physical action by students against the oppressive forces in their educational communities—whether directed towards their academic institutions, institutions in the community, or the community in general—can, by no sane person, be regarded as a passing "fad". It has deep-rooted beginnings in the structure of their society.

It has become increasingly apparent to them that those sacred democratic institutions, which they have been but are, in fact, too often their oppressors. They find themselves struggling against a massive amorphous body whose tools are intimidation, bribery, and trickery. They are not members of a free society—they are entrapped in a travesty of democracy.

Is it really so surprising that students are no longer willing to put up with their position as second class citizens?

The Report of the Special Senate Committee on Committees declares, "We make certain assumptions that we believe to be sound. . . that the government should be such as to ensure, to the greatest extent consistent with practicality, that the individual has an opportunity to express his views on issues, that those views are weighed before decisions are taken and, furthermore, that they can be confident that they will be weighed."

Although this inalienable right of the students is accepted in principle, it is shamelessly denied in practice. Senate meetings are held in secret, and Senate reports and minutes are "PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL". Admittedly, poor intercommunication is the primary cause of mutual misunderstanding and criticism. Yet the gestures of the administration towards improving these channels of communication are doomed to failure because of the undemocratic practices of the Senate.

How can the student body or the administration expect sensible and meaningful dialogue if either side is ignorant of the activities, capabilities, and

intentions of the other? Your Student Senators are bound to secrecy and, hence, you, the student body, are denied crucial information on the government of the University.

The unrest of the student world, and, what is more important, the unrest in parts of our own country has arisen from this intolerable discrepancy between declared democratic principles and the actual practices of our "democratic" institutions.

Your Students' Council has, in support of some rumored stirrings within the Senate to open it to public hearing, passed a resolution fully supporting open Senate meetings and urging positive action to be taken towards such an end.

Neither the Students' Council alone, nor the few voices speaking on our own behalf behind those closed doors of the senate can in the end, by themselves, open the Senate. It is up to the student body to show an interest in asserting their democratic rights. Without your support the present movement towards democratic decision-making within the University will die. It is up to you to assert your right to be heard.

## CASE formed to aid student evictees

A recent rash of student evictions, on morally and legally questionable grounds, has brought into the open the problem of landlord discrimination against and exploitation of students.

The landlord loves students! They help fill the apartment when he cannot find anyone to pay exorbitant prices for his pigsty. Students are an abomin-

able nuisance, but they do keep his money flowing in until he can find more "responsible" tenants to gouge. He knows that the student has no choice but to pay; he'll be on the street skipping classes, looking for a place to stay. So when the landlord finally finds someone with short hair and a narrow mind, all he has to do is evict the student.

As a result of these circumstances, a student-faculty organization has been formed; the Committee Against Student Evictions, (CASE).

One group of Dalhousie students was evicted, believe it or not, because they owned a cat. When they protested that there was no clause in the lease prohibiting the ownership of a cat the landlord threatened to turn off the heat and electricity. Although the landlord's case would never have stood up in court, the students left. Court proceedings cost time and money. Students have not the money and can only find time at the expense of their studies.

An example of exorbitant rents was reported to us by another group of students who were evicted for running a "hippy hangout" . . . their boyfriends had hair longer than the landlord liked. This group of students answered an ad in the newspaper. The cost of the apartment was \$220 per month. In answering the application, the landlord seemed more than anxious to have them rent it. The reason for his eagerness very quickly became apparent. The apartment consisted of two small bedrooms, each approximately ten feet by ten feet and a livingroom-kitchenette combination totalling ten by fifteen feet. The landlord was very happy to hear that these four students were considering to live there.

These are not the only complaints we have received. As housing conditions in Halifax continue to worsen, we are preparing to cope with the expected influx of reports of landlords exploitation of and discrimination against students.

It is as a result of this worsening situation that CASE has been formed. This committee aims first of all to gather as much evidence as it can with a view to aiding students threatened with eviction. Any information which relates to this task, and individual offers of help with the committee work, should be left for

BOB DAMBERGS  
c/o SUB INFORMATION DESK  
SUB  
DALHOUSIE

Immediate help may not always be possible, but if the situation is to be kept from deteriorating further, a start must be made now in withstanding the exploitation of students by extortionate local landlords.

### DALHOUSIE MEDICAL STUDENTS WIVES ASSOCIATION ATTENTION: ALL MEDICAL STUDENTS WIVES

A wine and cheese party, the first meeting of the Dalhousie Medical Students Wives Association will be held on Tuesday, December 3, 1968, in the Ladies Lounge of the Student Union Building. So, come along girls, and while you are sampling your favourite wines and cheese, say "hello" to a wife that you have never met before.

While you are mixing with your old friends and meeting lots of new friends, you will hear of some really interesting activities, maybe you have always wanted to participate in one or two, but have never been able to . . . gourmet cooking, conversational French, knitting, sewing, and bridge groups, guest speakers on antiques, art, interior decorating . . . all these interests are open and waiting for you to take advantage of them.

Remember, girls, we are all part of this thing called Medicine, so let's get together and talk about all the funny, and not so funny, things that happen to Student's wives while they are 'helping to put hubby through'.

So:  
Tuesday  
December 3  
8:30  
Ladies Lounge  
Student Union Building

That's the time and the place . . . leave the dishes, the dusting, the baby and tell your husband to get his own coffee that evening. Yes, put on your 'glad rags' and come . . . Let's all help to make our club a success . . . That means YOU!!!!!!

# 89¢ lb.

Question: What do you Think of The Canteen Food?



**BARBARA CREASE:** I think the quality of the food is good and I like the service.  
**PRICES:** They are reasonable.  
**SUGG:** Not really, I haven't eat-bit more variety in the type of food and maybe two lines.



**LEE DAWSON:** Not bad; the service is a bit slow. I haven't eaten that much here but I've enjoyed it, as such.  
**PRICES:** The prices I find are sort of mediocre, they're a lot cheaper than eating out. At Eaton's it cost from 10 to 20 cents more.  
**SUGG:** I think they could have a en here that much. The food, sometimes I find by the time I get to the tables is cold. That's about the only complaint I have.



**JOEY ROZA:** The food's not that bad, it's not that good. I've tasted better and I've tasted worse. Better than residence food.  
**PRICES:** They're not too high, they're not too low; or some things they could be lower.  
**SUGG:** Could run it like they do in residence, charge a flat rate, like a buck.



**STEVE MACDONALD:** The service isn't bad considering. The French Fries are par for Versafood . you know, they're passable. Filet of sole . I don't know where they caught it but it's also not too bad, I mean, considering the price, for thirty-five cents, what do you want?  
**PRICES:** Ten cents for milk, and I mean they can't do better than that, can they? Ten cents for salad, can't do better than that. Filet of sole, 35 cents, 15 cents for chips. Can't do any better, I don't think.  
**SUGG:** I think they should raise the prices slightly for the food and give free milk.



**STEVE IPPERSIAL:** I have no complaints. I think the quality of the food is excellent. I've tried two or three dishes here and they've all been satisfactory. Enjoyed them all.  
**PRICES:** Well the prices are reasonable if you don't eat here too often. If you come in here for a meal once in a while it's great!  
**SUGGESTIONS:** I can't think of any, I enjoy the place thoroughly.



**KEN BELLEMARE:** I think so far it's been very good. We've needed this for so long it's a real blessing when it comes. And it's very convenient.  
**PRICES:** I don't think there is anywhere in town that would serve something like this any cheaper. It's within my budget, but then again it might not be the same thing for a student.  
**SUGG:** I think perhaps if they had a snack-bar type thing open all day other than the machines. The machines are fine, but I think if you want something else in the meantime, a specific type of sandwich or a hot dog or hamburger.