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## Dalhousie clubs tighten membership rules in bar wars

by C. Ricketts

What's the difference between a grad student and a law student? Whatever it is, friction has surfaced at Dal between the law and grad students' private drinking clubs, The Grad House and Domus Legis.

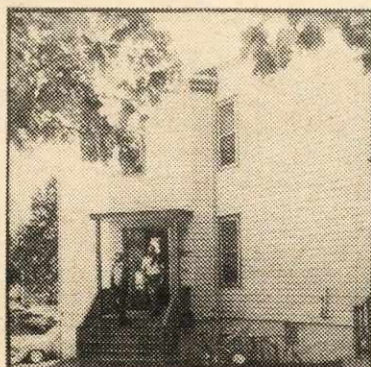
The Grad House and Domus Legis, the law students' club, are both private clubs whose facilities are for members' use only. Until recently there had been little problem with grad students going to Domus or law students going to the Grad House during the day. But the Graduate House decided to adhere more closely to house rules on January 10.

The Grad House sits next door to the Student Union Building, on its LeMarchant Street side. Domus Legis is tucked in between residences on Seymour Street, opposite the rear of the SUB.

Assistant bar manager Alec Austen says the Grad House

started turning away all non-members, not just the law students, and staff is simply adhering more strictly to the members-and-guests-only policy instituted when the club opened in September, 1977. "We started checking IDs when we were getting complaints from members that there were no tables at noon because non-members were using the place," he said.

Many of the non-members were law students, said Austen, but there



were also staff, faculty and undergrads eating lunch in the club.

Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students president David Joliffe says, "Our first priority is to grads, to make sure they get use from something they pay for." The Grad House operates on monies collected from graduate student fees and outside membership fees.

Now the grads are being turned away at Domus Legis. Julia Cornish, Domus Legis Society presi-

dent, says up until last Sunday it was up to the individual bartender's discretion to serve non-members. The new policy says grad students must be signed in by a Domus member.

"A lot of members are upset because grads are getting the same courtesies as members when there are no reciprocal courtesies offered," said Cornish. She said one of the Domus bartenders had been refused service at the Grad House when he failed to produce a membership ID. "I can see when their own members don't have room, but we're providing business during off hours," she said. Many grad students take advantage of the fact that Domus remains open into the wee hours of the morning, Cornish said.

Joliffe says he knows of the incident, but doesn't understand why it happened when the club was not busy.

The Grad House has not lost any

business during lunch hours and turning away non-members has led to more memberships being sold since January 10, according to Joliffe. "A large portion of non-Grad memberships are bought by law students," said Joliffe.

"In terms of equal treatment, it's dubious if we are being any more unfair," continues Joliffe. Each year 75 new non-grad memberships are made available, not including those which are renewed. "Theoretically we increase the number of non-grad members each year," he said.

On the other hand, Domus Legis memberships are limited to law students. Cornish says this is due to the small size of the club's building.

Both Joliffe and Cornish say there is little antagonism between the two clubs, because each recognizes the other is acting on its prerogative as a closed membership. Says Cornish, "If the Grad House relaxes its policy to what it was before, so will Domus."

## Modern epidemic not all it's 'herped' up to be

by Arnold Hedstrom

Reprinted from *The Ubysey* by Canadian University Press

Herpes does most damage to the brain.

Its symptoms are paranoia, confusion and an urge to rush to the nearest health clinic. It affects mainly the middle and upper classes. Herpes of the brain is spread by magnetic tape, newsprint, and radio waves - the tools of the media.

"There is an epidemic," says a University of Victoria counselling psychologist, "an epidemic of the press".

The press created the North American herpes syndrome and the mass media has used graphic and exaggerated journalism to attract readers. Magazines from Time to the San Francisco-based Mother Jones have used herpes for cover stories.

Time magazine's August cover story, Today's Scarlet Letter - Herpes, had a noticeable effect on the number of enquiries about the virus at B.C. health clinics. The Time article exposed the most horrifying Herpes cases to be found. The result - an alarmed and uninformed public.

At Vancouver's VD clinic, Dr. Hugh Jones says if the clinic sees

20 people a day, two will come in with false herpes alarms.

"The publicity is certainly alarming people," says Jones. "We see about 80 cases a month or about four a day that have Herpes."

The UBC Herpes clinic also had

increased numbers of enquiries, especially after the Time article, according to herpes researcher Paul Levindusky.

"The general impression we pick up from the media is that there are some really serious consequences and that is not exactly true. Certainly there is an annoyance. People indeed may be sick the first time they contract herpes. Fifty per cent will have a 10 to 14 day period when they are not feeling well.

"There is another 50 per cent out there who will never have any symptoms at all," said Levindusky on a CITR radio interview recently.

"If you understand herpes to be a disease of living, just as you catch colds or catch any of the childhood diseases, then it is not the particularly new disease of the '80's that is being touted in some media presentations."

There is some truth in Time's report, says Levindusky. But he adds 90 per cent won't have the severe physical and psychological effects reported.

"This wasn't pointed out in the Time article. It left the impression that everyone is suffering from deep psychological scars and has to go to sensitivity training sessions to help them through it."

But partial and selective information is only one way the media exploits its readers. The Time article and others play on what most people consider to be an intimate aspect of their lives - their sex life.

The media exploits people's fears and attitudes concerning sex. With

herpes, the most susceptible victims of media exploitation are the upper and middle classes in North America.

"I might venture to say that those in the working class might not be so concerned to present themselves because the effect it has on their lives is not high on their priority lists," Levindusky says.

According to the Herpes Resource Centre in Palo Alto, California, the middle and upper classes are used to having a great deal of control over their lives and herpes to them means a loss of that freedom.

In many third world countries herpes is much more widespread. Levindusky says in warmer climates and crowded conditions most people will have herpes by the age of 30.

But in the West, the middle classes don't live in these conditions so the virus spreads slower. Blood tests of elderly show 80 per cent will have herpes anti-bodies, indicating they have contacted the disease.

"All of us can at least expect to get one type of herpes," Levindusky says.

"Somehow, people have taken notions related to sexually transmitted diseases, like syphilis and gonorrhoea, and said if that is not treated things are just going to get worse. Herpes doesn't do that," says Levindusky.

Herpes, as much as it is a physical and psychological affliction, is an attack on society's sexual mores

which have changed dramatically since the 1960s.

The Time article concluded by stating, "But perhaps not so unhappily, it (herpes) may be a prime mover in helping to bring to a close an era of mindless promiscuity."

### The things Mom never told you...

Herpes is neither new nor uncommon. The disease's name was coined over 25 centuries ago by Hippocrates and today, in North America, blood tests show that four out of five people have been infected with herpes simplex.

The classic herpes symptoms are an outbreak of blisters around the mouth, vagina, penis or anus, one or two weeks after exposure to the virus.

The blisters erupt and enter a wet-ulcer stage. This is followed over the next several days by drying and scabbing. Some people do not have symptoms at all while others become quite ill.

It is when the symptoms are present the disease may be transmitted, usually, though not exclusively, by direct contact.

There are two types of herpes simplex. Herpes simplex I is oral herpes and is transmitted by kissing and mouth contact. Herpes simplex II, genital herpes, is almost always transmitted by sexual contact.

The virus is not transmitted through the air, on toilet seats, or in swimming pools.

Once contacted the virus may cause recurrent outbreaks with some people since the virus remains in the body.

But regardless of how one contacts the virus, aside from discomfort and confusion associated with the disease, the risks to well-being are not insurmountable.

Research about herpes is continuing at clinics like the referral-only clinic at UBC, and many new "antiviral" agents look promising. Other information about the virus is available.