



Jean-Paul Deveau, engineering rep, ponders political life at council.

## Ombudsman to the rescue

The academic year 1977-78 marks the eighth term of office of the Ombudsman at Dalhousie. However, it is only the first year that the Office of Ombudsman has been accepted by the University on an indefinite basis and with approved settled terms of reference for its operation.

These developments are the result of the work of the Senate Review Committee under the chairmanship of Dr. Duff whose report on the Ombudsman was adopted by Senate over the summer. Whilst some doubts were expressed by some Senators as to the need to continue the Office, the consensus was that the Office had performed a useful function within the University community and should be maintained.

The number of users of the Office has remained fairly constant over the years with an average of 60 files opened

per year. Though the Ombudsman is available to all members of the University, the vast majority of users are students. Over half the problems investigated were of an academic nature.

Thus far this year the most frequent complaints have been by part-time students affected by the operation of the University's regulation as to full payment of fees at registration, and the University's charges for late payment by these students. The matter is presently being investigated.

At present the Ombudsman is Nick Pittas, while the Senate's Ombudsman Advisory Committee is due to select the new holders of the Office sometime this month.

The Ombudsman performs a number of functions depending on the nature of each individual complaint. The Office is a source of information and a referral centre when

complainants are unaware of existing procedures for resolving disputes.

In addition, in appropriate cases the Office can offer to act as an impartial mediator and make recommendation as to a fair settlement.

In other cases the Ombudsman determines whether University regulations have been adhered to, and may make recommendations to change existing regulations when this seems warranted by new circumstances.

In some cases the Ombudsman has a discretionary power to represent the complainant in his or her dealings with the University when it is deemed appropriate.

The Office is located on the third floor of the SUB, and office hours are posted on the door. If you feel that the University has been less than fair to you in its dealings visit the Ombudsman.

## Council Briefs

by Wayne Hall

A motion to increase the fee paid by King's Student Union for the use of Dal facilities by King's students was approved by council at Sunday's meeting. The motion precipitated some lively debate, especially from Darryl Dexter, Vice-President External Affairs of King's College Student Council. Council felt that since so many King's students were using Dal facilities they should pay for them. As a result, King's must pay a total of \$10 per student if they wish to continue to use Dal Student Union Facilities.

Later on in the meeting, President Mike Power announced that he had been informed that no Dal student will be allowed to use any of the King's Student Facilities.

### Gazette Salary Increase

After much discussion, Council voted to pay the Gazette Editor Marc Allain and Advertising Manager Matthew Adamson a salary of \$370 per month each for a seven month period. The motion began with Gazette staff member Nigel Allen stating that both positions were "full time jobs, and that they should be paid as such". Councillor Denise Soucy Roberge also supported the motion. But several council members questioned the necessity of the increase.

Member Jim Prentice expressed the fear that Council might not be satisfied with the performance of future Staff members, and that given constitutional difficulties it might be a problem later for council to adjust them accordingly. After much discussion, the move was finally tabled. However, when Allain and Adamson arrived, the motion was reintroduced and after some discussion Council voted to increase the salaries to the proposed level.

### H.C.F.E. Grant Approved

Steve Baltzer, Chairman of the Student Council Grants Committee, announced at Sunday's meeting that the Committee had awarded the Halifax Coalition for Full Employment a Grant of \$100.

**Gazette**  
**Happy hour**  
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**Oct. 25 & 26**

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