Head honchos should head out

by Dana MacKenzie

The President and Chancellor of Dalhousie should step down proposed a DSU council member last Sunday. In a motion tabled by the BGLAD! representative Anthony Roberts, both Reuben Cohen and Howard Clark's resignations were sought.

The motion states that the "abusing and harassing comments" made by Cohen "have jeopardized the very notion of academics at Dalhousie" and that Cohen's remarks reflect his "lack of humanity and inability to act in the position of Chancellor". It also cites Clark's lack of effort in preventing the harassment, and his refusal to publicly express opposition to the comments as "inappropriate and intolerable", as major violations of his position as President of the University.

Debate on the motion was abbreviated and confrontational. One council member complained the language of the "whereas" portion of the motion was excessive, although

Robert's Rules of Order state that "whereases" cannot be debated. The motion, however, was not carried in its complete form.

The "whereas" portions of the motion were accepted, and an amended motion retaining only the resolution to direct the DSU Execu-

"Clark's lack of effort was a major violation of his position as President"

tive to request a meeting of Dalhousie's Sexual Harassment Committee was passed.

According to the motion, the requested meeting will have as its objectives the informing of the Sexual Harassment Committee of "this heinous act coupled with abusive neglect" and also to "request an investigation into Howard Clark's methods of enforcing the University's Sexual Harassment Policy."

The Council felt that no further action could be taken without first establishing that the Council's reaction to the Chancellor's remarks were in keeping with the guidelines set out by Dalhousie's Sexual Harassment Policy.

The rest of the motion was tabled until the Sexual Harassment Committee has had time to examine the issue and report back to Council. It is interesting to note, however, that the chair of the Sexual Harassment Committee, Barb Harris, works directly under Howard Clark and even holds office space in the President's office. The seconder of the original motion, Women's Collective co-representative Dana James, says, however, that she is confident Harris and the Sexual Harassment Committee will examine the issue without bias.



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WHEREAS...

on Friday October 16th Rueben Cohen, who occupies the position of chancellor of Dalhousie University, and Howard Clark, who occupies the position of president of Dalhousie, met with the Executive of the Dalhousie Student Union to discuss further matters surrounding Cohn's obsessive sexual harassment during convocation ceremonies at Dalhousie; and

WHEREAS at this meeting Reuben Cohen defiled, debased, harangued, harassed and vilified the Executive of the Student Council and the Student Union with particular attention to lesbians and gays; and WHEREAS immeasurable damage has been done through this action; and

WHEREAS these kinds of abusing and harassing comments have jeopardized the very notion of academics at Dalhousie; and WHEREAS this abuse was presented as a form of retribution for the DSU availing itself of the university's Sexual Harassment Policy; and

WHEREAS this point was made explicitly by Cohen's comment as to the damage the DSU has done to the university; and

WHEREAS reprisal in any form for any person or persons availing themselves of the sexual harassment policy constitutes sexual harassment and dealt with under the sexual harassment policy and procedures; and

WHEREAS the Dalhousie University Policy on Sexual Harassment clearly states that sexual harassment "is a form of conduct that is always intolerable", that it is a "negation" of the reciprocal respect necessary in the university community; and

WHEREAS the tolerance of sexual harassment directly contributes to a situation where sexual assault and other violent crimes are a reality; and

WHEREAS the university's policy on sexual harassment and the proposed revisions to the sexual harassment policy clearly states the responsibility of all individuals with regards to this policy and name in particular the position of president of Dalhousie as having special responsibilities attached to it with regards to the enforcement of this policy; and

WHEREAS Howard Clark made no effort to prevent this harassment from taking place; and

WHEREAS Howard Clark met with the Student Executive and Council on October 25th in support of Reuben Cohen's remarks made to the Executive during the October 16th meeting refusing to publicly denounce these views as inappropriate and intolerable; and

WHEREAS Howard Clark during this October 25th meeting questioned whether harassment actually occurred indicating his insensitivity and inability to recognize harassing, vilifying, debasing situations and remarks; and

WHEREAS throughout the negotiations carried out successfully by the Executive of the Dalhousie Student Union which culminated in harassment free convocation ceremonies on October 17th, Howard Clark showed a disregard for the sensitivity and intelligent action required of him under the policy, going even so far as to send a message to the Council through an employee of the student union that councillors were not to discuss this matter with anyone; and

WHEREAS Howard Clark's disregard for his stated responsibility as an individual and as a head of this university can be perceived as leaving Dalhousie without an effective policy to

protect themselves from a form of behavior which is one of the greatest threats to every person's individual humanity and jeopardizes a person's very right to freedom, thought and expression; and

WHEREAS Rueben Cohen's remarks indicate his insensitivity, lack of humanity and inability to act in the position of chancellor of Dalhousie University,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Executive be directed to contact the DFA and DSA and other groups on campus to convey their disgust at this abuse and their serious misgivings as to Howard Clark's and Rueben Cohen's ability to carry out the responsibilities for which they are responsible

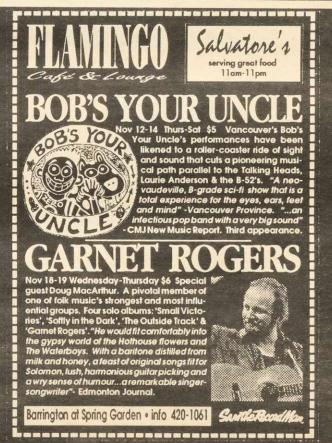
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Executive be directed to request a meeting of Dalhousie's Sexual Harassment Committee in order to apprise the Committee of this heinous act of hatred coupled with abusive neglect and to request an investigation into Howard's Clark's methods of enforcing the University's Sexual Harassment Policy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT motions be presented by representatives of the DSU before the Senate and the Board of Governors stating the concerns of the Council and demanding the removal of Howard Clark and Reuben Cohen from their positions of President and Chancellor, respectively. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Executive of Dalhousie Student Union write a letter to Howard Clark expressing their disgust with his glaring disregard of his responsibilities as laid out in the University's Sexual Harassment Policy and demanding his immediate resignation from the position of President of Dalhousie.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Executive of the Dalhousie Student Union write a letter to Rueben Cohen expressing their disgust with his obvious disregard for the rights, freedoms and desires of women, lesbians, gays and people of conscience and demanding his resignation from the position of Chancellor of Dalhousie.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Executive of the Dalhousie Student Union and its representatives on the Board of Governors and to the Senate take steps necessary to instigate motions and actions to ensure the establishment of a program of Lesbian and Gay Studies at Dalhousie University for the fall of 1993 in order to bring Dalhousie closer in step with other major North American Universities in order to improve education about the essential presence and contributions of bisexuals, lesbians and gays in our society and in particular academic environments as to ensure that heinous acts such as those taken place at the highest level of our university do not occur in the future.

BEIT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Executive of the Dalhousie Student Union take the necessary steps through its representatives in the Board of Governors and on the Senate and through communications with all persons concerned to ensure that a serious and intensive program of education surrounding homophobia is immediately begun through the Office of Instructional Development and Technology and through whatever other channels are available to reach all levels of the Dalhousie community.



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