

# Matthews, Chair clash at meeting

by Paul Clark  
CKDU and Council battle over FM proposal

A plebiscite to see if Dalhousie students want CKDU to expand their services and go FM city-wide will be held along with student council elections on February 20.

The decision to have a plebiscite was made toward the end of a four and a half hour student council meeting Sunday which was marked by stormy and eventful debate between the council executive and seven representatives from CKDU.

The CKDU contingent favoured a referendum on CKDU going FM, the results of which, unlike those of a plebiscite, are binding on council.

Council also resolved at the meeting to call on the Board of Governors to establish a "board of management" for the Dalplex and to raise student council fees \$3 next year to pay increased costs in the health plan.

## Chair's Ruling Challenged

CKDU came up on the council agenda about 10 p.m. after a 10 minute break which saw most of those in attendance huddle into intense discussion groups or relax for coffee and donuts.

A moment after the chairman lowered his gavel to resume the meeting, Jim Wentzell, an arts rep., moved that council hold a referendum asking students if they want to pay \$3 extra in student union fees to have CKDU go FM city-wide.

Council vice-president Graham Wells challenged the chair's ruling that Wentzell's motion be heard before council president Dick Matthews, who had put the CKDU issue on the agenda, be allowed to speak.

Chairman Steve Campbell was forced to leave with Matthews acting as his substitute, while council voted on his ruling. It was subsequently sustained.

Martin Sullivan from CKDU spoke in favour of the referendum, emphasizing the need for CKDU to get the students' endorsement in their bid to expand. If every student paid \$3 extra in fees, Sullivan said enough money would be raised to pay for about half of CKDU's costs in making the changes to go FM.

By proposing a plebiscite which would not ask students to pay any money toward the CKDU proposal at this time, Sullivan said council was making a "last ditch effort" to put off the decision of CKDU's expansion to next year.

Engineering rep Mike Book accused CKDU of trying to "sneak the referendum through council."

"I smell a rat or something", he said.

Nancy Tower, student council treasurer, said council was not trying to defeat CKDU's FM proposal, but in fact supported it.

However, she said there is

not enough information available for students to vote on a referendum.

She said she could only justify a referendum if it asked students to pay \$6 each in increased council fees.

After she spoke, a motion by Matthews that the referendum motion be tabled was passed.

Someone in the crowd shouted, "Dick, how come when you don't get your way you always cut off debate?"

Asked if there were many people on the speaker's list, chairman Campbell said it was "very long".

Soon after a motion by Matthews and Tower to have a plebiscite on the status of CKDU was passed.

There was disagreement on Matthews and Tower's proposed wording for the plebiscite and it was moved council and CKDU meet to discuss and write a final draft for it.

## Management Board

The proposed board of management for the Dalplex is intended to be "a sort of absolute authority from an operational perspective".

Matthews, who with vice-president Wells came up with the proposal, said a management board would help solve the administrative difficulties now present at the Dalplex.

"Everyone's heard at least one ridiculous story about the Dalplex", he said.

Problems with a new structure like the Dalplex are to be expected, Matthews said, and the management board will work to see that complaints are aired and the operation runs smoothly.

After the meeting, Ken Bellemare, head of athletics and recreation services at the Dalplex, said he hadn't been informed of the proposal and was "kind of surprised we weren't contacted about it".

He said there already exist technical and program committees and hoped council's proposal would not involve any duplication of operations.

Debate extended for some time on whether to have students approve through a referendum the \$3 increase in student fees.

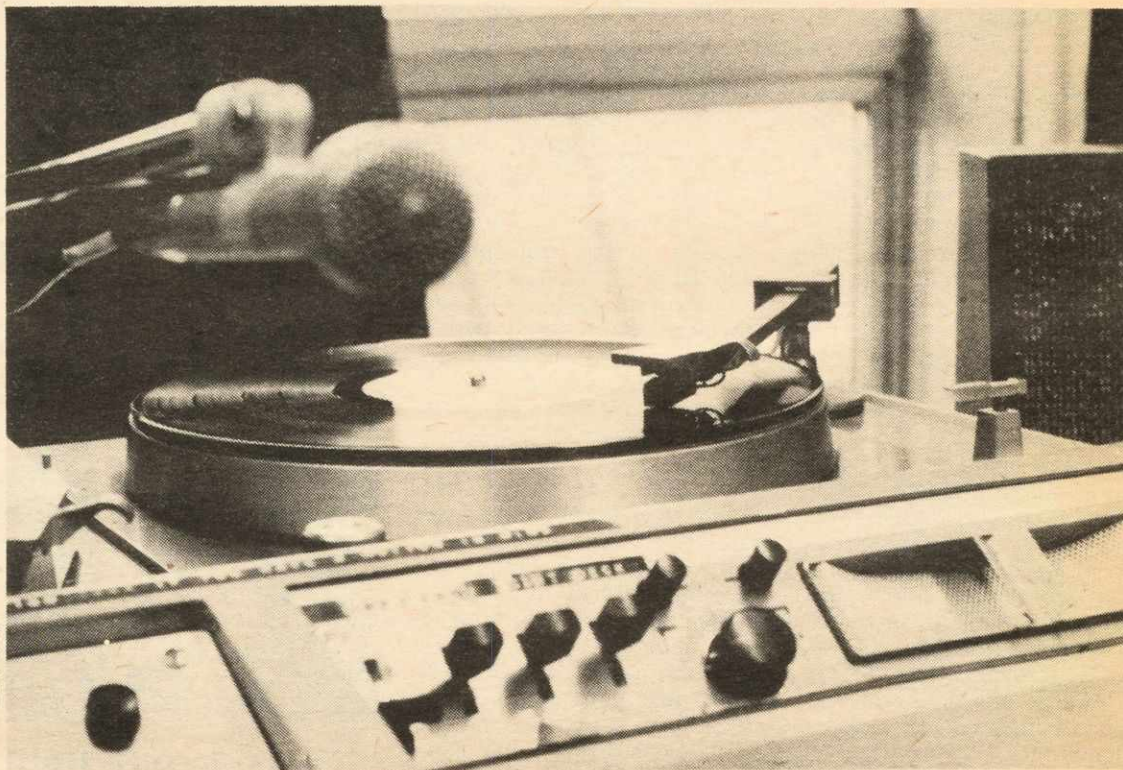
Council members argued that a referendum was not needed because the health plan was not a new service and had already been approved by students. A motion to have a referendum on this issue was defeated.

Gil Whitehouse, chief election officer, said he planned to set up 13 polling stations for the upcoming student election.

"The big target this year is about 30 percent of the electorate", he said, which would be an improvement over last year.

Louisa Horne, Mike Savill and Garth Demont were accepted as members of the elections committee.

The name of the Class Monitoring Committee was changed to the Academic Grievances Committee and will be charged with handling grievances between students and faculty.



Dal Photo

Matthews informed council of the poorly attended general meeting of the student union which was called to ratify changes in the constitution. He noted only nine students, including the chairperson, attended and said he recognized there had been a publicity problem with the meeting.

Matthews also mentioned he had received a letter of appreciation in reply to his letter to administration vice-president Louis Vagianos in which Matthews suggested Modern Cleaner's services at Howe Hall be reviewed before their contract is renewed.

Jeff Champion, Fenwick rep and head of the Student Union of Nova Scotia's (SUNS) on-campus committee at Dalhousie, reported that SUNS' postcard campaign at Dalhousie was going well and would be finished at the end of this week.

Champion also reported that SUNS has agreed to view the Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students (DAGS) as full members of SUNS and give them full voting rights.

## UIC is occupied

by Paul Creelman and Tom Regan

Angry groups of protestors occupied Canada Employment Centres in Sydney on Monday and in Halifax on Tuesday in an attempt to get overpayments made by the Unemployment Insurance Commission written off as a mistake.

Twenty protestors occupied the Centre in Sydney Monday until asked to leave by the police, while in Halifax ten protestors conducted a sit-in at the Canada Manpower Office on Barrington Street. The protestors left when the Manpower offices closed at 4:30 p.m.

The Coalition for Full Employment, a Nova Scotian group organized to help the unemployed, has accepted responsibility for the demonstrations.

This demonstration is only the first phase of a province-wide campaign to have the error erased, according to Doug Meggisson of the Halifax Coalition for Full Employment. The overpayments occurred two years ago due to a computer error, and the UIC's attempt to collect the erroneous benefits has been met by strong resistance by the 5,000 recipients affected, he said.

"We're not saying how many employment centres we can occupy," said Meggisson. "We'll just keep pulling more people out of our hat."

Before it occupied the Halifax Employment Centre, the Coalition said it would take steps to counter any attempts by the legal authorities to disperse protestors.

"If they disperse us the Coalition will have another 20 people ready somewhere else on Wednesday morning, Thursday and after that on Friday and so forth . . .", said Meggisson.

The Coalition for Full Employment recently decided not to carry an appeal to the Supreme Court saying court action is extremely expensive and not an option for the unemployed.



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