

letters to the editor:

Shirreff Hall: "outrageous disparity on Campus"

TO THE EDITOR:

We are presently cursed with an outrageous disparity on campus. The Studley situation is about as sad as that in Selma, Watts, or Chicago the only wonder to me is that we have managed to escape the bloody riots thus far. The situation to which I am referring is, for those of you who haven't yet grasped it, the Shirreff Hall Outrage System (also known as the Leave System).

Shirreff Hall is listed in the calendar as the Women's Residence. I would like to suggest to the Administration that they should either treat the inhabitants as the young women that they are or change the name to Little Girls' Residence.

The disparity of the situation comes when we compare the two student residences on this campus. At Shirreff Hall, the girls are forced to "Sign Out" whenever they leave the building in the evening. The lateness of their leave depends on their seniority in the University. If the young lady should happen to break her leg during the course of the evening and thus arrive after the time for which she has signed out, she can be "gated" upon her return. This means that she is not allowed to leave her room after 7:00 pm for a week after the offense. At the very least, she will have her "leave time" cut.

On the other side of the campus, we have Howe Hall. While things are not always a bed of roses for the campus male, at least he is allowed to come and go as he pleases without having his movements traced like a SAC bomber. All residents at Howe Hall are issued with keys to the main doors of the building, and should they arrive back after the time the doors are locked, they can easily re-enter the building without having to subject themselves to a re-enactment of the Nuremberg Trials.

Of course there are reasons for this. Perhaps the most obvious reason is that men are DIFFERENT from women. (Good observation, that). AHA! Now we are getting to the crux of the matter. (Quick! Look over your shoulder and check that no-one sees you reading this. I'm about to get intimate about some of the facts of life). GIRLS CAN GET PREGNANT. Aaaaaah. That's it in a nutshell. This MUST be the reason for the leave system. But wait! Why let the girls out at all? Why not keep them locked up all day long? Or if that seems TOO restrictive, why not make them be indoors after sundown? After all, most babies are born exactly nine months

after sundown, aren't they? But no! We are attending a LIBERAL university. They have made studies of the mating habits of Studentus Dalhousianas, and have thus determined that if a Junior is allowed out later than 1:30 am, she is sure to get pregnant. That is the magic time for Juniors. After that God-given hour, she turns into a lusty, wanton sex-maniac, who is BOUND to get laid, no matter what. Sort of like Cinderella. But the fairy godmother, Miss Irvine, is there with her magic Leave System, to make sure that this doesn't happen. She prods (mentally, of course) the reluctant co-ed back behind the doors of Shirreff Pumpkin, there to remain until she is fit to enter the world of normal, moral people again.

But maybe I'm being a bit too harsh with the Administration. After all, there are two sides to every coin. On one hand we have the Establishment, who have set the rules regarding the behaviour of our Vestal Virgins, and on the other hand we have the stupes who pay outrageous residence fees to live under these rules. The wonder is that there are girls who will put up with these rules for more than a month at the outside, let alone join a waiting list for it. The whole situation fairly reeks of feeble-mindedness.

Surely there is a better way. The ideal situation, although it is undoubtedly unrealistic and impractical for reasons the Administration and God know best, would be the total abolition of the Leave System. After all, this IS a time of change and reform, what with Student Senators and all, and we could thus show the world that our women students can be trusted EVERY BIT AS MUCH as any common house cat. Still worried about the Baby Bonus? Install a Pill dispenser by the door; give the girls lessons in karate and judo; or if we REALLY want to get liberal, we might even trust them to use their own judgement.

Student Activists arise! Show your power! The situation has lasted long enough. Bomb the Hall! Hold a Love-In in Miss Irvine's apartment! Petition! Strike! Rent apartments and starve them into submission! Camp on the lawn! Take the wire gratings off your windows! Get pregnant BEFORE your leave is up! Wear your habit to dinner! Wear your birthday suit to dinner! Surely we can do SOMETHING to bring Shirreff Hall into the Twentieth Century.

DAVID SMITH
ENGIN, III

Editorial: "distasteful and nearsighted"

To The Editor:

I find your GOOOBitorial of November 7 a very distasteful and nearsighted article at best.

If you felt that some improvements should have been made, then for heaven's sake why didn't you come forward and make your suggestions? What more do you want for 3.7 million dollars?

As to your accusation that the SUB will be sterile and uninspiring, it will only be as sterile and uninspiring as the students who use it.

I find it hard to believe that even an Arts student cannot see the convenience of having the cafeteria, lounges and commercial establishments on the first and second floors. In fact so much room was given to lounges and student gathering areas that the architects had no choice but to put the offices on the third and fourth floors. It is

equally hard to believe that even you would want to walk up four flights of stairs just so you could sit down and relax.

Students may still drop in and chat with Council members, only now there is room for more people and now they can sit down to chat.

The standard of living of the Student Union has gone up. And if in doing so all, and I do mean all, the students are subjected to an air of "executive exclusiveness" then it is far better than the poverty stricken air of the Arts Annex.

Since time will be the trial of the SUB's worth I think it rather premature and typical of the editor to condemn the building even before it is officially open for student use. I say typical because it is unfortunately typical of those who profess to be student spokesmen to condemn and belittle everything in sight, yet not having a better and more saleable article to offer in place of the condemned one.

Believe it or not, Mr. Clare, the students of Dalhousie University are PROUD of their building, and weak-kneed editorials such as the one in your November 7 issue will only help to "increase the polarization between the activist and the complacent" by killing the spark of incentive that may have been placed in the minds of the largely complacent student body.

However constructively encouraging the end of student complacency is not newsworthy is it?

A non-complacent yet concerned student,
David R. Jones

SUB: "divided and devoured"

To the Editor:

The posters read "It's Your Sub" but obviously this statement had to be qualified. Long before our 3.7 million dollar pie was completed, it had been divided and half-devoured. The Arts Annex had moved to the SUB. The week before opening, passes were required to tour "our" building, and during the "open house" weekend, rooms, offices, halls, whole floors were sealed off by locks (nearly every door has one) security students ("You can't go there without a nametag!) and police (six at the Doodletown pipers show.)

Speaking to regular students (i.e. non-members, close friends, or relatives of the "Annex Crowd") their attitude is "well, it's the same old crowd running things and I don't feel like I know anyone", or "The SUB is nice, but I don't really feel a part of it." The GOOOBitorial prophecy (p. 4 Nov 7 Gazette) was correct. "The polarization between the activist and the complacent" is in effect.

The self-righteous upholders of student spirit have a strangle hold on our SUB, the very messiah come to save us. The success of SUB-opening weekend was proof students ARE interested. It is time the bureaucratic 5% did a little soul-searching. From no locks on the

SUB to the student activities, and participation, it's time everybody widened their circle of friends to include the student body.

The SUB has been submerged for 50 years. Now that it has surfaced let's open the hatches.

Or perhaps the poster should have read; "It's your SUB - do not fold, staple, or mutilate - don't touch!"
Philip Day
Engineering III

Resolution "despicable and asinine"

To the Editor:

I should like to record my agreement with that part of your GOOOBitorial (November 7th) which expressed disapproval of the location of the Student Council offices in the new Student Union Building.

Any Student Council which could pass a resolution as despicable and asinine and so offensively in bad taste as that proposed to be sent to the U.S. Consul in

Halifax should have had its offices located in the basement as close to the sewage disposal room as possible.

I suggest, Sir, that those students who supported the resolution are emotionally immature, flaccidly credulous and gullibly dogmatic and hence totally unfit for the offices they hold.

Wendall MacKay,
Dalhousie Law School.

Students occupy SFU Registrar's office

BURNABY (CUP) -- Almost 500 students took over the registrar's office at Simon Fraser University Thursday (Nov. 14) to protest ambiguous admissions criteria at the university.

Students from Simon Fraser, British Columbia and Victoria universities and Selkirk and Vancouver City colleges were involved.

The occupiers set four demands to the SFU administration and B.C. provincial government.

* Freedom of transfer and automatic acceptance of credits within the provincial educational system.

* An elected admissions board made up in equal part by students and faculty.

* The opening of all the registrar's files.

* More money for education and equitable financing for all post secondary institutions.

The school's senate undergraduate admissions and advance standing committee met Thursday night and decided simply "these demands aren't in the terms of reference of this committee." This decision was on a par with administration president Ken Strand's reaction earlier when he first said "I think you have a really

good issue" and followed with "I reject all four (demands)!"

The occupiers did not spend the night but set up a picket line in the registrar's office to be maintained until Wednesday (Nov. 20) when the senate will meet in special session to consider the matter. The senate meeting was called by student senator Stan Wong.

Strand, meanwhile, called another closed session of the admissions committee Friday.

Denis: school is like the army

TORONTO (CUP) -- School is like the army, both have company commanders, platoons, platoon leaders, and a regimental sergeant-major.

So says Lloyd Dennis, co-author of the Hall-Dennis report on education for the Ontario government.

"When I take a look at my school, I notice a striking similarity between it and the last company I commanded in the army," he said.

"It wasn't so long ago," he said, "that I marched

little children into my schools six years of age, left, right, left, right, to military music. March in, sit down, shut up, stand up, sing the Queen, salute the flag, now sit down and listen to the word of God, according to Dennis.

"This is not the road of self discipline."

By the way, the company commander is the principal; the platoon, the class; the platoon leaders, the teachers; the sergeant-major, the caretaker.