

# DAGS consider political autonomy

by Susan Edgett

The Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students (DAGS) will be presenting a set of proposals for political autonomy to the Student Union affirmed Siona Bastable, president of DAGS.

DAGS 22 member council will be sitting down this week to draw up the proposals. Bastable would not reveal details of the proposals until her council has come to an agreement on the issue.

At the NUS conference in Vancouver this year, Bastable and Matthews verbally agreed to seriously consider political autonomy for DAGS. The time has come for DAGS and DSU to sit down and talk she said. First of all, the two organizations must get to know each other better in order to come to an understanding. DAGS is going to make a big effort to inform DSU about its aims and functions. Matthews has been given an open invitation to drop in anytime at the Grad House to meet and talk with the graduates.

DAGS consists of 1100 members, the majority of whom are either married, foreign or working students. A graduate can be described as the cross between a student and a professor. Belonging to neither university group on a full-time basis, he/she participates periodically in both aspects of university life. A graduate is generally occupied with his/her thesis, assisting professors at the same time by marking exams, lecturing or doing research. The graduate

image is a person who is mature, hard-working and politically minded.

However, DSU is primarily concerned with the undergraduates and most often social activities are their priority. DSU does not have the time needed to work in the interests of graduate students. You could look at it this way; DAGS is doing DSU a favor by concentrating on graduate affairs alone and taking 1100 students off their hands. At the moment, DAGS is represented by John McArel and Peter Rans in the Student

Union.

The Grad House has an annual budget of \$30,000 and they only want to break even to insure its continuity. The association subsidizes the grad bar and the upstairs is available for meetings and social gatherings at a reasonable price. DAGS also supports the Academic Enriching Fund by donating \$100 to those who wish to sponsor a guest speaker for the benefit of the students.

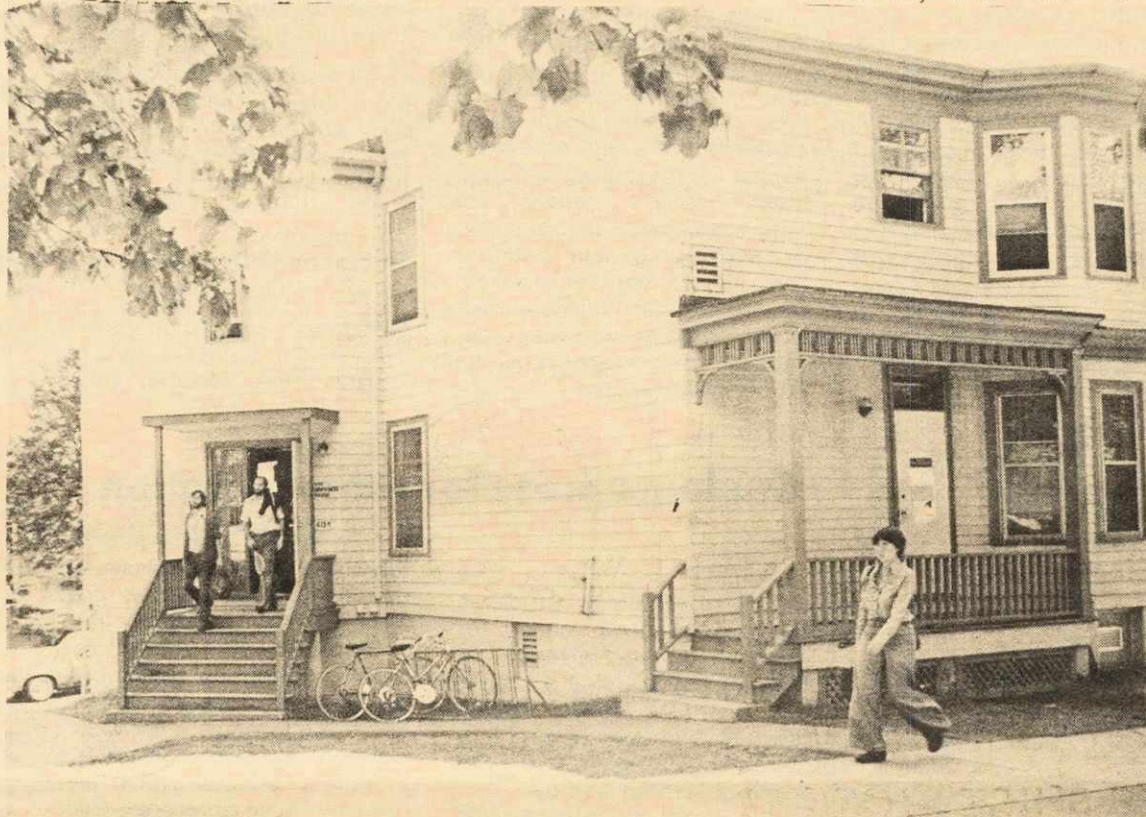
Looking on a national scale, most university student

unions and graduate associations have come to terms on political autonomy. The National Organization of Graduates will be represented at the National Students Union (NUS), scheduled for Halifax in May 1980. DAGS would like to be guaranteed voting power at this conference. They would also be seeking direct representation as a student organization on the Student Union of

Nova Scotia.

"If DSU gets to know us and we get to know them, political autonomy won't seem like

such a bad thing," said Bastable. The president does not see any reason for DAGS to secede from DSU. Bastable has been asked to speak at the DSU meeting on Sunday, the 30th. DAGS is intent on promoting their information campaign until before Christmas. If negotiations have made no progress by then, DAGS will look to other means.

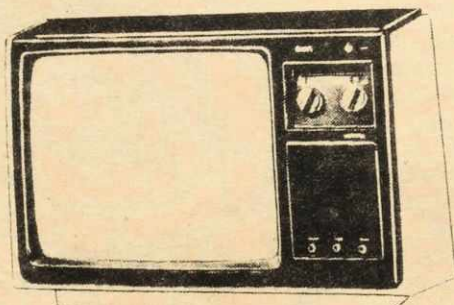


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## Open hours

According to reliable sources, yet another brief chapter in the history of the "Open Hours" proposal will be written when the Board of Governors meets today. Perhaps it will approve the proposal, which would seem only just, considering the effort the women have put into forwarding their case.

Briefly, "Open Hours" would allow the residents of Sherriff Hall the freedom of having men stay overnight in their rooms, at least on weekends. Bedlam? Hardly; if passed, "Open Hours" rights would be strictly regulated by a committee of Sherriff Hall residents. The chief argument for the proposal is the right to do as one pleases in private, provided one doesn't disturb others. See next week's GAZETTE for further details.



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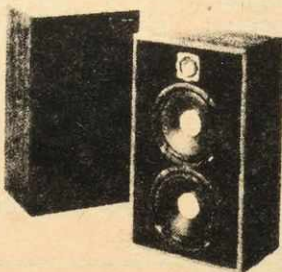
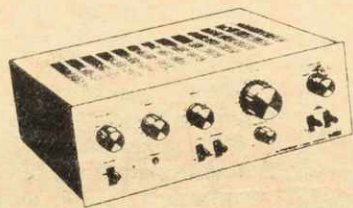
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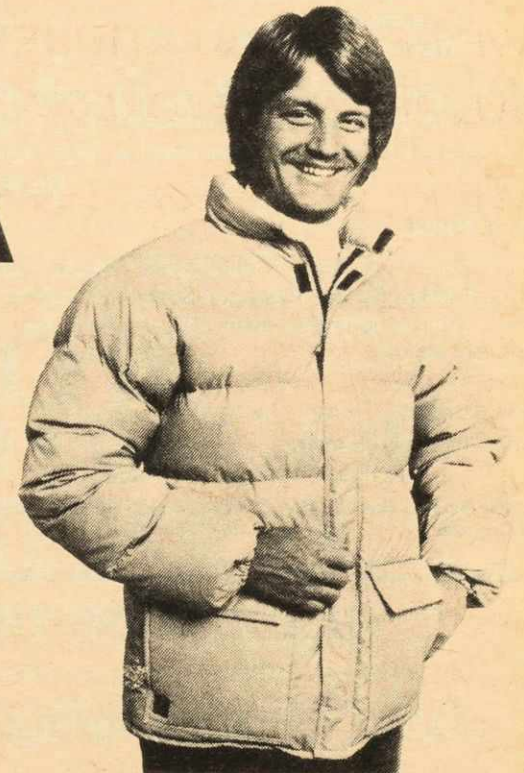


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