

WORDS FROM THE WISE ...

BUREAUCRACY HAS A HEART!



To The Gazette:

Having come to Dalhousie via a smaller school I tend to criticize the impersonal bureaucracy of this larger institution as loudly if not more so than many. However the following incident in its contrast to the normal course of events deserves special mention.

While en route from the Awards Office to the bank with

my student loan I dropped the papers on the street. The form having been signed by the university needed only my signature to make it negotiable. Realizing the acute possibility of a forgery I quickly informed the bank as to the then state of affairs.

The next morning I returned to the Awards Office purely for the purpose of inquiring into the

process of obtaining a new form, an operation that was clearly my own responsibility. To my surprise Mr. Steedman and the Awards Office staff went out of their way to accommodate me.

They did everything from checking with lost and found to phoning Fredericton N.B. to cancel the old form and requisition a new one. Finally,

they made a very kind gesture to make special allowances for any acute shortage of funds resulting in the interim.

At this point I was inclined to merely say good show for being considerate in the performance of a job. However things did not grind to a halt at this point.

It is chapter two in what became a continuing saga which has prompted me to inform the voice of Dal people, of people bending over backwards to do a very human thing in an extraordinarily hectic period.

The next day the Awards Office again communicated with lost and found of their own volition. Low and Behold! In these days of a rampant increase in the numbers of those espousing to a finders-keepers philosophy someone had found my loan and returned it. The secretaries therefore phoned Fredericton back and had the form number reactivated.

As the student directory was not yet available several calls were made to find my address. A letter informing me of the forms safe return saved me the trouble of having to make another check with lost and found.

During registration week at the Maritimes largest university in the awards office where several thousand

students must all be processed such service is indeed above and beyond the call of duty. My sincere thanks and appreciation to Mr. Steedman and the Awards Office staff.

John G. Kelly
Law 111

IS THE SKY YOUR LIMIT?

by Wilma Broered

On Friday, September 22, a group of adventurous students gathered to sign up for a skydiving course, something new for Dalhousie. Dave Bishop a former student and now president of the Kingfisher Sport Parachute Club is running the courses. Eleven students took the course last week and another twelve are taking it this week.

More students and faculty members are welcome but they should notify Dave Bishop immediately. The course will not be given after October, even though enthusiasts jump in winter.

If more students do show an interest, Dal could form its own club, which would be the only university club in Nova Scotia. St. Francis Xavier did have one in the past but it was discontinued after one year. There is a club at the University of New Brunswick which has been going for many years and has been very successful.

Although the club does receive limited university funds from time to time, so many students are involved that it is virtually self-supporting. There is no reason why Dalhousie couldn't have its own skydiving club. Some funds certainly could be obtained from the university to aid in the buying of equipment.

Money could be earned by performing at such events as Winter Carnival, for it is definitely a spectator sport. The airplane used by The Kingfisher Sport Parachute and Shearwater Sport Parachute Club would be at the club's disposal.

If you are interested, the course costs \$50 which includes

membership in the Canada Sport Parachute Association. This entitles you to use facilities of any club in Canada belonging to the association. The remainder goes to the club, the Nova Scotia Parachute Association, training expenses and your first jump.

If you find you can manage to squeeze fifty dollars out of that tight budget, there are coveralls, boots, gloves and a helmet to be purchased. A football or motorcycle helmet will suffice. Transportation is also a factor since Waterville is the drop zone. There is also the cost of the jumps after your first, which go from \$5 and up, depending on the altitude.

Those taking the course first learn the theory involved in parachute jumping. They are instructed on the proper procedure for a normal parachute landing as well as the procedures for emergency landings, which could entail anything from a water landing to landing on someone's roof. Students also learn what to do in case of a malfunction. A reserve is always worn.

They then learn how to exit from the airplane which is going approximately 80 m.p.h., how to control the parachute and the proper position to assume before landing.

After learning the theory, airplane procedure, what to do in case of a malfunction and the proper way to land which takes three to four evenings, an examination is given. No step can be passed over if you want to make that first jump.

Students jump from a height of 3000 feet so that the parachute opens at approximately 2500 feet, the opening level for unlicensed

jumpers. It takes a minimum of 25 free falls before you can get your first of five licences. Six minimum static line jumps, four of which are with a dummy rip cord, must be made before you can do your first free fall.

Your progression depends on your ability to master the techniques. As a student, you are under the constant care and supervision of a licenced instructor and you are considered a student until you obtain your first licence.

According to the experienced, there is a remarkable silence after you jump, so quiet that you can hear the blood rushing through your head. The unique thrill is "undescribable." However not all find the experience pleasant. Some never jump again. Others spend every spare moment and dollar to jump again and again.

Some are of the opinion that skydiving is unsafe. It is one of the three things for which you cannot be life insured, the others are being in a private plane or on a motorcycle. Yet according to Dave Bishop it is "safer than golf." Even though many more play golf, in 1970 more than 35,000 jumps were made in Canada and the injury rate is less than 1/6 of one per cent. There has not been a fatality in Nova Scotia since 1966. Most injuries are sprains and strains and are usually caused by "individual" approaches to landing procedures.

Any student or faculty member who is interested can contact Dave Bishop at 422-4987 and he will be quite glad to hear from you. Anyone between the ages of 16 and 19 requires parental permission. If all goes well, see you in the sky.

BEER ROOM?

To The Gazette:

Why not have a Ratskellar up in the Triple Room instead of a beverage (beer) room? Don't we, the students, need a quiet place to come together to talk, listen to moderately quiet music and enjoy some really fine wines?

If a person didn't feel like having their minds blown by heavy rock and raunchy bathroom jokes wouldn't this be ideal! Picture a Paris cafe!

Martha Reynolds

4th Estate Suit Dismissed

by Glenn Wanamaker

A libel suit initiated by Le Chateau's Men's Wear Ltd., the Halifax clothing firm, against 4th Estate newspaper, was dismissed Monday in the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia without going to trial.

Judge F. W. Bissett ruled that in order to sustain an action for libel "a corporation must be defamed in the way of its business."

Following the selection of the jury the defence motioned for dismissal of the case.

Defence lawyer, Brian Flemming, said the suit alleged libel through two newspaper articles in March 1971 on slum housing in Halifax. One of the items cited by Le Chateau was a photograph, and the second was an illustration reprinted from the Dalhousie Gazette.

Flemming said the phrase, "Le Chateau equals slum housing," contained in a photograph of a placard-

carrying demonstrator, was ambiguous. He contended that since Le Chateau is not in the real estate business, and since no defamation had been made against the company in its own trading field — men's clothing — no prima facie case of libel existed. "The words do not reflect on the trading character of the company," said Flemming.

The item, an advertisement, reprinted from the Gazette, contained the words "also visit our slums on Maitland Street." Mr. Justice Bissett said this item was ambiguous, and therefore did not constitute a libel against the company.

4th Estate editor, Nick Fillmore, said the newspaper could not comment on the decision at this time, as there was still opportunity for an appeal. Le Chateau has thirty days in which to lodge such an appeal.



Jean Junction

Village Square
Scotia Square

Ian & Sylvia and the Great Speckled Bird

Sunday, Oct. 15
McInnes Room
Students \$3.50

8 p.m. and 10 p.m.
Dal SUB
Non-Students \$4.50