

The academic offence portion of the discipline code for Dalhousie is now in effect, with virtually no consultation with students. It was drawn up by an ad hoc committee of Senate Council after this body did not accept the initial recommendations of the Senate Discipline Committee.

Until now there has been no discipline code; decisions were made and penalties imposed on the basis of the individual case and at the whim of those sitting in judgement. General opinion indicated that some definitive regulations were needed.

To a degree, such regulations WERE needed because students were sometimes penalized on account of their political beliefs. So now we have a partial discipline code with the rest of it to follow in a couple of weeks. This leaves us with a written code which organizes and attempts to justify discipline. We now know what regulations we are breaking, and we now know what sort of punishment to expect if we are caught. But all this certainly does not eliminate the obvious defect in this line of thought.

This defect lies in the fact that the values of society force us to cheat in order to reach the goals already set for us. The discipline code can be rewritten a thousand times, but the enforced need to attain that goal will overcome any sense of wrongdoing.

Unfortunately we are going to have a discipline code and if we are going to make it work for us, it will have to be drastically changed from its present form.

Under the approved provisions, the judge and jury (and hangman?) is to be the Senate Discipline Committee, comprised of three Senate members and two students. It is interesting to note that the group that made the recommendations consisted of four faculty and administrative people and one student, Student Council president Brian Smith.

There is an appeals provision in these regulations. If a student is dissatisfied with any decision, he may appeal to the Senate, a massive body with only three students as members. As usual, it is faculty and administration that determines what is right and what is wrong. If there is to be discipline, then students should try students, and faculty and staff should try faculty and staff respectively. The exception would be in an obvious conflict between any of these groups, when a combination "jury" would be put into effect.

The matter of penalties is similar. The imposition of a penalty inhibits that one person from cheating temporarily. But it does not prevent others from cheating because it does not solve the cause of the problem. That problem is a system which demands that people conform to rulings established by others. It is a system which demands that students get a degree make lots of money and become a "success".

The solution does not come with the punishment of one by another's rules; it must be found in the reasons why we have people constantly forced into finding means to overcome the system.

# The University News

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## Administrative Tonsils

# The Senate Discipline Code

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## Society's Hangmen

by Don Retson

One recommendation that should come out of the recent task force hearings on the quality of student life is a move to do away with the University News. A groundswell of negative feeling against this paper was obvious to anyone who attended the second open hearing of the Task Force at Howe Hall.

Derek Mann, who is responsible for overseeing the operation of University News came under strong attack from a number of people. Several students expressed annoyance with the operation of the paper, the purpose of the paper and the \$28,000 that is wasted annually for its publication.

Mann did little to allay the students' suspicions that the paper is little more than an administration mouthpiece.

Mann complained that the University News had never received any letters from interested students since it began last year. When they had the recent opportunity to publish a letter by Ken MacDougall which pointed out some of the shortcomings of this university, they refused to print it.

As justification for not publishing the article, Mann stated that it was not the policy of the University News "to publicize any bad points about the university in a way that would damage the university." "This", he said, "would be irresponsible."

Mann went on to say that the University News was intended primarily as "a public relations vehicle", though he denied that it was solely the voice of the administration. He later contradicted himself by saying that the paper "would be used when necessary to express the university administration's policy on important issues."

By Mann's own admission, the University News makes no effort to present both sides of any story, let alone publish anything of the most limited controversial nature. Thus the paper may best be described as Dalhousie's "Chronic Error".

It is interesting that the Task Force story in the March 17 edition of the University News made absolutely no mention of the several students who demanded the scrapping of the paper. It is also interesting that there was no by-line on the story. (Informed sources indicate that it just happened to be written by Derek Mann.)

If Mann actually wants us to believe that the University News is open to all segments of the academic community, why aren't interested students permitted to work on the paper on a part-time, paid basis? Better still, scrap the University News and see that the money presently wasted on it is put to a more productive and democratic use.

## The Dalhousie Gazette

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COLLEGE NEWSPAPER**

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