

Stonehouse stonewalls

By J. LEITH BISHOP

The Residence Council of Shirreff Hall has lodged a complaint with the DSU against the administration of the residence. In a formal statement, Sherry Golding, President of Shirreff Hall, cited "a concern about the manner in which Shirreff Hall is being administered" as the reason for the complaint.

Golding elaborated, saying, "students are concerned about the attitude of the administration towards students and about the future of the Residence Council. It is my job to translate those concerns."

The council cites the administration's inconsistency in dealing with residents and handling student problems as their primary reason for the complaint. They feel the administration is not receptive to student input and concerns.

Pam Stonehouse, Dean of Women, declined an interview with the *Gazette*. In a formal let-

ter she told the *Gazette* that "at this time it would not be appropriate to comment" as she is "still waiting for correspondence from the Residence Council outlining their specific concerns regarding the management of Shirreff Hall."

The council admits to not having presented Stonehouse with a list of specific items, but maintains discussions on issues have taken place. Celia Sollows, DSU Representative for Shirreff Hall, remarks that in meetings between the Residence Council executive and the administration "the same issues are brought up again and again and again, but to no avail." Golding calls the meetings "frustrating and futile".

Some residents cite the current election for the 1987-88 Residence Council as an indication of Student dissatisfaction with the administration. There is only one candidate for president, and of the five vice-presidential candidates three are first year students.

Furthermore, students who are currently in leadership positions have chosen not to return as R.A.'s next year or to run for positions of the new council.

The Residence Council initiated the formal complaint as a means of dealing with the problem between the administration and students. Golding says she no longer feels that she can be an objective intermediary between residents and administration. She believes that the DSU, and specifically President Jamie MacMullin, can provide the necessary objectivity to investigate the problem.

Golding submitted the complaint on behalf of the Residence Council to the DSU Executive on January 15 and says the Executive is in full support of investigating any problem. Golding and MacMullin have also met with members of the Dalhousie Administration, who have shown "genuine concern" about the problems.

According to Golding's statement, the Residence Council hopes the complaint will "achieve changes in the methods which are presently employed by the administration or changes in the administrative structure itself". Vice-President Nancy Rubin sums up by saying, "something has to be done to change the root of the problem". Sollows realizes, "it's going to be a long process. They might make some changes that still won't work".

Asner contrafects

By KIRK WILLIAMS

In the wake of "Irangate", debate over the U.S. funding of the Nicaraguan and much publicized "elections" in El Salvador and Guatemala, Canadians have many questions about the changing and volatile conditions in Central America.

From March 4th to the 7th, local Haligonians will have the opportunity to get some answers.

Ed Asner, of "Lou Grant" fame, will open an international conference entitled: **Central America in Crisis: Democracy, Development, Change**. Asner, whose visit is sponsored by the Dalhousie Students' Union, will speak in the McInnis Room at Dalhousie's Student Union Building on Wednesday March 4th at 8:00 p.m.

In addition to his work with the Actors Guild, Asner is a member of the board of the California-based Office of the Americas. Both he and the organization have been outspoken opponents of American foreign policy in Central America. Asner will donate his speaker's fee to the Office.

The conference will formally begin the next evening when Blase Bonpane will give an opening address entitled "Democracy and Change: Liberation Theology in Central America" in Dalhousie's Henson Centre at 8:00 p.m.

Bonpane, a former Maryknoll

priest in Guatemala in the 1950's, is the founder and director of the Office of the Americas—established "to educate the American public about Latin American affairs: our involvement, our contributions and our mistakes."

Bonpane visited Halifax last November when he addressed the Latin American lecture series held at the Halifax Regional Library.

Other speakers will include leading specialists in Central American affairs as well as others from the United States and Central America.

Friday, March 6th, will focus on the central themes of democracy and development, exploring the conditions in El Salvador, Guatemala, Costa Rica and Nicaragua as well as external and internal factors which impede the developmental process. Saturday will be devoted to plenaries and workshops dealing with gender, militarization and Canadian-Central American solidarity.

The conference is jointly organized by Dalhousie University, Saint Mary's University, the International Education Centre, the Atlantic Chapter of the Canadian Association of Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CALACS), the Canadian International Development Agency, and local university and non-governmental groups and organizations.

MPHEC

Continued from Page 3 required, but on what was happening with the economy, taking inflation and enrollment into account.

Brian Mason, Dalhousie University's vice-president of finances, feels the advisory council has reached a middle ground. "There's a balance that comes out. It looks at the needs of the university, and at the government — it's very much aware of its ability to pay."

Durling said this year's focus was underfunding. That's why one per cent is set aside for catch up funds. "Our main focus this year is to try to turn things around. We're trying to impress upon the governments the erosion that has occurred."

According to the AAU statistics universities have been underfunded for the last 20 years when compared on a per client basis to

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