

Student Council Meeting - Nov. 14.

The Council in Brief

Will Offley sat cutting out paper dolls, Recording Secretary Daphne Shedd counted several times the number of lights in the ceiling of the new Council Chamber, Engineering Rep Dave Bell played with the telephone, and Science's Murray MacCutcheon swiped Chairman Smith's gravel. In other important business at the Council meeting of November 14th held in the Student Union "Palace" on University Avenue:

- No action taken by Council after Randall Smith fails to send telegram.
- AAS Delegate Report
- Montreal Student Power Conference Report
- Commerce Conference Report
- History Club Gets two-hundred dollar grant.
- Committee to look into possibilities of re-negotiating Dal-King's agreement.
- Arts Society gets knuckles rapped by Council
- Motion to support striking workers at Goodspeed's in Truro declared frivolous, then declared not frivolous, then almost deferred, then tabled???

Course Unions For Dalhousie

The course union in a "vehicle for raising the consciousness of students" and as such is a useful tool for implementing academocracy at Dalhousie, Dave Bell told his colleagues last week, in reporting on a recent student power conference held in Montreal. The Conference was attended by two Council members, Bob Daley and Bell.

Each department has its own union Bell explained to

Dal-King's Agreement Discussed

Except for "obvious cerebral differences", it is impossible to tell Dal students from the King's counterparts, Randy Smith told Council last week. The problem has become accentuated with the opening of the SUB where King's students are not allowed to go.

Because of these difficulties, Council decided last week to investigate the possibility of re-negotiating the defunct Dal-King's agreement which would entitle King's students to utilize the facilities for a suitable fee.

Prior to 1966 King's students were entitled to use all Dal facilities by paying a \$1.75 fee, as compared to the Dal student student who paid almost \$20 for the same privilege. A referendum passed by the student body in that year however doubled the fees paid by Dal students and negotiations were begun to obtain a more equitable amount from King's. The negotiations broke down and no action has since been taken by either side to reach an agreement.

Dalhousie Student Union last turned down an opportunity to take part "in the largest peaceful demonstration Truro has ever seen" Before Dave Bell had reached the second "whereas" in his motion of support for striking workers at Goodspeed's Limited in Truro, Law Rep Hugh Cowan angrily, interjected that the motion was "frivolous from the start."

President Smith overruled the Law Rep declaring the motion not to be of a frivolous nature, but was challenged by Cowan on the grounds that the matter was currently before conciliation and should not, at this time, be considered by Council. Cowan's challenge was upheld by the Council and Smith was overruled.

However the Council then moved a motion to go into Committee of the whole to discuss the situation. This was approved, and Bell called on Chris Thurrot to explain the situation in Truro.

According to Thurrot workers had been on strike since July 10th to back demands for a new contract and implementation of the Rand formula regarding Labour disputes. The company refused to settle the matter involving twenty-four workers, of whom twenty-two are married. In the interim Goodspeed's has attempted to have the union de-certified, but this request has been

turned down by the Labour Relations Board, Thurrot informed Council. The CBRTGW union had planned a peaceful demonstration in Truro for November 16th and Dalhousie was being asked, among others, for support in the massive demonstration.

Bell said that by hiring other workers and attempting to fire the striking union members, Goodspeed's was "obviously attempting to break the union". Cowan however, countered that if this was the case the union would have a case under the Unfair Labour Practices Act, but he very much doubted this to be the case.

Commerce Rep Neil Sharpam complained that the Council was petty in declaring the motion frivolous. "It's a sorry state when somebody gets up to introduce a motion and he can't say a damn thing".

Treasurer Bill Smythe told Council it should devote more time to its own problems and "let the other guys worry about themselves."

Cowan didn't mince words in his next verbal joust with Bell and other left wing Council members who, he said, were prone to introducing important motions late in the evening. "I'm getting extremely pissed off. Two meetings now we've come here and at 11 o'clock we're greeted with a lot of whereases. Jesus, it's getting ridiculous — it's so bloody stupid. By God, nobody knows anything about the situations. Yet some idiot stands up and spouts off with a lot of whereases. . ." At this point Smith interjected warning Cowan not to make remarks tending to reflect on Council members.

Suddenly from out of nowhere came a motion to adjourn which was carried 10-6. But as suddenly as it happened Council resumed their session and continued to discuss the question.

As debate proceeded Cowan left the room for a hasty consultation with Smith and then asked Council to reconsider its declaration that Bell's motion was frivolous. "I don't think according to Parliamentary procedure that it is frivolous," Cowan told Council.

Discussion then began on Bell's motion and a procedural motion to defer discussion of the motion. This however was ruled out of order when Murray MacCutcheon pointed out the motion to defer would be contrary to the main motion. He was sustained by Smith.

A motion was then introduced to table the motion and after some discussion this was adopted in a roll call vote. The decision effectively kills the motion because it can not be reconsidered before the Goodspeeds Demonstration takes place.

Discussion on this motion undoubtedly marked one of the low points in Council deliberations.

Council and the union bargains collectively with the faculty through its representatives on the faculty committees to obtain academic changes desired by the students. "There is very little logic in appointing twenty or thirty odd students to twenty or thirty odd committees. We have to decentralize," said Bell who indicated that he is attempting to implement the concept in the Engineering faculty.

Law Rep Hugh Cowan agreed with Bell's proposal commenting that it has already been put into effect in the Law faculty.

Bell considered the move to be necessary second step after the Course Evaluation program. It creates a dialogue between professors and students whereas the current system allows students "to take a shot at a professor who has no chance to reply."

President Smith declared himself to be in favour of such changes. "You can't legislate down - it has to come up," he told Council.

"I have erred" - President Smith

Council President Randall Smith last week offered himself as a sacrificial lamb for the slaughter over his handling of the American telegram incident, but members demurred the offer. "I have erred," said Smith, "and a motion to advise me to that effect would be in order." The discussion arose over the President's failure to send a telegram of condolences to the American people as directed by Council at an earlier meeting.

As reasons for his action Smith informed Council that it was partly due to the SUB opening which fell on the same week as the American elections. He termed the language of the motion "flippant" and informed Council that he could have ruled the whole motion frivolous at that meeting.

Newly elected Arts Rep Will Offley countered Smith's allegation by saying that: "Because a given act has

frivolity does not mean - it is devoid of serious political content. I feel it is totally legitimate and totally serious."

Dave Bell added: "I think that this sort of thing is dangerous. The president could act in an obstructive manner." Smith agreed with Bell's arguments, but again cited his arguments for not sending it.

Nick Pittas, in closing off consideration commented, "I'm not interested in censure motions, but I'm very, very disappointed that you didn't send it. I think it was irresponsible of you not to."

As Council moved on to other matters Rep Hacquoil managed to get in the last word - "It would have been damn irresponsible of you," he told Smith, "if you had sent it."

Council Committee

Bookstore Prices will remain the same

By JUDY PEACOCKE

Council's Bookstore Committee, having considered the scale of prices in the context of how the bookstore is run — that is, as a business enterprise — has been dissolved. Bookstore prices will remain the same. However, there have been interesting adjuncts to the study.

It is interesting to note that the profit and loss statement is always exactly balanced. That is to say, no profits are shown. Actual profits are recorded instead as a General University Expense. It follows, then, that profits determine the yearly variation in that nebulous General University Expense.

Also of note is that any discounts made at the occasion of bookstore sales are recorded as an operating expense — which is a substantial amount, by the way. Obviously, periodic sales hold only an apparent and no real advantage for students.

City zoning laws, limiting the university to one bookstore and branch operation as they do, also confine advertising to within the university community. But, the need for tests should pre-empt the need for advertising. For in effect, students are paying to advertise in university publications the one campus centre which stocks a commodity they must of necessity purchase. This

contradictory situation could be eliminated if the business managers of campus publications were to take the initiative to look outside the university bounds for a sponsor to replace the bookstore.

Peripheral to the subject at hand is the city restriction that all clientele of the Dalhousie Bookstore be members of this university community. Disregard of this ruling has been of hard-hitting consequence to the Dal student who just didn't get to the store soon enough, and finding that students from another campus needing the same books had reduced the availability of certain texts for Dalhousie students.

All in all, the Bookstore Committee did conclude that the bookstore was run openly and fairly as a business operation. However, they did question the fairness of the Board of Governors in handing along the burden of solving Dalhousie's financial problem along with the opportunity to peruse the university's financial records. This is particularly keenly felt because what problems and discrepancies that do exist are the result of lack of foresight and an ineptness with regard to planning of allocation of funds on the side of the administration rather than the result of intended bias and discrepancies. This amounts to a far more than considerable challenge to

our student leaders.

INVESTIGATION CONTINUES

Still, the investigation goes on. A committee has been formed now to probe all university revenues and expenditures and, in the final analysis, describe to university officials the financial priorities that students feel should be established for the university community. These priorities are hopefully to be applied to the university's future spending policies and are meant to follow logically from the students' definition of the role of the university both in the context of the surrounding community and as an institution of society generally.

The original Action Committee on Bookstore Prices, led by Chris Thurrot, had been inspired by concern with the wider issue of in what context the bookstore should be operated. Their position was, and is, that it should be a service, not business operation. And it has become obvious to the Council-sponsored Bookstore Committee, after much investigation, that any change for the students' benefit must be made according to the suggestion by the original Action Committee but also and necessarily within the framework of revised — perhaps revolutionized — university priorities.