

Ombudsman cuts Dal's red tape

by Bruce Galloway

Have a problem you can't solve? Intimidated by the bureaucracy at the Arts and Administration building? If you answered yes to these questions then perhaps you can be helped by Dalhousie's Ombudsman.

The Ombudsman at Dalhousie is in fact two students, Shauna Sullivan and Dick Matthews. From their office on the second floor of the S.U.B. they handle inquiries, referrals and complaints.

"Most people who come in to

see us just need directing to the proper channel," says Sullivan. She added, "For most problems there is already an existing mechanism to deal with it."

If a person has exhausted all existing channels and still has received no satisfaction, the Ombudsman will step in to investigate and/or mediate.

Although the Ombudsman has access to all files and persons on campus, the office has no powers except to make recommendations.

In 1980-81 the office handled sixty cases (plus numerous

inquiries), the majority of which involved academic problems (transfer credits, marks, etc.). The rest of the cases dealt with a wide range of problems including finances, housing and two alleged cases of discrimination.

Founded in 1969 mainly on the initiation of the student body, the Ombudsman is now run jointly by the Student Union and the Senate. Dean Mariott, chairperson of the Ombudsman Committee sees the office as a means by which people can find their way "through the tangled

maze of administration". The Committee selects and, if requested, advises the Ombudsman.

The position of Ombudsman and the Assistant Ombudsman are both chosen by the committee to serve for a period of one year. Although Sullivan and Matthews are law students, the positions in the past have been occupied by both undergraduate and graduate students.

Generally the Ombudsman has already served a year as the assistant Ombudsman. This helps the office in its year-to-

year transition.

When asked whether the lack of awareness by students regarding the Ombudsman is a problem, Matthews said "yes". However the office is working hard to correct this through pamphlets and advertising. Matthews added however that unless a person has a problem, a service such as the Ombudsman does not excite much interest.

The office of the Ombudsman is located on the second floor of the S.U.B. and is open twenty hours a week.

NEWS BRIEFS

Council regrets awarding last year's Gold "D"

In an in camera debate, Dalhousie Student Council voted overwhelmingly last Sunday to express its regret on the awarding of a Gold "D" to Umesh Jain at the May 1981 convocation.

The award honoured Jain for his work for the student body, which included his position as Science Society President and Chief Returning Officer for the Student Union elections.

Jain read a statement to council, which did not deny the accusations that he had signed another person's name to endorse a check payable to the Dalhousie Science Society last May, which he then deposited into his personal bank account.

Council had debated three weeks ago whether or not it could revoke the Gold "D" award. A vote of 11 for and 10 against on this motion, did not receive the necessary two-thirds majority.

The vote to express council's regret at awarding the award received a majority of 21 for, and 2 against.

This motion was made three weeks ago, but was tabled until Jain could present his case to council.

Council debates art

The tailoring of the Grawood continues.

Plants were to be installed this week, said Jim Logan, Student Union Vice President, as last Sunday's council meeting. However, more controversial topics concerning esthetic taste were hotly debated.

The prints from the Canadian "Group of Seven" artists (including Emily Carr, not a member of that renowned group, as one informed speaker noted) presently donning the Grawood walls, were seen as unfitting for a student pub.

"They're ugly" was a frequent comment, and council voted to move the offending art works to the council chambers for the enjoyment of a few more appreciative council reps.

In their place, enlarged photographs of campus scenes and student activities such as Winter Carnival, to be produced by Dal Photo, would be more appreciated and relevant to student drinkers.

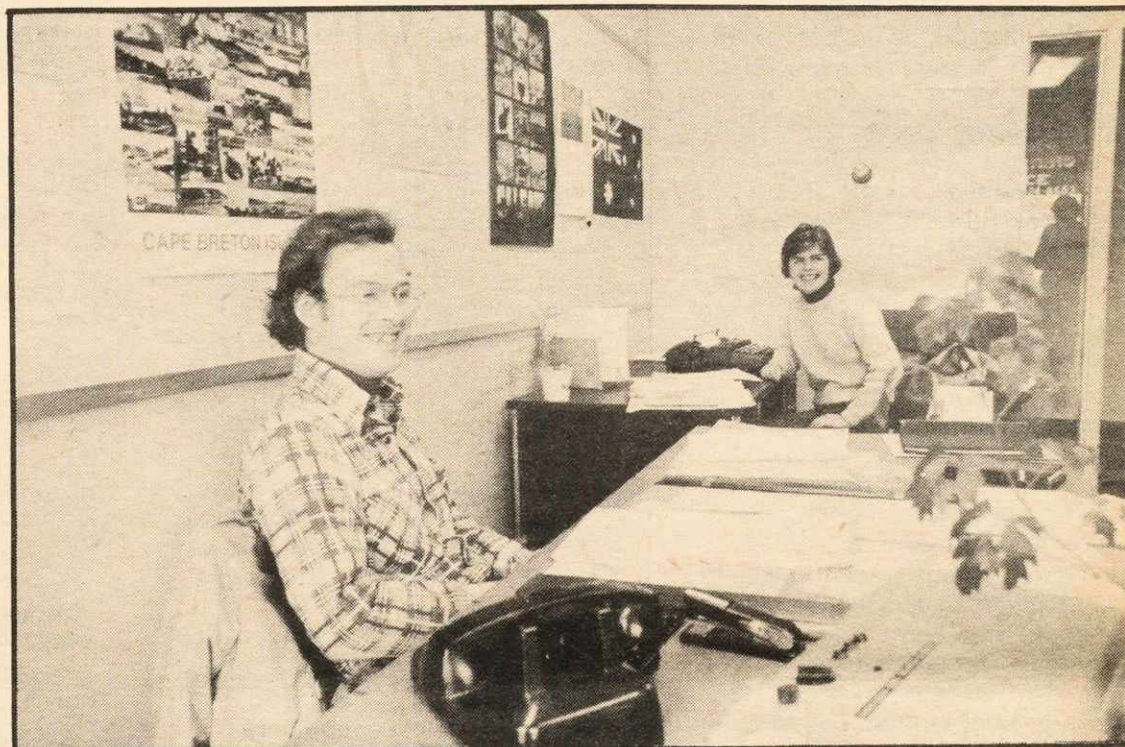
So if students are in search of soothing nature portraits "a la Canadiana", they may from time to time peruse the council chamber art gallery, but the paintings will no longer bother students' drinking pleasure.

Dal Dispatch is coming

Campus communication, an issue that plagues the Dalhousie student council year after year was tackled head on at the first meeting of this year's Entertainment Committee.

The fighting instrument is the soon to appear "Dal Dispatch", an inter campus newsletter announcing society events, parties, speakers, and important council tidbits. The monthly multi-coloured news briefer will hit the streets every Monday, starting October 26. Deadline for typed submissions is the previous Friday at 4:30 p.m., at the Student Council offices, second floor of the Student Union Building.

For the first Dispatch, submissions will be accepted right up until Monday at noon. So get your announcements in, and lets have some communication at Dal!



Dal's Ombudspersons Dick Matthews and Shauna Sullivan handle student's inquiries, referrals and complaints out of their office on the second floor of the SUB.

Protest march is small, New Brunswick nuclear energy soon onstream

by M.L. Hendry

If more than a few people in New Brunswick have misgivings about nuclear power in general, or the Point Lepreau CANDU 600 reactor in particular, it was not evident last Saturday.

Only 80 people participated in a 16-mile march to the site of New Brunswick's first nuclear power plant at Point Lepreau, scheduled to come on-stream early next year.

The Maritimes Energy Coalition, who organized the march and the press conference after it to demonstrate concern regarding the safety of the Lepreau plant and to protest the province of New Brunswick's refusal to commission an independent investigation of the facility, were disappointed by the small number of people who participated.

Speakers at the press conference included Dr. Gordon Edwards, Chairman of the Canadian Coalition for Nuclear Responsibility, and Robert Del Tredici, author of "The People

of Three Mile Island", a photo-journal of the aftermath of the Three Mile Island accident in Pennsylvania in 1979.

Low-level radiation is as much of a threat as the possibility of another accident like Three Mile Island, Del Tredici said, adding that there was a great upswing in birth defects within a 20-mile radius of the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant even before the accident occurred.

Dr. Edwards echoed these fears.

"There are constant radioactive emissions during the running of a nuclear plant, partly via cracks in the walls of the structure," he said.

At a press conference in Halifax last week, Dr. Edwards said disclosures of faults in the containment building at the Point Lepreau power station have invalidated previous safety evaluations. These evaluations were based on the assumption that there were no cracks in the concrete containment walls.

Surface cracks, some hairline, others up to two feet in length, were detected after pressure containment checks, he said. Edwards added that some of the cracks have been repaired with epoxy.

The CANDU 600 reactor is an "economy" model, according to Edwards.

"It lacks both a vacuum building to handle build-up of radioactive steam in the event of an accident, and a steel liner in the containment building to protect the integrity of the concrete wall," he said.

The plant is located in the Bay of Fundy earthquake zone, about 45 miles from Saint John.

Hydrogen balloons were released after the press conference on Saturday to demonstrate where radioactive emissions will drift if the plant is granted an operating permit by the Atomic Energy Control Board. Balloons released at Point Lepreau in the past have been recovered in the Annapolis Valley and in the state of Maine.