

NEWS

Dalhousie SUB space controversy rages

BY JOEY GOODINGS

The DSU is advertising the availability of room 314 in the SUB as office space for student societies. The Mature Student's Association and the Dalhousie Science Society (DSS), who presently occupy the room, are not happy campers.

the student union uses the building to favour its pet projects

"This is all of our office and lounge space, period. This is all we have," says Russ Pevlin of the Mature Student's Society. "They [the DSU] are talking about moving four or five more societies in here."

The DSS complains it doesn't have proper office space at present, and moving more societies into

the room will only make things worse.

Both societies think sufficient office space is available for student societies on campus, and accuse the DSU of giving societies a low priority.

DSU Vice-President Hilary Wells says she realizes the need for more space but adds, "we don't have it."

Last year room 314 was converted into a "society catch-all", making the room available as office space for societies. Though "A" societies were given preference, all societies were able to apply for space in the room. Only the DSS and Mature students moved in.

According to their contracts, the DSS and the Mature Students were allowed to use the space for a one year contract terminating last May. In June the DSS and the Mature Students affirmed their intentions to renew their contracts for this year.

Wells argues since the room is supposed to be available as office space to all societies, all societies should have the opportunity to apply for the space. She says the Mature Students and the DSS do



One of these things is not like the others.

not have any special rights to room 314.

"I don't think it's fair for the DSS and the Mature Students to take over the room. That is not what it is there for," says Wells.

The President of the Arts Society, Sean Maloney, agrees with Wells. After a lengthy debate over the use of the room at a meeting last Tuesday, he reluctantly accepted a space in a locker room accessible through room 314, until things can be worked out.

Wells is planning to look into the way space is used in the SUB, but she maintains room 314 is office space, and is accepting applications from student groups who wish to have an office in that room. Wells promises to do what she can to find lounge space for the Mature Students.

Pevlin is adamant about keeping the Mature Students lounge, warning that if the DSU can't find a new lounge, "then we will fight the battle of getting this changed into a lounge."

The Mature Students and the DSS are pressuring the DSU into finding more space to accommodate their needs. They think such space exists.

"We know there's space in the SUB, and the Students Union uses the building to favour its 'pet projects' rather than help student organizations," says Dennis MacNeil, President of the DSS.

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Acting Mayor Wallace retires

BY BRUCE GILCHRIST

Ron Wallace is retiring from public office this year after more than a decade acting as mayor of Halifax. One of our reporters went down to city hall to talk to him before he cleaned out his desk.

Gaz: Do you find that the 90s have changed people's opinions about politicians?

Wallace: Because of the disenchantment with existing leaders I think the Canadian public is cranky, and cynical, which is unfortunate. I think that politicians are being made to account more now than previously for their performance, so it isn't an easy time to be in politics, but it's important to be in politics.

Gaz: Could you tell me about race relations in the city and how you expect them to change by the year 2000?

Wallace: Well, race relations refers to a whole large area of relations and treatment and attitudes and all that sort of thing. It probably is talking about discrimination based on colour. Going back in history Halifax had a lot of bad practices and these are changing. I can remember when the highest job a person from the black community could get was the pullman porter and nothing higher. So there wasn't much incentive to get a university education, because you didn't need it for that position. That is changing. Opportunities have been opened up, many

through an affirmative action thrust. So that is changing, and that's what it is all about, change... because the commitment is to equality for everyone. You have to remember that identical treatment isn't equal treatment.

Gaz: What do you plan to do when you leave?

Younger people find it easier to understand the differences and accept them without difficulty

Wallace: I'm not looking for an answer at the moment. I'm concentrating on wrapping up the things connected with leaving a career where you've been involved in for eleven years. In fact, I'll still be working in the office as Mayor until November 1st, and it just business as usual.

Gaz: What sort of advice would you give to young people?

Wallace: Well, probably the worst thing you can do in life is to give advice, and I don't think I could give it to them. I think young people are learning values that we don't even have in the matter of understanding and acceptance of other peoples and minorities, or those as we say today are physically

or even mentally challenged. Younger people find it easier to understand the differences and accept them without difficulty. People of past generations have been moulded by the climate and environment they grew up in and they are apt to have set ways and set thinking, some complete sort of mindset. Younger people are often more open, more flexible, and I think their attitudes are good and apt to be much better than the people who were here in the past generations. I think that the younger people are moving away from some unfortunate attitudes and it's going to take this generation and the next one to make new progress, and to move away from some set attitudes that were really not healthy, not what they should have been.



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