

We recognize that not all interest groups (e.g. Native and mature students) or issues are represented here. If you wish to submit a report card we would be pleased to print it. Please drop by the office (Third floor, SUB) and talk to us.

Environment

The DSU is frustrated about recycling at the University.

Over the summer Patti Dow, vice-president of the DSU tried to organize a recycling program. She did a lot of research, however due to fire regulations it fell through.

The Campus Environmental Action Group is sponsored by the DSU.

They have the recycling bins down in the lobby of the Student Union Building. The DSU said they work in conjunction with this group.

The Public Research Interest Group, also partially funded by the DSU, has not been contacted about any environmental programs or ideas.

Since their plans fell through this summer, the DSU has been trying to find other ways to organize a recycling program at Dalhousie. They recycle within their own offices, but that is about it.

The University has recently appointed a Director of Environmental Services. High on his mandate is supposed to be recycling. Because any of these programs are expensive, the DSU is working with the administration in this area.

However, recycling is only one way to help the environment. There does not seem to be any initiative by the D.S.U. to try and educate the student body about what they can do.

There are plans by the administration to build more parking spaces on campus. The DSU has done nothing to suggest that encouraging more students to drive is not environmentally correct. They do not seem to be lobbying for more bike parking racks or even encouraging students to walk to school.

They seem to be leaving it up to other groups to do any environmental work.

If the DSU is committed to the environment they could organize an environmental day on campus in conjunction with other groups, they could put up a poster board for environmental notices, they could try and bring in speakers and promote rallies.

The DSU does not seem to be encouraging any reducing or reusing, which could be useful in the SUB cafeteria.

They did try, however, but they are not taking on any responsibility so I give them a D.

Allison Johnston

Third year Philosophy major
Special interest in Theatre



Labour relations

This year the DSU was hit twice in terms of labour relations. Both the Dalhousie Faculty and Staff Associations' contracts expired. Both unions were [the DSA still is] looking for new and improved deals.

The DSU has traditionally had difficulty in taking a stand on labour issues. However, they have been expected to take action on behalf of the student's interests.

The best thing the DSU did this year was not impede the work of SOS.

SOS, Students Opposed to Strikes, was formed by a group of concerned students back in August. The premise of the group was to act as a non-partisan organization dedicated to informing students on any labour disputes and the impact it might have on them.

The group approached council as early as Sept. 12 to brief them on their role and the importance of keeping students informed.

The DSU later incorporated SOS into the union and provided them with funding.

However, little or no initiative came from council.

Physically challenged

The DSU is definitely addressing the issues of the physically challenged and disabled students at Dalhousie University. Although change is slow, things are changing.

Steve Esty, spokesperson for the National Board of the National Educational Association of Disabled Students (NEADS) said the DSU is "at least as open and familiar with these problems as other universities."

The DSU are aware of what the problems are and what can be done. Some areas being looked into now are: better markings on stairs (for the visually impaired); physically accessible telephones; making bathrooms and the second floor of the cafeteria (the smoking section) more accessible to physically challenged persons; making classrooms, laboratories, and desks more accessible; and improving access into buildings.

DSU members do not only seem to be attuned to those students that are mobility impaired, but those who are visually impaired as well. When something is changed on campus which may restrict free movement of special students (for example, a new obstacle in a usually free passage), the DSU tries to inform those who may be affected by this change.

Each year projects are assigned to the following year's DSU council. This year, as a result of decisions made last year, automatic doors and a hearing impaired telephone were installed in the Student Union Building (SUB), and a ramp was put in place at Sherriff Hall.

The DSU tries to concentrate on as many things that could be improved for these special students as money allows. Different committees of students address the issues of students who have special needs on campus. These committees seem to be adept at ascertaining where problems lie for physically challenged students. Their problem is the necessary funds to make these ideas reality.

These ideas are expensive. A few years ago, an

There were no high visibility actions to put pressure on the two sides to reach a negotiated settlement and without SOS it seems unlikely the DSU would have spent much energy or time on keeping students informed.

Dalhousie students are presently dealing with a rotating strike and may face a complete walk-out or lock-out.

The DSU may be negotiating, secretly in the background, in an attempt to solve the DSA/Administration dispute, but students need to know their leaders are working on their behalf. They also have a right to information provided by non-partisan sources. No action has been taken to protect students who refuse to cross picket lines and to date no long term solutions have been found to protect students from strikes in the future. I give the DSU an F.

Alex Burton

Member DSU council, 1989/90

elevator was installed in the Arts and Administration Building. Money for these investments comes from the Capitol Campaign which every student pays through DSU Fees.

As Dalhousie University is an old educational institution, accessibility is a major problem for physically challenged students wishing to attend Dalhousie and participate in different activities.

There is no official group for physically challenged or disabled students this year at Dalhousie. Last year there was a group called the Dalhousie Advocates for the Physically Challenged.

The DSU encourages all students to get involved on the different committees to suggest improvements and ideas, and express concerns they may have.

The DSU is supportive of the National Week of Action which will be occurring during the end of this month. A film will be shown on Wednesday, January 30 at Dalhousie about physically challenged students at universities and the problems they face.

The DSU could push a little harder for changes in attitudes at Dalhousie. Reyla Cruise, formerly a member of the Dalhousie Advocates for the Physically Challenged, says access does not only include structural changes to the university, but attitudes as well. The faculty, administration, and the students have to be willing to be open to suggestions and work with disabled students.

More can always be done, but I would say the DSU has done a good job. I think they deserve an A- for their work in the area of physically challenged students at Dalhousie University.

I would like to add that I am not a physically challenged or disabled student at Dalhousie, but I hope I have been able to rate the DSU's job accurately.

Mary Jane Hamilton

Second-year Sociology

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Focus On...

DALHOUSIE

Dalhousie group wins award

by Richard Arthurs

AIIESEC is a French acronym for the International Association for Students in Economics and Commerce.

AIIESEC Dalhousie is a local committee of this international group and has been around for many years but few people know us. Until recently,

During the week of January 2-6, 350 people from 36 local committees gathered to attend AIIESEC's 33rd national conference. This was one of the biggest, and best conferences in AIIESEC's history.

There were training sessions for new executive members, various committees and a large group looking to better understand internationalism and how the world works together. Everyone came out

of these sessions with a better understanding of internationalism.

Another positive result of the conference was a heightened awareness of a new and improved AIIESEC group at Dalhousie.

AIIESEC Dalhousie was proud to learn they were chosen as the "most improved" local committee in Canada. The whole group has worked very hard the past 10 months to earn this award and are

pleased to have been recognized for this.

One of AIIESEC's biggest goals is to raise people's awareness of internationalism. One way we do this is through an international job exchange.

AIIESEC members at Dalhousie try to raise jobs with local companies so foreign students can come here to work. When jobs are found here, AIIESEC can send one student

away to any one of 69 member countries.

Last year, AIIESEC raised seven jobs and had students come from Sweden, Norway, Ghana, Philippines and Yugoslavia.

AIIESEC is open to any Dalhousie, King's or Mt. St. Vincent student. If you are interested, drop by their office. It is located on the first floor of the School of Business.