

Council supports Housing Task Force

Dalhousie Student Union has always had some interest in the housing conditions to which its members were subject. In more recent months this general concern has manifested itself in concrete action on the part of student officials. Last year, the students were represented on the City's Housing Task Force by the President of the Student Union; on October 12th of this year, the Student Council voted to support the recommendations of the Task Force; on October 27th, Community Affairs Secretary John D'Orsay, spoke to the City Council's public

meeting on housing on behalf of students; and the Student Council Executive of Dalhousie is in the process of being expanded to include one person solely responsible for Housing policy and problems of the university student.

In his presentation to the public meeting, last week, D'Orsay emphasized the plight of students forced into sub-standard housing and the total lack of any protection from unscrupulous landlords - all the result of the continuously deteriorating housing market of this city. Speaking for the Dalhousie Student Union, D'Orsay told City

Council "we must affirm that we support the recommendations of the Housing Task Force on security of tenant, enforcement of minimum standards and administration of housing legislation as interim measures". As well, he pointed out to the Council that Dalhousie Student Executive was about to include a housing department and he suggested that they seriously consider doing the same - forming a city department responsible only for housing issues and thereby give the housing question the attention it deserves.

Basically, the recommendation of

the Housing Task Force, to which we have lent our support, are the establishment of the housing department at the city level, the establishment of an "Occupancer" with whom landlords would have to register their rental units and notify of any contemplated rent increases (this body would investigate any major rent increases and could turn the matter over to the Residential Tenancies Board which, in turn, is empowered to revoke rent increases), an increase in the housing inspection staff and the establishment of mandatory inspection of rental.

As yet, these recommendations have not been acted upon by the City Council.

Men's lib strikes!

Men's Liberation? What do they have to be liberated from? Women?

No, themselves.

To admit that they have been encouraged to oppress women is only the beginning for the members of Men's Liberation. They feel that men, too, have been pressured by society into stereotyped sex roles which limit their full potential as human beings. These roles are enforced -- sometimes subtly, sometimes not -- upon other men by men themselves. Locked in the prison of a "strong and silent" image, individual men usually do

not realize that the very frustrations, fears or furies which seem unique to them are shared by other men as well. Men's Liberation is a movement that aims at sharing views about the male stereotype with the aim of breaking through its oppression.

The oppression is reflected in a conditioning process which sharply distinguishes masculine and feminine roles: advertising that defines the male image as out-durable, brawny type of rough and tumble male, locker room banter of sexual exploits that boggle the imagination, and competitiveness that

takes the form of a constant ego struggle to be better than one's rivals.

The stereotyping takes other forms as well. A real man is always supposed to provide a sexual apocalypse for his woman; but if that woman gets interested enough in sex to make her own demands, impotence may well be the result. Men are supposed to be capable, always in control, infinitely resourceful -- unless, of course, they are confronted with emotion in another man, in which case they do not know what to do.

Men are discouraged from confiding personally in one another; but they are still expected to be "good buddies".

Questions like these are raised and discussed by the Men's Liberation Movement at small

group meetings held weekly in the home of a member. These Consciousness Raising groups (as the meetings are known) represent the introspective aspect of Men's Liberation, which is increasingly becoming a social and political force.

The Men's Liberation movement is largely based in the metropolitan centers of Ontario and the west. In October the first National Men's Liberation conference was held in Waterloo, Ontario.

Over the last few weeks, several men have been organizing a Halifax-Dartmouth Men's Liberation Movement and Consciousness Raising group. For information on Men's Liberation or the CR group, drop by to 1125 Wellington Street, Halifax or phone 429-2005 and ask for Allan.

Cheyne

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from group organization. Now, certainly some groups are going to feel that they are not getting their \$50 worth. But, that's the difference between maximization, and optimization; optimization is presumably when you can't do anything more without taking something away from someone else. I'm sorry, of course that necessarily is vague and I'm certainly not saying that we've reached the ideal solution. But I don't think the ideal solution is to carte-blanche, grant \$10,000 to them and say, 'there you go, we support you'; that is not the way to support in our view. Nevertheless, and I don't mean to play this down at all because the Society Support Committee is taking an extremely objective view of this, we are approaching this question with some seriousness.

Q. Why has the Society Support Committee only met twice since July?

A. There was a bit of an inference in the last Gazette issue that the Committee is sort of going through the motions. However the main role the Committee sees for itself is to discuss and analyze the various presentations of the societies on campus. So that there has not been a tremendous need for a lot of meetings to this date. Now

we've received our last submission to this Committee so that the Committee is going to meet again on the 4th of November and we're going to make an attempt to get this through the November 16th Council meeting. So that what I'm saying is that the Committee is not stalling, in fact the reason we've waited so long is because the graduate students were late with their submission.

Q. Mr. Cheyne seems to feel that since DAGS fulfills many of the functions that the Student Union would normally do, they should get just compensation. How do you feel about this point?

A. I think that John would find it difficult to back up that statement in money arguments because he may be referring to their bar facilities. I think he probably is, I mean what else do they have to offer? To be perfectly frank, I see that as a social function. Basically the \$50 that a student pays has nothing to do with our liquor operations. Liquor is paid for entirely from proceeds and any student from this University can walk in the door. What I'm saying is that a lot of the facilities that we offer and that the graduate students suggest they offer as well don't cost us anything from our \$50 e.g. entertainment, liquor, and the games room.

Q. Mr. Cheyne also feels that DAGS acts as a mediary between the graduate students and the administration. What are your com-

ments on this statement?

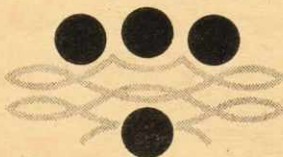
A. I think I could venture to disagree with that, I think the Student Union has its foot in a few doors too. Also, the law students have an extremely close working relationship with their faculty, and I think the same can be said for the medical students. If you analyze some of the arguments in detail and compare them with other societies, their basic argument that they have the best society simply does not hold water, and I'm bending over backwards to be objective. I could use much stronger language."

Hopefully the views of these two gentlemen have cleared the air, so to speak, and left us with a clear and concise picture of the conflict between DAGS and the Student Union system itself. It is difficult to predict the consequences of this conflict, although it is easy to see its importance to all the students at Dalhousie.

Application

Applications are now being received for the position of Chief Returning Officer for the Student Union. This person is to share the Student Union's Election Committee. This committee is responsible for the administration of all elections of officers of the Union and members of Council, and any other elections that are necessary during the year. The Committee may make regulations governing the conduct of elections, subject to regulations made by Council. The Committee is also responsible for settling any disputes arising from elections. Applications should be submitted to the Council Office, Room 222, by 5 P.M. November 7th.

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