

Paging system "stinks"

By John Pendergast

During the first week of the semester, a new \$25,000 intercom system was put into operation in Bernadine Hall.

The tightened security system works in this fashion. After 6 p.m. each night, visitors to Bernadine Hall must wait in the front lobby. The person on desk duty electronically pages the resident in her room. Finally, the resident must go to the front lobby to receive the visitor.

The most obvious reasons given by student services were security and privacy, according to residence manager Mike Read. "No pressure from outside sources was put on the university to install the system. The old one was broken and we simply repaired it."

Read emphasized the necessity of privacy and

security for Bernadine Hall residents. According to Read, "People have a right to that." It is also described as a way of "stopping the wrong people."

James Griffith, head of student services, shared many of Mr. Read's views. According to Griffith, the system has "been long overdue." He also noted that "there are a number of unreported thefts in residence." He further added that "if Marian Hall was twice the size, we would also apply the same security measures. But guys don't demand as much security."

Opinions about the tightened security measures are mixed. While some women in Bernadine definitely like the new system, others find it

too restrictive. One resident noted that sometimes the system is broken and visitors get turned away at the door.

However, the residents of first floor Bernadine (known as the quiet floor) have strong feelings against the system. Most consider it inconvenient that they should be paged to go to the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th floors of their own building.

Most resident assistants and security guards find that the system makes their jobs much easier. One resident assistant stated that it was "very positive and helped to maintain the privacy and security of the residents."

Vehement opposition to the paging system was expressed by a majority of Marian Hall residents. Many think that it "stinks" and "goes too far."

The system is not totally foolproof. As mentioned before, the intercom system sometimes breaks down and visitors are not allowed to see anybody. One observant resident noted that residents from 1st floor only have to use the back stairs in order to get to 2nd, 3rd, and 4th floors.

Only time will tell if this tightened security measure will meet with success. But like it or not, the system will remain for now.

Pizza update

By Carolyn Ryan

Pizza will be served in the Barn starting October 22.

And the Student Union is entering the partnership with Saga Foods with no formal contract.

At the Student Union Council meeting on Sunday, President Michelle Dorsey said the two parties had agreed a letter of agreement outlining the respective responsibilities would be sufficient.

After Council ratified a decision made by the executive to install a pizza oven on the third floor of the Barn, the Student Union looked into a formal contract, but found the cost too high.

If after a year the pizza operation is profitable, said Saga representative Andy Dean, Saga will look into a contract.

"We're not interested in doing this at a loss," said Dean, adding Saga will in that case pull out.

According to Student Services Director Jim Griffith, the starting investment will be \$2,000 to \$3,000, and at least that amount will have to be recouped the first year.

Griffith wants to examine the pizzeria in December and, with assistance from the Student Union, make necessary changes in hours and procedures.

He says the pizza oven will be a service to the students and, by drawing more people into the Barn, will promote the Student Union.

The letter of agreement will protect the Student Union from being charged with bills or deterioration costs, and makes Student Services and Saga responsible for Health and fire safety standards.

Employment Notes

ATTENTION: ALL SENIORS

Careers with Government of Canada — "Careers Public Service Canada" book and application forms are available at this office in Main Building.

The deadline for application is October 12, 1984.

Students who select FI, Financial Administration, as one of their career areas must write the FI test, which will be held on Thursday, October 18, 1984, at 7:00 p.m. in Duffy 209.

Deadline for Foreign Service (FS) Applications is October 13, 1984. The Foreign Service Exam will be written on Saturday, October 13, 1984, at 9:00 a.m. in Kelley 237.

A list of recruiters who are coming on campus or accepting applications for consideration is available at the Employment Centre on Campus in Main Building.

Graduates who wish to be considered for these MUST have their UCPA Application forms completed and returned to this office preferably by the first week of October. When you return your completed application form, you may sign up for the companies in which you have an interest.

There will be a group session, open to any interested student, held on Wednesday, October 3rd in Room 313, Main Building, from 2:30 - 3:30 in the afternoon and also from 7 - 9 in the evening.

The first session will deal with the general question "Where do I go from here with my life?" and will look at assessing one's transferable skills in terms of career alternatives.

Other sessions on resume writing, letters of application, and interviews will be held on subsequent Wednesdays in October.

Those students who are interested in part-time work should register with this office so they will be able to be considered as job vacancies arise.



Council ponders That's what Councils do best. (Photo: MacLeod)

Council raps last year

In a round-table report session at last Sunday's Council meeting, most Councillors agreed that last year's Council was "too conservative" and wary of change.

When asked by President Michelle Dorsey to briefly state why each had decided to run for office, most Council members named a desire to become more involved in student politics as the main impetus.

Science rep Ken Dymant said he wanted to join "a positively motivated group — one that sees what they can accomplish, rather than what can't be done." He's concerned that his constituents are not aware of SU business, noting that he won his seat unopposed in March.

Arts rep Tracy Prendergast wants to see more services geared toward mature and part-time students, the sector of university life most dif-

ferent from the typical young full-time student.

"I basically wanted to get off my apathy wagon," said Business rep Kevin Wisner, adding that increasing Council accessibility and burying the "unwieldy, negative" image of last year's Council are his priorities.

Senator Norman Beck was one of the first to label the 1983-84 Council as "afraid of change", saying that it never really discussed the "meat and potatoes" of a recent proposal by Student Services and Saga for a Food Service in the Barn.

If it hadn't been for her brother Michael's position as Speaker last year, Cathy Trainor says she "never would have known anything that was going on down here." She wants everyone to know what's happening, not just a select group.

Mary McCarville, whose new Council portfolio is that of women's centre co-ordinator, wanted to be involved as well. Although she doesn't "think the fear of rape is strong enough to keep the buddy system (initiated last year by Ronald Murphy) going this year," she's now working on a series of seminars dealing with rape, family violence, and sexual harassment, as well as a self-defense course.

Aileen Matters, Business rep, has volunteered to be the Council rep for the Business Society, saying that she never talked to any Business reps last year about Council business.

"A combination of ignorance and interest" brought Gordon Cobb to his Senate seat. He now wants to "increase the vigour of students in defending and fighting for their education," and says that the last year's Council seemed "ignorant of what a university is."

President Michelle Dorsey hopes the reports will become part of each meeting. She stated at the last meeting that communication would be her priority this year.

Student loan collection "nasty"

HALIFAX (CUP) — A collection agency in Nova Scotia which tracks down students who fail to pay their tuition fees has resorted to what one student calls "nasty" tactics.

Atlantic Collections Services, employed by Dalhousie University and Kings College in Halifax, attempts to collect payments by threatening to pursue legal action, disrupt a student's future employment or damage his or her credit rating, according to a Dalhousie student who asked not to be identified.

"I was extremely offended and upset at the tactics used ... I was aware that they did these things, but experiencing

them personally was a completely different matter," she said.

"The tactics used ... are so nasty that they should only be used as a last resort," she said.

The collection agency refuses to answer questions about collections policy, saying it must protect client confidentiality.

Dalhousie University tries to obtain debts by issuing warning letters, some of which are registered. Although students are given sufficient time to pay back their debts, they are quickly handed over to the agency if no payment

is forthcoming.

Alex Gigeroff, Dalhousie student union president, said the university should consider the financial problems facing students who have not yet paid their fees.

"Some students are halfway through the school year and they find they don't have as much student aid as they thought. Then they have to scrape by," he said.

Greg Cooper, assistant ombudsperson at Dalhousie who deals with distressed students who have been contacted by the agency, said he is also concerned about students' welfare.

Many students, said Cooper, have come to him upset and shocked at the agency's actions.

"We are concerned about whether (the students' accounts) should have been turned over in the first place and concerned that (students) are not expecting these calls," he said.

"Often these students feel intimidated and wonder if legal action can be taken against them."

But Cooper said he thinks the university is not violating students' rights by employing collection agencies to obtain long outstanding debts.

"The collection agencies are not looking to damage anyone's reputation or credit but just to get their money," he added.

