

# Politics, religion out

by Steve Lunn

In a move which has been described as the "suppression of political liberties", a two person committee of the Student Union has banned all student political groups from the Student Union Building.

The SUB Operations Committee (SUB OPS) has reclassified the Dalhousie NDP and the Dalhousie Student Movement, the student wing of the Communist Party of Canada Marxist Leninist, (CPC-ML) so that they are no longer considered student groups. The decision prohibits them from distributing literature in the SUB lobby and from receiving free meeting space. Both organizations meet the necessary criteria to qualify for these privileges.

The decision was made during the summer by two members of the SUP OPS Committee, council vice-president Cathy MacLean, and Gary McGillivray, a science rep.

When asked to explain the

decision, McGillivray said, "it's nerve-wracking to have politics thrown at you when you come into the SUB. Other than student politics, students don't want that sort of thing." McGillivray says that although political discussion

is important, students don't want to partake in them inside the SUB, an area he insists is meant solely for relaxation.

McGillivray admitted that he had received no official complaints, although he says many students have com-

pressing it." Grandy said he would attempt to have the decision reversed.

Bill White, President of the Dalhousie Association of

Graduate Students, said the decision was made unilaterally and should have been brought to council. "That committee is directly responsible to the council executive," he said.

Student Union President Mike Power refused to comment on the decision.

Some of the groups affected by the ruling have set up an ad hoc committee to have it overturned. "We are fighting for freedom of speech and the right to distribute political information", a committee organizer said. The committee plans to meet on Friday, September 29 in the Graduate Students House next to the SUB.

In 1969 a similar situation occurred. The DSM and the New Democratic Youth were barred from the building when SUB OPS ordered a ban on the sale of political literature in the SUB. At that time, the organizations gained student support and had the decision repealed.

## SUB OPS Committee Backtracks

Dalhousie's SUB Operations Committee (SUB Ops) decided by a 4-2 vote Tuesday night to ban political and religious groups from the SUB Lobby.

SUB Ops reversed a previous decision to reclassify student political groups as non-student organizations who would have to pay to use SUB facilities. The political groups will again be able to book rooms in the SUB without paying.

The decision will affect the Dalhousie Student Movement (DSM), a unit of the Communist Party of Canada (Marxist-Leninist), and the Dalhousie Christian Fellowship, which both regularly operated book tables in the SUB lobby last year.

The earlier decision which would have made student political groups pay to use SUB meeting rooms had been criticized by the Dalhousie NDP



plained to him personally about the DSM Wednesday booktable in the SUB lobby.

David Grandy, one of two non-council members appointed to the SUB OPS Committee after the banning order was made, said he knew nothing of the decision. "From what I can tell it's garbage", he said. "The Student Union should be encouraging political dialogue, not sup-

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## CBC criticized

by Cheryl Downton

The Ecology Action Centre and the Cape Breton Landowners Against the Spray have accused CBC Halifax of biased and unfair coverage of the spruce budworm controversy.

The accusations stem from the film "Mr. Regan's Choice", aired last January as part of the CBC's *Land and Sea* television series. The pulp and paper manufacturers, Nova Scotia Forest Industries Limited, paid film maker / broadcaster Kingsley Brown \$27,000 to produce the film which Premier Gerald Regan labelled "vile, slimy propaganda." The film concentrated solely on one side of the issue, the pro-spray lobby.

The Ecology Action Centre and the Cape Breton Landowners Against the Spray have both filed complaints with the Canadian Radio-Television Commission (CRTC). In

a letter to the CRTC, the Ecology Action Centre called this use of the public airways unfair, and demanded an investigation of the matter.

Included in the letter were requests for a public apology from the CBC, and an opportunity to present the anti-spraying film "Budworks", produced by local filmmaker Neal Livingston of the Atlantic Filmmakers Co-op, over the network during prime time viewing hours. The Ecology Action Centre also encouraged the CRTC to develop and implement policy guidelines concerning the granting of equal time to both sides of any major issue.

The Cape Breton Landowners Against the Spray organization is also presenting a brief to the CRTC hearings. Their brief outlines many of the points set down

by the Ecology Action Centre in its letter to the CRTC, and reiterates the need and necessity for unbiased media coverage of the controversy. The brief also brings up the questions of political patronage and corporate interference in public issues.

CBC's plans to sell the *Land and Sea* segment to American television to be rebroadcast to Canadian viewers via cable-television have also been criticized by the Cape Breton Landowners Against the Spray. Their brief raises the question of the CRTC's control over material shown to Canadian audiences through American cable channels.

The Ecology Action Centre has received no response from the CRTC, and plans to give a presentation of its own before the CRTC hearings in Halifax this week.

## Negotiations stall

by Alan Adams

Faculty and university lawyers are deadlocked in negotiations defining the membership of a union to represent Dalhousie faculty. The present talks stem from the Dalhousie Faculty Association's (DFA) decision to unionize last winter.

The deadlock concerns personnel employed at various research projects being carried on at Dalhousie. A DFA spokesman said the main difference surrounds whether researchers paid by the uni-

versity should be unionized. The DFA maintains that they should, while Dalhousie thinks not.

Presently, research being carried on at Dalhousie is funded by two means: personal research grants paid to individuals to carry on their work and contract grants paid directly to the university. The DFA is asking that only workers involved in contract work be recognized, but the administration has rejected this proposal.

Once both parties settle on a definition of the bargaining unit it will be submitted to the Nova Scotia Labour Relations Board (LRB) for approval. Should the LRB approve the submission, the ballots of a vote the faculty had on unionization last April will be tabulated. The ballot boxes have remained sealed since the vote was taken to allow the LRB to hold hearings on the exact composition of the bargaining unit. It is expected that the vote will heavily favor unionization.



If this man was a Dal student he'd be banned from the Sub lobby

See centre spread for Manitoba review