

On the Circuit

Council hears reports of summer work

Council hit the circuit early this year, taking its first meeting into the dining hall of Sherriff Hall, and boring into oblivion the small crowd of eager ladies who attended.

The necessary reports of the Union's summer labours lasted well past the tolerance point for all but Council members themselves.

Robert Daley, member at large, told the Council that due to technical problems only 700 copies of the Course Evaluation booklet had been published. However, they were well received and that satisfaction with the booklet seemed general. He suggested that Council sponsor student professor seminars to discuss whether or not each got what he wanted from last year's evaluation.

"A kind of a pyramid — with me at the top" is the present organizational condition of Open House, Peter Cook, boss of the March 14th and 15th extravaganza, told Council. He also stressed the new difficulties of having to show off the Tupper building near the time that Medical students were writing exams.

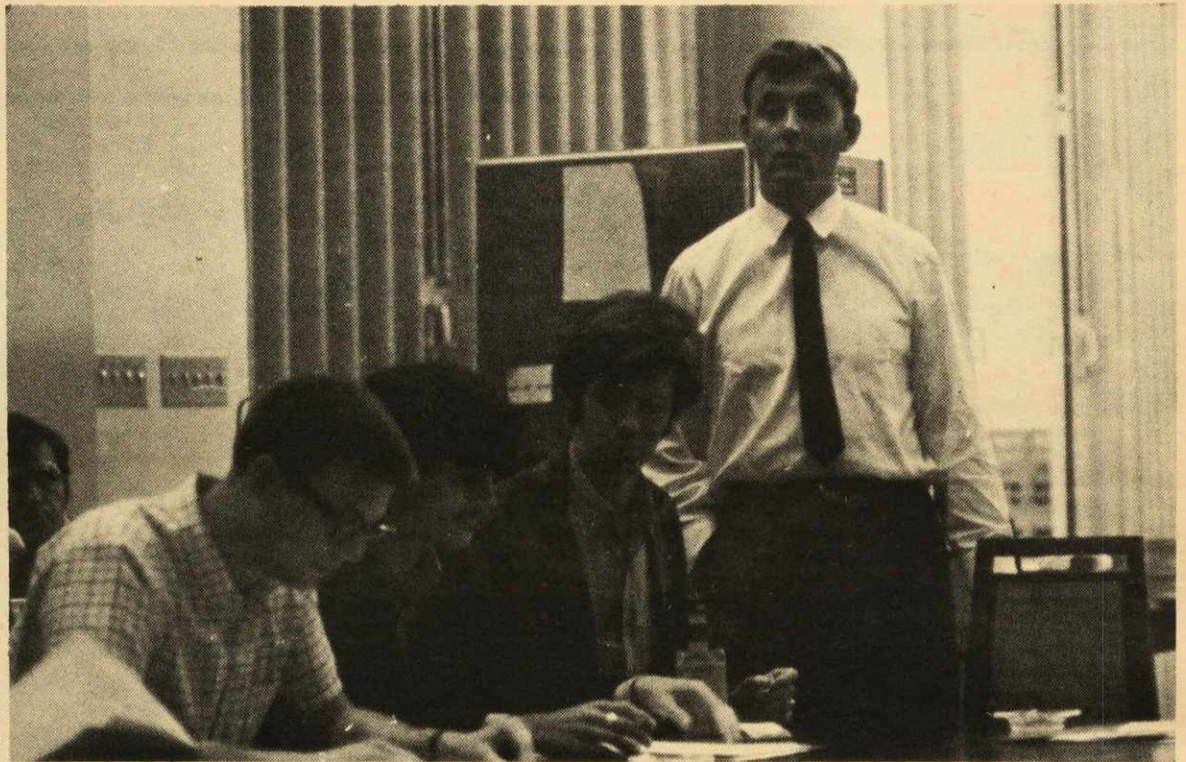
Robert Bagg, Orientation Chairman, reported a \$2000 deficit for his two week effort. Due to the increase in numbers of Frosh, Bagg told Council, "If we want an orientation next year, the council is going to have to back it — it can't pay for itself, unless we charge first year students \$10 a head."

President A.R. Smith announced the resignation of Vice President Jim Barlow, and informed Council that the election for a new No. 2 will be held at the same time as that of the Education Rep. on 2 October.

After a disjointed debate on the bookstore issue, in which it took a quarter-hour to discover that no one disagreed with the actions and intentions of last week's demonstration, a joint Council-Committee for fair book prices was formed to further investigate the bookstore, in light of current financial statements

of the University, which Council has received, and to consider what action is to be taken. The Committee on Academic affairs was established to examine ways to increase the representation of students on faculty boards.

Among the issues to be discussed by Council in the near future, Smith pointed out, are CUS and reorganization of Council, "so it can become a deliberative and policy-making body, rather than an administrative one."



Council members Sharphan, Pittas, and Bell listen as President Smith talks on.

the State of the Union

(Text of Remarks on the State of the Union made by A. Randall Smith, President, the Dalhousie Student Union, to the Council of the Union, September 17, 1968).

I wish to address the Council on the general state of our Union's affairs; to discuss briefly the stewardship of the Council over the summer months and; to set before you, in a general fashion, some of the immediate business of the Council during the coming session.

1968 is a significant year for students in universities. It has been a troubled and tense year; from Paris to Berkeley; from Columbia to Simon Fraser, this year has been referred to as "the year of the Barricade". I do not intend to dwell on this at this time other than to direct this Council's attention to our times and its events, and the relevancy of these events to this Council.

The time of Student Councils as mere social programming agencies, devoted to the pursuit of pleasant weekends and club-like activities, is at an end. Some Councils have recognized this fact of life, and have responded. Other councils have had this fact rudely thrust upon them by their constituent student bodies. I believe that this year offers this Council a real challenge: to direct our attention and efforts to the analysis and solution of real problems of genuine concern; rather than to the artificial issues in an unreal environment.

A Student Union should exist to serve the aims and objectives of its members. These aims and objectives, in my judgement, fall into three broad areas. The first is to provide a medium through which individual students and groups of students are offered an opportunity to realize their full individual self-development through the para-curricular and extra-curricular activities and programs co-ordinated by this Union.

Secondly, this Union exists to provide essential group social services unavailable from other public bodies; but necessary to university students. This involves the student views and requirements as members of the university community; the student in his relationship with extra-campus institutions, public and private; and the student and the community at large.

A third area is that of the Union's role in the articulation and attainment of the social, political and economic goals set by students in relation with themselves; their university and their society. There are those who suggest that this last area is subject to debate. That it is somehow improper for the student to attempt to grapple with the realities of the society of which he is a part of; because they fail to see any relationship between this and formal educational goals. This is not my view and I hope that it is not this

Council's view. We are, above all, members of a community of scholars. In the words of the late John F. Kennedy, "the educated citizen has an obligation to serve the public. . . he must be a participant and not a spectator."

Those who seek to ignore any of these areas, those who seek a Union which is merely a social programming body for recreational pursuits or those who would have this Union concentrate its efforts and attention exclusively on social and political matters are equally guilty of failure to recognize the aims and purposes of this Union, as set by the general membership.

Those who would deem themselves fit to lead, without recognizing the basic democratic responsibilities of representation have no place in an organization that seeks to be open and democratic. Those who seek to advance themselves personally, through the medium of student government, at the expense of their fellow students, have no place in an organization which is devoted to service; to others as well as self.

I make these remarks in the hope that it will set each and every Council member thinking as to his own reasons for being here; his own goals; his own performance. I say it because I believe that this Council has a very unique opportunity to expand, to mature, to develop—in essence, to become relevant to our fellow students and our problems today.

I turn now to matters of immediate concern. Late in June, a number of students met with representatives of the university administration and faculty association to discuss matters of mutual concern. The meeting was experimental, and was thus not structured with any definite immediate ends in mind. I, and I think others, found this meeting to be both interesting and informative. It gave us the opportunity to exchange respective views on a number of important issues. In my view, this meeting was worthwhile, and I intend to continue such talks in the future.

The occasion in June afforded me the opportunity to indicate that we intended to continue to press for attainment of the goals set forth in the Ashworth Brief on Student Representation on the Senate and the Academic democracy brief. Indications are that substantial progress can be made on these issues in the coming year. Fundamental to success is the degree of clarity and determination of this Council in these matters. In all frankness, the degree of progress depends in large measure upon this Council. I intend to ask this Council to set up a Committee on Academic Affairs to redefine and articulate student goals on matters of student participation in the university community so

that we may press on in matters of immediate vital concern to all students.

As I indicated to this Council in the Spring, the opening of the new Student Union Building offers an exciting challenge to all of us. First, the new S.U.B. frees us from the restraints and restrictions that have for too long hampered the implementation of effective programs. Secondly, the very existence of this student planned and co-ordinated project establishes the competence and responsibility of university students; a subject of some debate within this community. I might add that this building will be the first in the last several buildings erected on this campus that has been brought to fruition with the financial constraints contained in the budget. And I might add, it was accomplished by students.

Most importantly, the new Student Union Building offers us the opportunity to re-assess our aims, our policies and; the degree to which we are realizing these aims and goals. The opportunity to change the intellectual and spiritual environment of this Union at the same time we change the physical is too great an opportunity to pass up. This chance will not come again!

Amongst the proposals that I ask the Council to consider is one dealing with the re-organization of this Union Government's structures. For too long, undesirable conditions and attitudes that we are so quick to criticize in others have existed within our own house. We all decry student apathy. It is incumbent upon us to recognize that part of this apathy is due to the very structures and organizations we presently use.

By the above, I mean that the organizations and agencies sponsored by this Union must formally and informally encourage each and every student to participate. The Union Constitution guarantees the right of all students to have free access to Union facilities and programs. We must now proceed to offer these facilities and programs, complete with the encouragement of criticism as to goals, to all students; not merely acknowledge that these rights do exist. A club-like atmosphere may be congenial—to those in the club! Organizations must become more open and accessible; not merely perpetuate the privileges of various interest groups—whether Council or GAZETTE.

In short, I would like this year to mark the commencement of the Dalhousie Student Union as an active, vital, aware and representative body in which each and every student feels he has a personal stake.