

# Grad students need more money

In light of the importance of the issues involved, and in order to state DAGS' case more clearly, we find it necessary (a) to respond to the partial and inaccurate representation that DAGS' position has received in recent weeks, and (b) to outline for all students DAGS' declared position on the issues. Accordingly, we publish the following open letter to the President of the Student Union and written brief submitted to the Student Union Society Support Committee.

An open letter to Mr. Bruce Russell:  
Your comments, published in last week's Gazette, on the proposals of the Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students for the decentralization of control over Student Union funds are misleading in many respects.

You seem to believe that DAGS is claiming to be the best of the major societies and demanding special treatment on that basis alone. On the contrary, we are aware that our arguments are potentially valid for other societies. In all of our discussions with you and other representatives of the Union, in our brief submitted to the Union a few weeks ago and in statements to the Gazette, we have always argued that any society capable serving a wide range of its members' particular interests ought to be allowed to enter a decentralized relationship with the Union. The Union ought to discriminate positively in favour of those societies, probably few in number, that have a proven record in the delivery of goods and services to their members. We have never set ourselves apart from other societies that might also be in this position.

There are a number of other statements of yours, quoted in the Gazette, that need to be qualified or refuted.

At one point you said that DAGS is asking for "much more than \$15,000" a year. What we are demanding is a minimum of ten dollars out of the Union fee paid by each graduate student. Since there are approximately one thousand graduate students, this will amount to about ten thousand dollars.

At another point you asserted that the Union is "not in activities that can be decentralized...." This, of course, is the fundamental point of difference between you and the representatives of DAGS. We are arguing that such functions as the representation of students to the administration, the allocation of funds to sub-groups, the dissemination

of information to students, the planning and financing of social and cultural events, and the protection of the material interests of students will be more effectively served if the highly developed major societies are allowed to play a significant role.

Finally, you suggested that DAGS has nothing to offer except the bar facilities of the Grad House. Yet again, it has to be pointed out that the DAGS Council is active in a number of areas. Our Academic Affairs Committee has made some significant gains over the last eight months, particularly in the establishment of minimum levels of financial support for graduate students, and is presently engaged in an intensive, and potentially expensive, examination of the wages and working conditions of

graduate teaching assistants. Our Communications Committee produces an annual handbook to supplement the Union handbook and a bi-monthly newsletter that provides information of particular interest to graduate students not found in the Gazette. The Students Welfare Committee is investigating the shortage of housing for graduate students and is setting up a typing pool to provide decent and reasonably priced typists for thesis and other work. DAGS is an active member of the Canadian Union of Graduate Students, an organization that is beginning to get off the ground and beginning to require substantial funds from its members. Incidentally, DAGS will be hosting a national conference of CUGS in March.

This incomplete list of activities

should speak for itself and should belie your assertion that DAGS does nothing more than sell liquor. The operation of the Grad House and the provision to entertainment are important concerns of DAGS, but they are by no means the only concerns.

The particular interests of graduate students are already being served to a considerable extent by DAGS. However, the association requires a stronger financial base if it is to continue to develop along these lines. That stronger financial base should be provided from the Student Union fee paid by graduate students.

Yours sincerely,  
**John Cheyne,**  
President  
Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students

## Money maybe - decentralization no

To the Gazette,

I have received a copy of John Cheyne's open letter to me and I wish to comment. I do this reluctantly as the Student Union Society Support Committee has yet to complete its report to the Students' Council, however, Cheyne's offering of his version of my remarks leaves me small choice.

Regarding confusion of my observation of DAGS' claim as the "best" major society, I refer specifically to our meetings of the previous summer and others present at these meetings, when this claim was explicitly made by DAGS representation. More recently, arguments have strongly implied this claim as DAGS representatives have constantly referred to unique aspects of the Society, in presenting their "demand" for substantially increased funding.

Briefly on other points, because the Student Union cannot recognize DAGS alone in such favored light, their proposed program would ultimately cost the Student Union \$10,000, \$15,000 or possibly more. Other societies deserve the same consideration. The Student Union cannot afford to expend such funds without control over its usage.

Lastly, the inference of Mr. Cheyne's that I do not appreciate the extent of DAGS activities is quite misleading. This stems from a statement of mine taken out of context and subjected to unfortunate editing. Mr. Cheyne knows

well that I know of the various projects current and proposed, and to suggest otherwise is completely inaccurate.

May I close by offering the contents of a recent letter of mine to the DAGS Council. I hope this will serve to clarify the situation a little more than has been attempted to date.

Respectfully,  
**Bruce Russell**

14 November 1975

Members of the Council of the Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students (DAGS)  
c/o Mr. John Cheyne, President  
Graduate House  
Dalhousie University  
Halifax, N.S.

Dear Members:

Please consider this communication to be an interim one from the Student Union Society Support Committee. It is undertaken on the expectation that the Committee will not be able to present its final report to the Dalhousie Council of Students at that body's 16 November meeting.

The reasons for this inability, if not numerous, are obvious. The Committee has received two written submissions to be considered, one at a later date than had been planned. More importantly, however, recently I have been advised of the desire of a representation from a third major society to meet with the Committee. To accom-

modate this request, as well as to render the functioning of this Committee as open as possible to members of the Student Union, an open hearing of the Committee has been arranged for 19 November in the McInnes Room of the Student Union Building. If the entire question of Student Union Society Support is to be accorded the serious consideration that it requires, a final report from the Committee before this meeting would be premature. I am hopeful, however, that the Committee might present its report to a meeting of the Dalhousie Students' Council tentatively scheduled for 30 November. Nevertheless, in an effort to facilitate discussion at your 17 November meeting, the Committee has requested that I present to you a reflection of its discussions to date concerning the documented position of DAGS. Briefly it is this.

The Student Union Society Support Committee supports the principle that decentralization of non-social student activities to the major society level, is desirable. However the Committee does not agree that decentralization is most optimally achieved simply by the unassigned contractual transfer of a block of funds. The Student Union assesses and expends its membership payments on the principle of providing goods, services and benefits to its entire membership and while this assumption readily admits the concept of decentralization, these ends are not obviously met by such a large block transfer

Cont'd on page 2



## DRESDEN ARMS

MOTOR HOTEL  
5530 ARTILLARY PLACE  
ATTRACTIVE RATES FOR VISITING PARENTS.

---

D.A.'S SEAFOOD RESTAURANT

---

FORE'N AFTER LOUNGE

---

SAUNA, INDOOR POOL, and WHIRLPOOL BATH  
422-1625

FULLY LICENSED  
AIR CONDITIONED

TAKE OUT or DELIVERY  
423-7982

**10% DISCOUNT**

On Pick-Up Chinese Orders of \$2.00 & over.  
Phone and Inquire About Our Delivery  
Service on Orders of \$5.00 and Up



Specializing In  
**CHINESE FOOD**  
also  
EXCELLENT CANADIAN CUISINE

BOUYS  
Weekdays Mon. - Sat.  
11:00 a.m. - 3:00 a.m.  
Sun. 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 a.m.

**A REMINDER**  
EVERY MONDAY IS \$1.99  
Specials

- Chinese Platter — egg roll, S&S Chicken, and beef fried rice
- Rib Steak — baked potato or fries roll and butter

**GARDEN VIEW**  
5525 Spring Garden Road  
Free Parking