

# DSU surveys Beaver foods

by Alistair Croll

The Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) began interrupting students' meals last week to ask them questions.

The questions were part of a survey which was designed to evaluate the services Beaver Foods is providing students. Different versions of the survey were produced by the DSU and University Administration.

The Administration is in charge of Beaver services in residence halls, while the DSU manages the Grawood, the Garden Cafeteria, and the Charles Cafe in the Tupper building.

The page-long survey included questions on food quality, consumption, types of food eaten, service, speed, and prices.

"Beaver approached us to do major renovations to the kitchen, the Garden, and Howe Hall," said Patti Dow, Vice-president of the DSU. "We felt we should find out

whether or not students were satisfied with the food service."

But Lisa Hemon, Food Service Director for Beaver Foods, said the survey was done to "determine what sort of things will be done. Who would pay would be negotiated between the University and Beaver foods."

"The survey was successful," said Dow. "There was some constructive criticism and feedback." Dow cited long lineups, the need for a salad bar, and high prices as common criticisms from the survey.

"Now we know what students think of the food services."

Dow said the survey was not directly related to a contract. "We're not even considering a tender process. All we're considering is whether or not to let Beaver make renovations and to find out a detailed plan of how they expect to pay for it."

## Beaver Facts

- 130 to 150 employees
- 480 lbs of potatoes each week
- 4000 cups of coffee each week
- 2000 muffins each week
- 800 deli sandwiches each week
- 900 salads each week
- Student Union Building: 18 years
- Tupper : since construction
- Residences: 20 years



Hemon said Beaver felt there was "a need for some renovations and upgrading", although she was not at liberty to say exactly what these changes were.

Beaver is currently in the middle of a five-year contract with the DSU which ends in the summer of 1993. Contract length is decided by the university, said Hemon.

Hemon called the relationship between the school and Beaver "very good. From our point of view, we're here for the students and work to provide what's best for students."

The question remains: will the comments of students go unheard? The sign on Hemon's door, "SUGGESTIONS WELCOME: They're good for a lot of laughs", leaves one wondering.

## Vandalism

• continued from page 1 in fighting vandalism.

MacDonald says "If any student sees anyone committing vandalism they should phone us right away."

Describing Dalhousie as "a home away from home", MacDonald compared the recent vandalism on campus to someone entering your backyard and ripping it apart.

MacDonald says calls about vandalism or theft can be anonymous tips, and adds "it [reporting the incident] benefits everyone".

MacDonald also would endorse a university campaign to raise awareness of vandalism.

Vaslet suggests an advertising campaign coordinated jointly between the DSU, Security, and the Physical Plant. "I think if we had signs, by the Grawood for example, reminding people where they are and to go straight home it would help."

Cochrane also expressed a willingness for such an idea.

# SUB-standard wages revised

by Kevin Speight

In times of recession, workers in the Student Union Building aren't doing badly. The student council just voted many of them a 13 per cent raise.

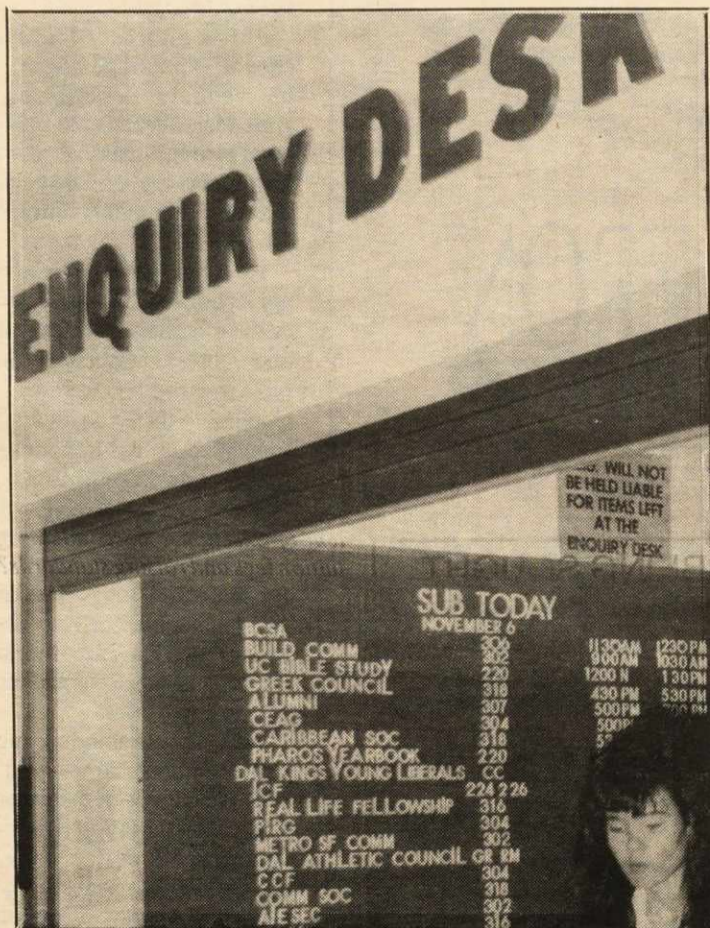
student union fees next year. "It's really a miniscule amount compared to our other expenditures," he said.

The move was apparently an act of pure generosity by the union. Pottier said he had received no

staff. \$4.65 an hour is not a lot of money for the work they do. They put up with a lot of hassles."

Staff at the SUB who spoke to the Gazette said they were pleased with the raise. However, no one seemed to feel the raise was badly needed.

Crystal MacKinnon said she hadn't heard of any staff complaining about their wages. "I never thought that much about [my wages]. It came as a surprise."



Dal photo: Maria Patriquin

"There are not too many places you can get paid \$5.25 an hour."

A worker in the games room who asked that he not be identified called the raise "more than adequate". He continued, "There are not too many places you can get paid \$5.25 an hour. But I work here, so I'm not going to say anything against it."

Dow said the student union would review all salaries again in the spring, and there may be further salary increases.

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### Working hard at the enquiry desk

This means about 40 students who work the games room, enquiry desk, and in other parts of the SUB now get \$5.25 an hour, instead of \$4.65.

DSU Treasurer Peter Pottier said the move will cost the student union about \$100 more per week, but insisted this would not mean higher

complaints from employees about their salary level, but he was personally "dissatisfied with people making only minimum wage. We felt people should be making more."

DSU Executive Vice-President Patti Dow said the move was made because, "we want to value our