

# The Dalhousie Gazette

Vol. 102

Halifax, N.S.

Number 1

## Maybe 'Belly-Up' By Xmas

By Neil Harrison

PORT ARTHUR, ONTARIO — In an interview with the Dalhousie Gazette, Martin Loney the President-elect of the Canadian Union of Students said he would like to see CUS rebuilt in terms that would make it a useful union for students. The twenty-four year old graduate student in Political Science told the Gazette that CUS should be students involved in discussing the content of education and exercising long run control over that education." Mr. Loney specified such things as democratization of local student unions, more campus wide meetings to discuss issues, course critiques and so on as specific examples of what could be done by an agitational CUS body. When asked if he thought that the policies and political line adopted by the delegates to this year's Congress



Gillis - in happier times

in Port Arthur would be good for membership, Loney stated that he thought the policies adopted by the delegates had been a real attempt to find a program that people can "co-operate and agree around", although he hastened to add that there had been exceptions in the right wing" like (Bruce Gillis) and Abols (President of the U of T Student Union)" He added that the program adopted may not have been as 'moderate as the conservatives would like or as radical as the radicals would like but which is something that we can all agree about". In the interview Loney also charged that

the local unions had not been doing their part in disseminating information about CUS. "If a field worker goes on to a campus," Loney said, "and he has a number of proposals that he takes to Council and the Students Council listens to him, accepts the proposals and then does nothing to act on them, or just refuses to take any active political part in the university, there's little that the field worker can do other than to look for groups off the Student Council with whom he can act." He admitted that in some aspects the Secretariat had failed to relate to local unions, but declared that a large part of that depends on whether the Student Council is prepared to work with CUS to put on the sort of programs agreed upon at the Congress. One of the difficulties facing Loney and the CUS Secretariat is reconciling the views of the radicals on the one hand and the conservatives on the other. It's not easy, as Loney pointed out when he said that at one end of the spectrum there was Waterloo who said that any program that didn't say that students should smash capitalism tomorrow was irrelevant and liberal, etc. and at the other end people like Abols and Gillis think that any programme which 100% of the people don't agree on 100% of the time is too controversial for the union to adopt."

When asked about priorities for the CUS Secretariat in the coming year, Loney gave as his number one priority fighting the upcoming referendums on Canadian campuses in an attempt to resolve the membership drain which has plagued the organization in the past year, a priority which must, he added go hand in hand with an implementation of programme. He said that the Secretariat acting alone

could do little, but with the help and co-operation of the student councils, it could do a lot" in determining the direction in which the student Council moves, in providing an input of information to the student council that can be put out on the campus in terms of sending speakers on to the campus that can talk about educational issues, in terms of trying to build for some bigger action on unemployment next year when the situation is likely to be more severe than it was this summer, in terms of trying to get student councils oriented around things like the lack of opportunity for graduates once they leave the university which is particularly true in the maritimes, in terms of trying to relate to students that the housing problem they face is the same one that a lot of low income groups face and the solutions to them must be phrased in those terms and the students have to start working with tenants unions, with the labor council with community groups to try and produce... some movement which is able politically a challenge the existing structures." When asked if he thought CUS could survive the fall referendums being held on many university campuses, Mr. Loney said that in large part it would depend on the Students Councils. "If they vigorously support CUS on the referendums, then I think we can win a large part of them. If Student Council's don't support CUS, then I think it's true: 'belly up' by Christmas."

It now remains to be seen what the attitude of Dalhousie's Student Council will be on the question of CUS. If the delegation sent to the CUS Congress last week is any indication, it will be the Council standing up for CUS, with Student Union President Bruce Gillis on the outside in opposition.

## Delegation Opposes Gillis

by Neil Harrison

What was initially a fuzzy spectrum of different points of view and approaches to CUS, soon resolved itself into a visible split in delegation ranks. It was Council President Bruce Gillis on one side, and everyone else on the other, with varying degrees of commitment.

Gillis has a political mind. His conservatism is based on what might be called analysis, even though that analysis may be faulty or incomplete. A love of nit-picking, especially over petty legalities and constitutional fine points disrupts and obscures his analysis to some extent, but in the end it can be said that he knows why he has adopted a particular stand and can justify it, to his own satisfaction at least.

The same holds true for Larry Katz, president of the Graduate Students Association, although his analysis leads him to socialist conclusions, which are of course somewhat different. The other delegates were basically non-political and could not claim the consistency of position afforded by a relatively constant analytical technique. The typical sort of socialized liberalism was generally prevalent. They wanted to be fair, moderate, rational, and to do what they thought right.

Thus the political situation at the outset had two divergent poles and an uncommitted middle, capable of remaining in the centre or adopting either of the more concrete positions on superficial or personalistic considerations.

They committed themselves finally and en masse in reaction to Gillis. Shortly after their arrival at the Congress, the delegates took a policy stand on CUS. The Union would be upheld at least temporarily, and efforts would be directed towards formulating policy statements acceptable to the student at home without abandoning content to a wishy-washy porridge devoid of principal or political perception. Furthermore, the delegates pledged themselves to support and implement these statements and the programmes stemming from them on their return to the campus.

The delegates from Dalhousie University were, therefore, understandably upset when it was announced to the Congress and to the media that this university had been instrumental in drafting the Constitution for a CSF expand which would smash CUS and replace it with a loosely-knit and conservative alternative. Confrontation ensued and Mr. Gillis' action was condemned unanimously on three main grounds: the action had been unilateral but the entire delegation had been implicated; it had been premature in that the question of CUS' viability had not yet been adequately considered and the basic notion of an apolitical organization as envisaged in the new constitution was ludicrous.

This was all it took to alienate the delegation completely. Mr. Katz undertook to ensure that no backsliding occurred.

## Censure Motion Possible

There are rumors that the Dalhousie Graduate Students Association will move to censure Bruce Gillis, President of the Student Union, for his actions at last week's Canadian Union of Students Congress. Though a spokesman for the Graduate Students, Terry Kemper, refused to comment on the reports which have been circulating on campus, it is common knowledge that the Grad Students Council is upset by the actions of Mr. Gillis at last week's Congress.

A meeting called by the Association last Wednesday to hear a report on the Congress from Graduate Student Council President Larry Katz, was cancelled after Katz said that he was too tired to discuss the situation that night. He had been working night and day at the week long Congress in Port Arthur as the Congress sessions almost literally never stopped.

It is not known when the meeting will now be held.

## SUB Operations Board: Whose Toy?

BULLETIN: The Gazette has uncovered an apparent attempt to undermine the democracy of the affairs of the Student Union Building. It was learned as the paper was going to press that a substitution was made in the official minutes of the "Dalhousie Student Union Building Operating Board", dated July 17, 1969.

The following discrepancies were noticed:

1. The first copy reported two committee members — D.A. Campbell and George Munroe — present; while the second, amended, and supposed final copy denotes these members having given their voting power to the chairman — David Stevenson — in their absence for that particular meeting. We question the constitutionality of this procedure, as well as if this agreement to transfer the votes did in fact take place.

2. The first copy lists Robb Jarvis as seconding a motion to permit R & B Syndicated Entertainment

to hold Saturday night summer dances in the SUB; while in copy II, his name has been replaced in seconding the motion by that of D.A. Campbell.

This appears to the Gazette to be very convenient since Mr. Jarvis was in no position to have anything to do with the motion as a) he is not a voting member of the committee, and b) he is a principal of R & B Syndicated Entertainment. Also note the change in seconds, keeping in mind Miss Campbell's absence, and her vote supposedly in the hands of chairman Stevenson.

3. The original copy records two motions by Doug Hiltz and Robb Jarvis. Referring to the second copy, we see these motions substituted by decrees of the chairman.

Once again convenience comes to the fore-front; for, as previously noted, Mr. Jarvis as a non-voting member of this committee, and as such is ineligible to move, second, or even vote on any issue.

In a search for additional background of this committee, the Gazette learned that the committee allegedly consists of 15-20 members, the exact number presumably known only by the chairman. Normal meeting attendance is around 9. Thus the meeting in question, with the subsequent motions passed, was held without a quorum; this in itself in an obvious breach of parliamentary procedure.

This leads us to query:

Is the Dalhousie Student Union Building Operating Board being operated in the best interests of the students?

Is it following obvious democratic procedures? Or is it subject to manipulation? Is it operating for its own convenience?

The Gazette is seriously pondering these questions and will continue to search for the concrete answers.