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dates through a committee consisting of the student members of Senate Council and the Student Union Executive. The Search Committee and the candidates were all extremely interested in the student perspective on the selection process and on their opinions about the candidates.

As for the contention that students are not represented or are underrepresented of various university committees or bodies—that is not so! There is room for students on virtually every committee on this campus, the problem is that there is not enough interested students to fill them. The number of elections to the Student Council by acclamation and the number of positions on committees still vacant attest to this. If the *Gazette* or the students are concerned about proceedings at the Board of Governors they should run for the position on the Board, or start actively questioning and lobbying their members on the Board.

The problem, as I see it, is that students have remained silent and in some cases unrepresented by choice, not because the opportunity was not open to them.

Sincerely,  
Dick Matthews  
President  
Dalhousie Student Union

## Dalplex having its problems

Dalhousie's multi-million dollar athletic complex more commonly known as the Dalplex, which sits so calmly (it appears) on South Street is having its problems.

Ever since the opening of the Dalplex, tales of confusion and misunderstanding have been drifting up to the *Gazette* offices. This week alone, six students each with a different problem came to the *Gazette* offices to complain about the service at the Dalplex.

They are not the first to do so and probably they will not be the last.

The Dalplex is a very impressive building. It has tremendous potential. Yet most of this potential seems to be disappearing in a trial of silly actions, confused information sources and in some cases just bad planning.

A short review of some of the problems that have reached the *Gazette*.

Last week, all the spectators at the Dalhousie women's basketball game were made to take their shoes off before they could enter in the main gym. Everyone from administrator to 1st year students had to sit out the whole game in their sock feet, unless they had white-soled sneakers on.

The question the *Gazette* would like to ask is why was a floor that is so sensitive to any kind of mark or shoe put down in the first place. Surely planners must have known that the main gym would be used for more than sports. And what happens when Dalhousie hosts widely attended sports events like the upcoming Women's National Basketball Championships. Some plastic sheeting could be put down, but can you realistically put plastic over the whole floor.

If the CBC covers the Championship imagine what the opening shot will be. Six hundred basketball fans filing into the main gym in their sock feet or all in white-soled sneakers.

More than one student has come to the *Gazette* with stories about how they were told one thing at the Information Desk at the Dalplex, only to find that the opposite was true. The story on page three is a classic example. Several other students were just plain confused and angry at the lack of response they had received from the Dalplex.

This problem is one that should be cured immediately. There are several excellent people who do know what is going on at the Dalplex. It is a shame they cannot get together with the ones who do not seem to know what is going on. They are losing a great deal of student support very rapidly.

One student came to the *Gazette* very angry after a lunch hour basketball game. During this game he had sprained his ankle very badly and had gone down to the trainer's room where there should be someone on duty to help at all times. When he arrived he found the rainers had left for lunch (for 1 1/2 hours) which means that during one of the busiest times of the day, when most students do have time to use the Dalplex, there is no one on duty to help if someone is injured.

This problem must be corrected right away.

Another serious problem was brought up at last week's council meeting. Council was informed that the main gym could not be used for writing exams in the spring because people in charge felt there was a danger if the Dalplex ever caught on fire that everyone could get out safely in time. There were also mentions of problems with the roof in the same situation.

This again seems to be poor planning on somebody's part. The question must also be asked if it is too dangerous for exams, what happens if there are hundreds of people in the gym for some sporting event and a fire starts. The *Gazette* would like to hear some comment from the Dalplex people concerning this problem.

The *Gazette* is not against the Dalplex. Many of our members use it and think it does have potential to be one of the best in Canada. But too many problems, too little communication and a terrible paranoia about criticism of any kind threaten to drive a wedge between Dalplex and the community it serves.

If these problems are not straightened out very soon then Dalplex for all its beauty, and usefulness, will become that white elephant the *Gazette* mentioned in a previous issue. We hope it does not happen.

## Absentee graduation fee a reality

by Sheila Mills

If you are a 1980 graduate and cannot attend convocation ceremonies on May 14 or 15, the university will charge you \$15 to receive your diploma. A fee of \$10 must be paid by the students who take the time to inform the registrar's office of their decision not to attend graduation.

To many students these fines are considered completely unreasonable and unnecessary. They feel that it should be their own choice to go or not to go to the ceremonies. The *Gazette* set out to find why this policy exists.

Dr. Tingley, the registrar at Dalhousie, said the fines are justified by the delay and confusion created by those students who do not attend graduation. Much time and organization is put into the convocation ceremonies, and to be unsure of the number of students who will be attending only causes more inconvenience.

When asked when this graduation fee originated, Dr. Tingley could not say for sure. Instead, he reflected on the time, unlike today, when students had to go to their convocation ceremonies in order to graduate.

David Grandy, at the student council meeting on Sunday, informed council he understood the fee had first been implemented during the sixties when only thirty-five to forty percent of the graduating class was showing up for convocation. The fee, he said, was initially set to encourage a greater attendance.

Dick Matthews, president of the student union, said regardless of what he personally felt about the existing fee, that it has been a long standing, standard university fee, that it is paid in the majority of Canadian universities and in all probability it will continue to exist.

## Howe election next week

Election fever has once again hit Dalhousie University. No, we're not referring to the upcoming federal election; this election fever is a result of the upcoming Howe Hall Residence Council election, to be held on the 22nd of January.

This election is one of the most important events of the year for the residents concerned, for the people elected will be responsible for the quality of life existing at the men's residence. Good leaders will ensure at least a tolerable existence in residence and hopefully much more. The Residence Council elections then also affect the university community as a whole, inso-

far as the men's residence actively contributes to many activities on and about campus. It is through the activity of the Residence Council that the needs of the residents are looked after, social and sporting events organized, and Frosh Week for on-campus students arranged.

The candidates for the Howe Hall Residence Council Elections '80 are:

President: Andrew Parsons  
Brian R. Russell  
Greg Tynski  
Vice-President: Ravi Prakash  
Doug Reid  
Treasurer: Jim Hatheway  
(acclamation)

Howe Hall  
Student  
Council Rep: Cyril Johnston  
Larry Nelson

Howe Hall  
Sports Rep: Jim Burrill  
(acclamation)

House Presidents:  
Bronson: Andrew M. Grose  
(acclamation)  
Cameron: Ken Book  
George Fraser  
Henderson: Neil Ferguson  
(acclamation)  
Smith: Lloyd Gaskell  
(acclamation)  
Studley: Robert McKay  
Gary Thorne  
Christopher  
Thurrott

## INTRODUCTION OFFER TO STUDENTS

from jan. 21 thru to march 19

men's reg. \$11 - with student card \$8  
ladies reg. \$15 - with student card \$12

walk in - no appointment necessary



mon. - wed 9-6  
thurs. - fri. 9-8  
sat. 9-5

this offer good on mon, tues, wed only  
student card must be presented  
expiry date march 19/80

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