

Council goes banking and credit union loses

by donalee moulton

In a near unanimous decision, last year's Student Council voted to move its account from the Bank of Montreal to the Halifax Metro Credit Union in protest over the bank's loans to racist South Africa. This year's Council has now voted to stay with the Bank of Montreal.

Mike Power, Student Union president, and an arts rep on last year's council, says that all financial decisions are the responsibility of the newly elected council and last year's council had no authority to decide where current funds would be housed. John Murphy, current Student Union treasurer, says that "If last year's council wanted to go to the credit union, they should have gone the day after they passed their motion."

According to both Power and Murphy there are operational problems involved in transferring the funds. Power is uncertain as to exactly what these problems are, while Murphy points to the credit union's system of night deposits.

Currently, weekend night deposits are handled by a chain of people including two tellers who check for errors at the Bank of Montreal. Murphy says that he has been informed that only one teller at the credit union handles the deposit and he feels that such a procedure would "break the chain of authority" now established.

Murphy feels that such problems were not resolved in discussions he had with members of the credit union. David Morgan, a credit union member, says that such problems were never resolved because they were never mentioned. He thought that Murphy's only worry over night deposits was the fact that the credit union does not have a night depository at the Spring Garden Road location, which would mean a trip to the credit union's main office on Lady

Hammond Road for some member of SUB staff. Morgan says that two credit union tellers check night deposits, a system parallel to that of the Bank of Montreal.

Morgan sees a lack of interest in the Credit Union as the real problem. He states that Murphy cannot possibly see the value of doing business with the Credit Union when he doesn't even know how the bank he deals with operates, "Mr. Murphy didn't even know that they were paying service charges on their current and chequing accounts" (a service which is offered free by the Credit Union), Morgan said.

Murphy says his primary concern is "with the quality we'll get. I just don't think there's the same degree of professionalism with a Credit Union."

The question of financial support to apartheid South Africa is not a major issue to

Murphy, although it was the reason past Council decided to look for another institution to handle the finances. Mike Power, one of the three Council members who voted against staying with the Bank of Montreal, says he intended to put forward the motion that funds be moved to the Bank of Nova Scotia with some monies left in the Credit Union as a show of support. He, however, arrived late for the meeting concerned and was unable to present his motion as an alternative.

Both Power and Murphy are quick to state that no permanent decision has been reached and that the matter will come up again in Council for further discussion. Although no one has contacted Morgan to inform him of the proposed changes he does not believe that Council will change to the Credit Union. He says the major impetus for change last year was Council members who were also Credit Union members, and who were concerned over the South African situation. Two factors he believes are lacking in this year's Council.

For faculty

Unionization near

by Marc Allain

University and faculty lawyers have been meeting this week to define the membership of a union to represent Dalhousie faculty. The present round of negotiations stem from the Dalhousie Faculty Association's decision to seek unionization last year.

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.

In the hearings held over the summer representatives of clinical faculty (practising medical doctors) asked to be excluded from the union while the DFA recommended that the instructors and demonstrators who staff science laboratories be excluded.

A DFA spokesperson would not comment on whether department heads and deans would be part of the unit. She was confident however that regardless of how the unit was defined the DFA had received the required percentage of signatures on union cards for the vote to be validated.

Although she would not speculate on the outcome of the vote, observers close to the campaign expect that the vote will heavily favor unionization.



Ana Maria Quiroz, an expatriate Chilean, addressed about 50 people at a vigil to commemorate the fifth anniversary of the military coup that ended democratic rule in Chile.

Vigil recalls Chilean coup

by Marc Allain

About 50 people gathered at the Grand Parade in downtown Halifax on September 11, to commemorate the fifth anniversary of the military coup that ended democratic rule in Chile.

Corrie Douma speaking on behalf of Amnesty International said "Chile has undergone five years of torture, imprisonment, repression, separation of families and intimidation of the judiciary" under the brutal rule of Augusto Pinochet.

Ana Maria Quiroz, an expatriate Chilean now living in Wolfville, N.S., thanked those who had gathered for the brief vigil for their show of solidarity with the Chilean people. It is important she said for Chileans to know that there was international support for them in their struggle against the junta.

Quiroz noted that it is becoming more and more difficult for the junta to conceal the brutal measures that sustain it in power. The evidence of government involvement in the assassination of Orlando Letelier, the ambassador to the United States under the Allende government, has moved criminal responsibility closer and closer to Pinochet. The indictment of his brother-in-law, the head of the Chilean secret police and a man directly responsible to Pinochet himself, for the murder of Letelier is the closest one can come to calling Pinochet a murderer, she said.

Letelier's death in Washington two years ago, is also proof that the Chilean secret police operate well beyond the borders of Chile, Quiroz said.

She denounced the recent announcements that the junta was relaxing its repressive measures as merely indications that Pinochet is trying to shore up his image internationally. "Although the curfew has been lifted and the state of siege has been euphemistically called a state of emergency the repression continues as always."

She noted, however, that the continued repression is being met with growing resistance by the Chilean people. "Chileans are risking arrest by openly demonstrating their opposition to the regime through strikes and street protest."

"The only friends Pinochet has left are multinational corporations and the Banks that are maintaining the regime in power with their generous infusions of capital investments and loans."

"If the international community can pressure the banks and corporations to withdraw their support for Pinochet the people of Chile will overthrow him," she said.

The vigil was organized and sponsored by the Latin America Information Group (LAIG) a Halifax based association founded to inform the Nova Scotia public about underdevelopment and the violations of human rights in Latin America.



The Halifax Metro Credit Union on Spring Garden Road was to have received the \$1.5 million dollar Student Union account until summer council reversed the decision made last spring.