

Atmosphere changes at the Grawood

By MARK ALBERSTAT

VETERAN DALHOUSIE students who frequent the Grawood lounge will have noticed that over the past year or two the atmosphere of the bar has changed. It is no coincidence that this is the same time period that Debbie Brown has been looking after the popular campus haunt.

Tim Pertus, head of Bar Services, says that they want the Grawood to be a "service-oriented bar. The bands cost us money to bring in but we're looking for an alternate form of entertainment for the students."

Some of the changes made under Brown's reign have been the refurbishing of the walls, the institution of the Armchair Tigers, better table service, sports prints on one wall and pictures of different activities on campus on another, and a cozier atmosphere in the area near the door.

Over the summer the old wallpaper was stripped off, the walls underneath were painted, and part of them was covered by arborite. The renovation cost approximately \$1,200.

Pertus says the bar "needed a facelift but it couldn't cost too much."

Brown says when she first came to the Grawood she "wanted to make it a comfortable place for the students to come and enjoy themselves."

Brown has started a lip-sync competition at the lounge, as well as theme nights; these events are staged to "bring people in for the first time, hoping they will enjoy themselves and want to come back," said Brown. "Our Friday nights have picked up and when I brought the jazz group in all three times the place was packed on Friday and Saturday nights." The Jazz Vanguard inspired the Grawood to put table cloths and candles on the tables.

"With that type of group we are attracting a lot of the older people in the area and some of the older students. It's good to get them in here, and it's also good to give them something they like," said Brown.

One of Brown's ideas that should be popular with students is the notion of installing a dance floor.

"When we have bands in, what we've been doing is pulling some of the tables that are up by the stage away so that people can dance. I would also like to see the bar extended around the corner, but I think there could be a problem with that because of a cooling system against the back wall."

In an attempt to bring people in on the usually slow Monday, the Grawood and the Athletics Department started the Armchair Tigers, a sport club that caters to armchair athletes. The first night was the most popular but since then attendance has been slipping, except for a few Mondays with special events.

Two years ago the Grawood was invaded at noon-hour by Beaver Foods. Pertus said the food company coming into the Grawood could only help the usually slow noontime.

"The SUB needed some more room for lunchtime. Most of the people in the Grawood were bringing their own lunch and very little beer was being bought. We proposed that Beaver Foods come in. They agreed to it, and brought all their own equipment, and any beer they sell is first

bought from us. A percentage of all sales from the lunchtime crowd go back to the Student Union."

Pertus said the Grawood was keeping its financial head above water. The major expense of running the lounge is the workers' wages. During the school year those amount to approximately \$5,000 a month with liquor costs ranging from \$9,500 to 10,000.

Dal falls short in computing

By LOIS CORBETT

PEOPLE ARE "SCHIZOPHRENIC" about increasing Dalhousie University's computing resources, says the executive director of its computer information services.

Peter Jones is the main author of the "five year plan" the computer services presented last term to the Dalhousie Board of Governors. The plan includes requests for almost double the amount of staff and new computer equipment.

The university installed a new administrative computer last term, a \$1 million IBM 4381

Jones says reaction to his proposal has been "schizophrenic." "People want the computer resources of Dalhousie increased, but they are wondering what other places will be cut," he says.

Dal neglected computer services in the past, says Jones, and now it has to try to catch up.

"We'll be comparable to other universities of our size by 1990," he says.

Most people agree the area is important, says Jones, but "they don't want to see a cutback somewhere else."

Dalhousie's current computer facilities are "grossly under-resourced, especially in staffing," says Jones

Robbie Shaw, Dalhousie's vice-president of finances, says the reason investing money in computer resources is "such a problem now is a question of timing."

"Other universities expanded their computer facilities five years ago, when it was a debate between computers and investing in some other new technology," says Shaw.

But because Dalhousie is five years behind, says Shaw, the present debate is between computers and the quality of some existing academic services.

MISSA Night

ADDING DIVERSITY AND contrast to Dalhousie students' way of life, the Malaysian Indonesian Singaporean Students' Association will be featuring dance, cuisine, and music at MISSA night this Saturday.

MISSA night is the highlight of their social and cultural activities. It is an evening of pageantry and music underlying a mixture of arts and popular culture of Southeast Asia.

This year, the programme includes a Bali dance, Chinese Ribbon dance, Indian dance and a traditional costume show.

The evening is prepared by the MISSA students themselves, and a banquet featuring Southeast Asian cuisine will be served.

Tickets are available right now. If interested please feel free to contact the following. Su Kar Hawk — 422-2532 or MISSA's office at 1394 Edward St.

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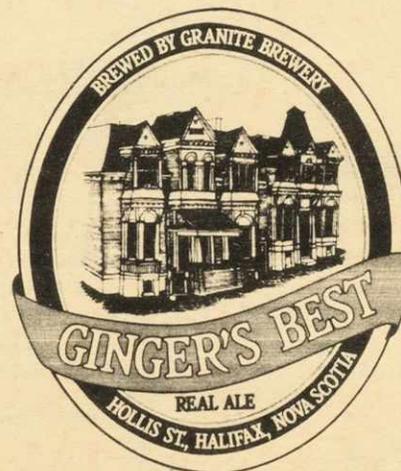
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