

# You wonder where your money went

by Dan O'Connor  
President, Dalhousie Student Union

This is the first in a series of articles designed to improve your knowledge of what the Student Union is doing and plans to do. It is not an original idea, either at Dalhousie or elsewhere. Time should tell whether it is worth the effort. Before they regret it, I would like to thank the GAZETTE for the space which is provided.

The referendum on the Student Union fee may well turn out to be the most important event of this academic year for student activities. It is the first fee referendum in almost eight years. I think that its importance can be seen most clearly when the recent history of the fee is reviewed.

In the spring of 1960 the Student Union fee was \$16.00. Of this, \$8.50 went towards the athletic programme and \$7.50 supported all other student activities. A referendum on February 18 and 19, 1960, increased the total by \$10.00 for the SUB Fund. This was seen as the only way to accelerate progress towards actual construction of a new SUB after 45 years of failure.

The fee was \$26.00 for only two years. On January

24, 1962 an increase of \$14.00 was approved. The extra income was collected to make athletic, social and cultural events free, and to make Pharos free for graduates. It is from the time of the 1962 increase that events for students have, generally, been operated to break even or else subsidized to provide low or free admission.

A new method for collecting the cost of Pharos meant that only \$34.00 had to be collected from all Student Union members. The SUB Fund received \$10.00, athletics \$11.25 and other activities \$12.75. These three basic applications received the same amount from the fee for four years. During that time the Union, in addition to funding the athletic programme, provided the same essential service that it does today. Debating, drama and the arts received more attention than they have recently.

The last referendum, on January 26, 1967, decided whether or not the SUB was worth its estimated cost. Acting on the mandate of the 1960 vote, plans had been guided to the point where construction was soon to begin. However, it was going to take more than \$10.00 per student to operate the

building. By a 90 percent margin the vote was in favour of adding another \$10.00 to the fee, so that it would be \$44.00.

Within a few years the Union's role in athletics diminished so much that the official fee became \$32.75 while the athletic portion (\$11.25) was absorbed into tuition.

In 1971 the university's refusal to continue paying for students' prescription drugs forced the Union to institute a prescription drug service that costs each member \$5.00

a year. This increased the fee, but prescription drugs are still free for Dalhousie students.

The final step in reaching our present \$40.00 fee came in 1972 when the method of financing Pharos was adjusted. After the 1962 referendum the fee portion for Pharos was collected in the graduating year. Now it is averaged out to \$2.25 a year, and included in the Student fee.

The fee is no longer divided among the various student activities as strictly as was the custom. Also, operation of

the SUB and operation of other student activities have been more and more mingled in the past five years. However, if the SUB Operations schedule of the annual budget is treated as reflecting the general cost to the Union of SUB operation, then the portion of the fee going to the main student activities is still about \$12.75.

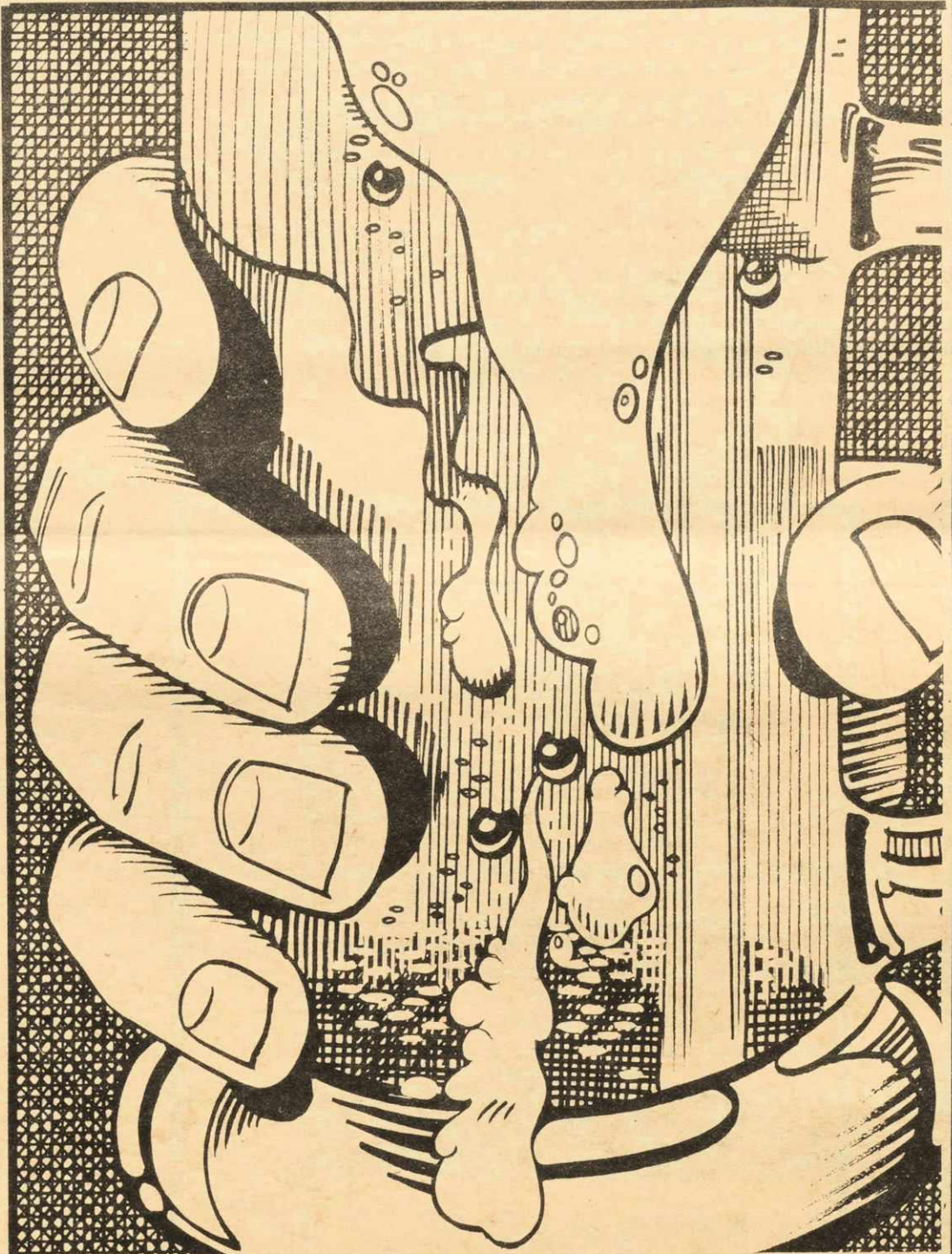
In other words, student activities (not including athletics and the SUB) are now receiving the same support from the Student Union fee as they were in 1962.

## Dal Prof to Challenge Connolly ?

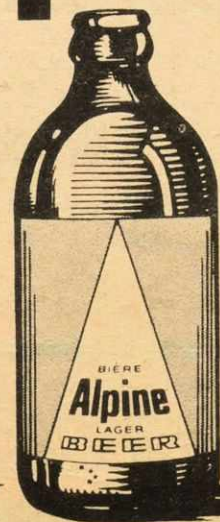
The GAZETTE has learned that there may be two candidates to contest the Ward 1 seat on City Council. In addition to the current incumbent, Dennis Connolly, being interested in re-offering for the seat, Professor David Braybrooke, of the Departments of Political Science and Philosophy, has also taken out papers.

When contacted by the GAZETTE, Braybrooke would only say that he had taken out papers "as insurance" against Dennis Connolly not winning the seat by acclamation. He stated that there are currently negotiations being carried on between various members of the ward to try to find a candidate to run against Connolly, and that if no one was to come forward, that he would offer for the seat.

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# Alpine



It's  
what  
beer's  
all about

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at  
**fifth avenue**  
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MIC MAC MALL