

NEWS BRIEFS

Student Council proposes ad in Herald

It was proposed by Student Council that an advertisement be placed in The Chronicle Herald presenting student views on funding for post-secondary education in Nova Scotia. The costs for the ad would be shared by various societies on campus. Representatives are going back to their respective societies to decide on available funds for the proposal.

Alternate methods for expressing student views were also suggested. Commerce Rep., Bruce McGowan, suggested that a letter to the editor be written and Paul Clark, Editor of the *Gazette*, proposed writing and submitting a commentary.

Science Rep., Caroline Zayid, said that she feels an ad would have more impact but that a letter or commentary would be effective along with the ad.

Damages cause "Green Room closure"

Damage in the Green Room, which resulted in the "Green Room closure" controversy, has been reported as \$2315.36.

Much of the cost was a direct result of abuse of the furnishings which included stolen chair cushions and torn upholsteries. Not included in this figure was the carpet cleaning.

According to Student Council President, Gord Owen, the closure was to draw attention to the abuse and to the considerable damage done.

Council wants dictator removed

A professor at Carlton University has acted as a messenger for The Council of National Liberation of Haiti.

The Council issued an ultimatum, through Professor Chi, that if a peaceful turnover of power by dictator Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier is not forthcoming, there will be military action. The Council includes exiled Haitians in many countries as well as some high ranking officials in the present government.

Non Smoking section expanded

Marie Gilkinson, Chairperson of the Sub-ops committee, announced the expansion of the non-smoking section in the Garden.

The area was only the back right section since a non-smoker may go to a smoking section to talk to friends but a smoker may not smoke in a non-smoking section while with friends. But since demand increased another section will be designated as non-smoking.

\$1000.00 per sign

Jim Sykes, Director of the Dalhousie Physical Plant feels there's a need for the place signs we have seen around campus, such as the one seen in front of the Chemistry Building. So far there have been five of these signs put up, each costing \$1000. The purpose of these signs, the identification of the buildings, are for visitors and new students. Because of the outrageous price of these signs, Sykes is now attempting to make them in a different, less expensive way.

Women: Equal opportunity big myth

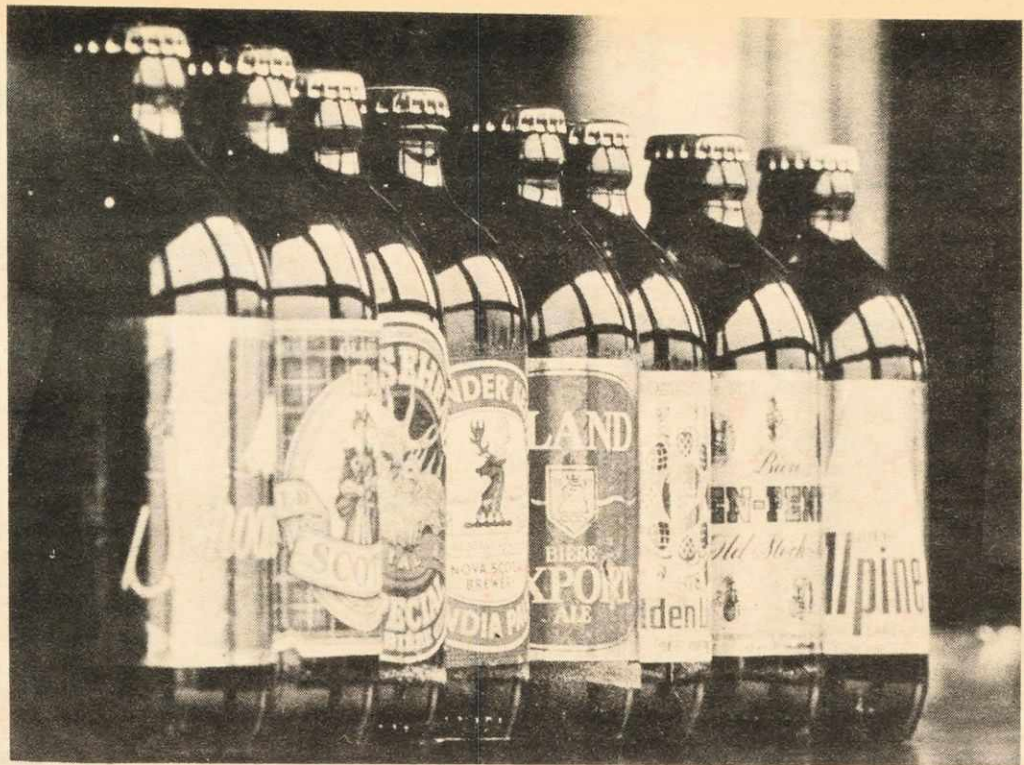
(ZNS)—If Pennsylvania is any indication, equal credit opportunity for women instituted five years ago under federal law may be a big myth.

The *Hazleton Standard Speaker* newspaper reports that although credit bureaus are required by law to list a woman's name along with her husbands on joint accounts, that doesn't seem to be happening in Pennsylvania.

The newspaper says, in fact, that a survey it made of credit bureaus and department store credit offices recently yielded no sign of awareness of the credit rights women have been guaranteed since 1975.

For example, the newspaper cites the case of one married woman with 30 years of joint accounts and promptly paid bills who asked her local credit bureau what was listed under her name. The bureau said nothing was listed. It also revealed that of 12 accounts listed under her husband's name, only two even mentioned her, even though they were joint accounts.

When a department store later issued the woman a credit card in her own name, she found that the only change in the store's original records was to add "and spouse" to her husband's name.



Higgins/Dal Photo

Alcoholism is not a problem on campus

As the trend moved away from the drug culture of the late sixties and early seventies, there was concern that the growing acceptance of alcohol by university students would lead to increased consumption. Dr. Johnson said that liquor consumption at Dalhousie is no different than it is in the outside world.

Part testament to this would be the recent drop in alcohol sales at the Grawood Lounge. Although SUB Bar Services say they are not sure of the exact figure, some sources claim that this year's deficit will run as high as \$20,000. Assistant Bar Manager Drew Taylor observed that there has been a decline in the number of Grawood patrons over the

past three years. "People aren't drinking as much," said Taylor. "The popularity of bars downtown are partly to blame." The Grawood still does sell a good amount of alcohol and averages around 400 pints of beer a night. Taylor admitted that sales do fluctuate. "Some times are busier than others. During orientation week for instance, we could make \$1,000 a night." Assistant Bar Manager Tim Curtis blames a drop in the number of SUB entertainment events on slumping sales. Curtis said that at such events plenty of liquor was sold and obviously the decrease in those held this year had led to a decrease in sales. Curtis agrees that downtown

bars have also cut into sales. "It's hard to compete with draft," he says.

Despite this, Dr. Johnson believes that university students are not heavy drinkers. "There are alcoholics on campus," he said, "but they don't last long because they can't drink all the time and keep their grades up." Dr. Johnson admits that there has been a general increase in drinking over the past ten years. "It's socially acceptable, easily available, and you don't get busted for using it." Dr. Johnson compares the university campus to a microcosm of the outside society with consumption directly proportional to that in the rest of the city.

SUNS debates proposed EPF cuts

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Gord Owen, Council President, and also a delegate to the SUNS conference, says that many institutions in the province could shut down if the proposed cuts go ahead and the provinces don't pick up the funding.

"Under the present system, education is an expensive business. I don't think anyone will deny that. If the proposed federal cuts go through, it would shift the financial burden to the provincial government. The province just can't afford this. It's been estimated that in Nova Scotia our share would be between \$40-50 million. You just can't draw that sort of money out of thin air.

The consequences on the educational opportunities in Nova Scotia would simply be disastrous", said Owen.

Andrew MacKay, president of Dalhousie, states that the submissions of the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUTS) and the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada have indicated concern for the funding arrangements. Since the review committee to be formed will be an all-party committee, there should be

opportunity for input from the universities, according to MacKay.

"However", says MacKay, "My own major concern is that there is sufficient lead time for all those involved to adjust to any changes. I believe there is a commitment of some sort of notice from the federal government, of two to three years ahead of time."

Stating that he had no idea what the results of major cuts in the federal cost-sharing would be for Dalhousie, MacKay would only speculate that if federal funding was cut by as much as fifty percent, Dalhousie would be in "very serious straits".

Council President Owen states that he feels SUNS should organize a larger awareness campaign next fall, even to the extent of having a demonstration or march.

"In order to make that march effective, we've got to have a large-scale internal awareness program, so that the march is effective from the point of community and student support. Every student on this and every other campus has got to be made aware of what would happen if these cuts were made. Our educational system would be

in chaos."

Although the possible reduction of cost-sharing payments was the major topic at the SUNS conference, other issues were discussed. According to SUNS secretary-treasurer Champion, the accessibility of Councils outside the Halifax area was also brought up. The involvement of SUNS in cost-sharing for travel expenses was passed as a resolution in order to enable those delegates from outside Halifax to bring more input to the SUNS organization.

"I'm hoping this will make it easier for the outside Halifax people to stay in touch", said Champion.

Another event announced at the conference was the referendum on joining the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) which made St. Mary's Student Union the first in Canada to join the newly merged student organization. (CFS is a result of a merge between NUS and AOSC, the lobby and service organizations for the national student organization). The referendum, which was apparently extremely well-timed, was counted only six hours before a similar vote at Carleton University in Ontario.