



... After a typical SUB night

# SUBstandard?

by Danièle Gauvin

The opening of the SUB ten years ago was an extravagant affair, featuring 'stuff-yourself' buffets from Versafoods and an 'orgy of entertainment'. The Atlantic Symphony was there, as well as "The Doodletown Pipers", "The Cats", "Little Anthony and the Footlights" and many more. There were all-night movies and quite a bit of drinking. One student suggested that the SUB had been baptised with more beer than champagne.

However, the party almost never was. Less than 24 hours before the building was scheduled to open, the mess left behind by construction workers still hadn't been cleared. An emergency brigade of 500 students took only two hours to clean and sweep all the rooms.

That wasn't the only averted disaster in the SUB's history. John Graham, general manager of the SUB for the last ten years, recalls an incident which took place during the turbulent sixties. A speaker for the Communist Party of Canada (Marxist-Leninist), (CPC ML) caused quite a commotion in the SUB lobby and Graham decided that it was time to break up the crowd. Movement followers and hostile students were massed in the lobby and the tension between them was already leading to fistfights. Graham made his way to the center of the lobby, hoping to attract attention away from the speaker until he could be whisked away to safety. From his standpoint, he could see someone leaning over the 2nd floor balcony, about to drop a water bomb on the speaker. "I motioned for SUB staff to hold him back," remembers Graham. "It was the closest we've ever come to a riot."

Most of the militancy of the 60's has left the Dal campus and has been replaced by a sort of 'seventies pragmatism'.

There is no issue such as the Vietnam war unifying students in protest, but many of the on-campus issues which infuriated students in 1968 are still being fought out in 1978. Increases in tuition, bookstore prices, academic freedom, Shirreff Hall regulations, membership in National student societies and the banning of political propaganda in the SUB lobby are still unresolved issues.

"The last decade has brought changes in the building itself, not only in the people who pass through its doors," said Graham. The SUB now boasts a housing office, an improved cafeteria and the Grawood. It has lost the 'powder puff' ladies lounge (for showers etc.) and the reading and music rooms in the process. SUB staff has increased from 25 to 160 students, with the result that Dal is one of the few Canadian universities which have student-run student union

buildings. Since the Student Union pledged \$1,000,000 towards defraying the cost of the SUB, student control seems logical.

Today's students seem to be more sensible than those of a few years ago, according to Graham. "Two years ago, if someone had suggested that we put plants, whether real or fake, in the cafeteria, I would have laughed", he said. Although we now have 2,500 people going through our doors every hour, vandalism has decreased enough for us to leave plants in the cafeteria," he added.

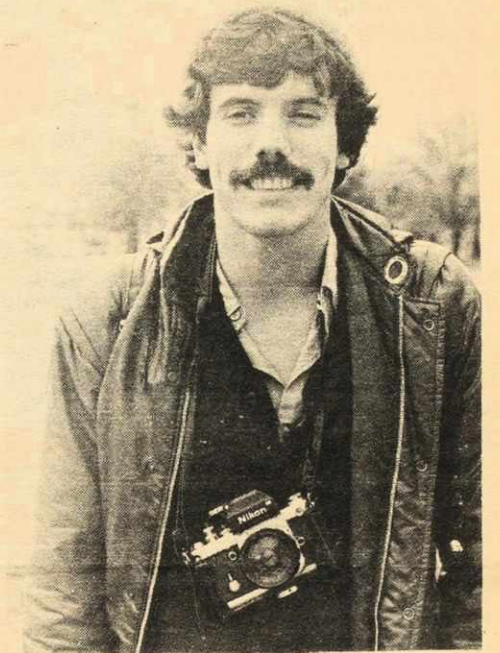
In 1968, the SUB lobby was more likely to hold some sort of protest group rather than the studious readers of today. Changes are now planned for the lobby itself. Amidst the changes, the SUB still provides a meeting center for 7,500 students. Is it still the 'pulsating heart of campus' which it was a decade ago?



60's hippie or 70's punk?



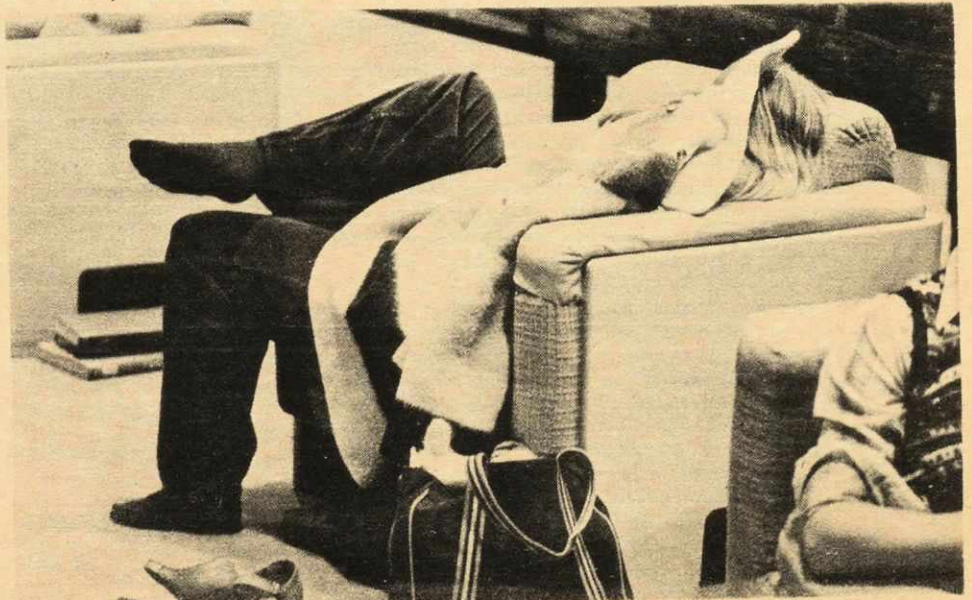
Ah...the sixties...



Throughout the years, intrepid photo treaks...



They've always been the same at exam time!



Some years, housing was worse than usual...



What a classic?