

DAGS seeks community involvement

by Joseph Southall
Graduate student representation on the University Senate and Senate Discipline Committee are two of the most pressing items on the Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students' agenda this year.

The Association submitted a proposal over six months ago, but have not yet received any significant indication that their proposal will be considered, according to President Jim Gerry.

"The Graduate Students' Association feels it is unfortunate that, while the University Senate acts with great speed where matters of Graduate Students discipline are concerned, this same body acts with incredible slowness with regard to matters of Graduate Student Representation," Gerry said.

"Many graduate students are disenchanted with the operation of the Senate Discipline Committee," he commented. "DAGS members think the committee has meted out strange and unusual punishments," Gerry added.

Gerry also said that many graduate students feel "the double standard implicit in the university as it is now, makes it impossible to air matters of faculty discipline."

DAGS plans to enter the fields of student involvement in the university and the community at large this year. Undergraduate and graduate students will be encouraged to participate in any worthwhile function in either area.

University-oriented objectives include the establishment of a graduate student job placement centre and a graduate student tutoring service for undergraduates. Gerry also hopes that DAGS will be able to present a program of controversial speakers. One possibility is the noted psychologist, B. F. Skinner.

An academic non-credit course, "Altered State of Consciousness" is also being offered by the Association this year. The course presents a study of mystical experiences induced by various physical agents. (The class meets

Tuesdays at 4 o'clock in room 4207 of the Life Sciences Building for those who wish to attend.) DAGS hopes to offer more relevant courses which students cannot obtain from the university in upcoming years.

President Gerry also indicated that DAGS wants to aid and develop graduate student organizations in those university departments with graduate faculties.

Community-oriented projects planned include a free school and a day care centre for children with working mothers. Negotiations are presently underway to set up the free school for high school drop-outs in Halifax's south end. The free school would hold classes in the old theatre house which the association is renting from the university.

Space and utilization of facilities in their house are also high on the list of plans for this



(Ted Coldwell/dal)

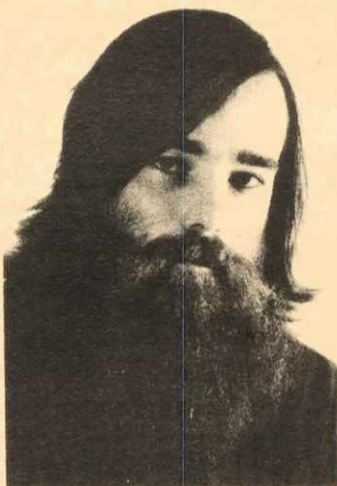
year. Now that they have a meeting place, DAGS Council hopes to establish better communication with graduate students, and get them involved in the more serious aspects of the university and community at large. The Council plans to publish a periodic newsletter to

facilitate communication.

Gerry summed up the aims of DAGS for this year: "The thinking of the present Council is not on the level of politics or partying. There are more important issues than either of these, such as community involvement."

Open School begins soon

by Jim Dey
At a general information



(art mckay/dal)

meeting held October 3, John Ure presented his working plan for the Halifax South Open School, due to begin Oct. 18.

The school, according to Ure, is minimally structured. It will include three facets of learning: academic, non-academic and various projects. "In this way," said Ure, "the student will be exposed to the learning potential of the community."

The open school, open to anyone interested in the objectives of the project, will attempt to deal with each case


individually. There will be no exams and all subjects are optional. Courses will be held in the basement of the old theatre building at Dalhousie, various halls, museums, outdoors and wherever else possible.

Ure stated that the average life expectancy of this sort of school is 18 months, as it is impossible for it to be instantly evaluated in the terms usually used regarding regular educational structures. Thus, the government is reluctant to give grants and the school closes for lack of funds.

Thus, far the school has received some support from the Dal Student Union, (in the form of a \$500 grant) and hopefully will obtain more from the Nova Scotia Youth Commission. In addition, St. Mary's University is sponsoring a benefit dance for the school at a time and place to be announced.

Although he is pleased with the co-operation so far, Ure admitted the possibility that the School Board might protest the fact that the free school sets no age limit, while 16 is the legal drop-out age in this area. It is possible that this could indirectly encourage some students to leave the regular structure. Although the school would like to give credits for its classes (which requires School Board approval), Ure plans to hold to their present policy.

Anyone interested in more information about the school should contact Ure at the Gazette office.



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