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## Council rejects grads proposals

by M.P. MacKenzie

The Students Council met for the last time before Christmas on Sunday night and passed several extremely important motions. The Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students had good representation on the sidelines though these observers stayed only to hear how Council would treat their motion for a \$10. rebate of their Council fees. Council refused the rebate and the grad students left en masse.

The Student Union Society Support Committee presented a report on their activities and research over the past few months. Council accepted the report and after much heated debate a motion to accept in principle the Support Committee's proposal to set up a \$15,000. cost sharing fund was passed. The executive will examine the ramifications of the funding and look for ways to provide the cash out of this year's already well stretched budget and report to Council early in January.

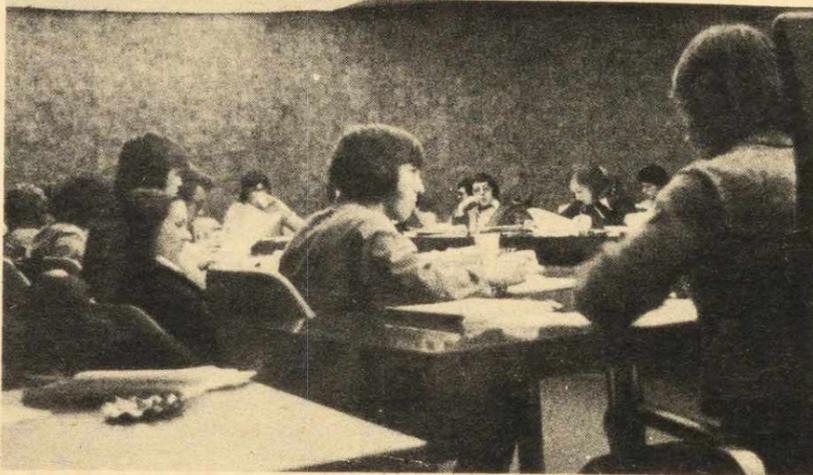
The Graduate students rep, Don Sinclair, put forward a motion to have DAGS awarded a \$10. rebate on their student fees annually before the Support Committee motion was discussed. The discussion surrounding this motion was strictly divided along confrontation type lines - the grad students versus everyone else, including representatives from other major societies like Pharmacy and Commerce.

The grad students rejected the Union's proposal for a cost sharing funding program on the basis that it

would be too restrictive on them constitutionally. They made no case to back this claim up but Don Sinclair pointed out that the Union proposal would be too difficult to administer. He said that DAGS was unwilling to accept any proposal which involved returning on an annual, monthly or weekly basis for funding. Bruce Russell stated that this program would be used to finance long term, major projects which presumably would be well planned in advance and weekly or monthly ratification of funding by Council would be totally unnecessary. He said that the Student Union must retain control over student funds but society's are perfectly free to control their own monies (i.e. all major societies collect some kind of membership fees which the societies themselves control).

John Hamilton (Med rep) defended the Student Union and pointed out to the DAGS members that the Medical Society has carried out many of the programs DAGS is proposing but has not come to the Students Union for money. Further Mr. Hamilton questioned exactly what DAGS had in mind regarding future programs. He said that to date the grad students have been very unclear about actual programs and have yet to prove themselves in terms of ability to carry out such programs.

Martin Ware, last year's grad rep on Council, spoke about the difficulty of keeping the Union united despite the fact that it is an



Council had a heavy agenda at Sunday's meeting.

extremely necessary body. He pointed out the need for social centres for small groups of students on campus as large as Dal's and said that this was, to his understanding, the basic philosophy behind the establishment of the grad house. He pointed out that the Student Union has to try to keep things fair for all students and said about the present situation: "I sure hope there's a compromise".

Mr. Russell acknowledged that DAGS would like some long term project stability and that they would have it. The Support Committee's proposal would provide this.

The motion to provide DAGS with a \$10. rebate was defeated by a vote of 11-4 with one abstention.

In discussing the motion for

acceptance in principle of the Support Committee's proposal Mr. Peter Greene, the retired grad rep who was on the Committee, questioned whether the decision of the Committee was unanimous. He said the \$15,000 fund sounded like an executive slush fund to him. Mr. Russell responded that since Mr. Greene had been on the Committee and had been present at all the meetings but one he (Mr. Russell) resented Mr. Greene's inference. Mr. Greene did not (could not?) respond to this.

Discussion about the DAGS proposals ended with the passing of Council's motion to examine the Support Committee's proposals

Cont'd on page 9

## Labour history and Cape Breton miners

by Donalee Moulton

Tuesday evening the economics dept. of St. Mary's University hosted four ex-coal miners from Cape Breton. These men, speaking for the first time in Halifax, and being sponsored by the Department of Continuing Education for a lecture tour. Collectively they represent 200 years of coal mining experience. Their topic of discussion is the labor history of N.S. but their objective is, "... to stress upon students the importance of an education we didn't get."

With the exception of the chairman, Mr. Bill Pitland, each man discussed one aspect of coal mining and its history. The general feeling predominant among the men was one of admiration for their forefathers. They repeatedly referred to coal miners as the men most wronged; seeing their ancestors as existing in, "conditions nothing short of slavery." However ill treated these men were, they remained together, united in a cause - a better way of life.

The discussion opened with Mr. McGregor giving a brief history of coal mining in C.B. According to Mr. McGregor the worst day in Nova Scotian history was the day the Provincial Government granted the Dominion Coal Co. a 99 year

lease on the Cape Breton coal fields. This was in 1893. In 1967, "after rapping the industry and making millions, (they) threw in the sponge and left the coal industry in Cape Breton hanging on the ropes. "During that period of time 231 million tons of coal were removed from the earth". It must be realized that the area involved here is larger

than the total land mass of Halifax and Dartmouth combined. Now, Dominion Coal has left and a Crown corporation has taken its place.

Mr. McGregor went on to discuss mining dangers and the courage needed to be a miner. He pointed out that: "a lot of people have read about the mines, heard about them, but few have ever been inside one."



L-R: Dan MacDonald, Gordon MacGregor, Dr. D. Milne [Econ. Dept., S.M.U.], Archie MacIntyre. R. Fulton / Dal Photo.

Following upon this discussion came a description of the life of the early coal miners. Mr. MacIntyre opened his talk by informing the audience that "through economic conditions I was forced to go into the coal mines at age 11. As bad as the conditions were in the coal mines, conditions on the surface were worse." He then went on to speak of the company store, the company town, and their bob-tailed paysheet. It all sounded like a make-believe world in a nightmare, back in focus. For example, one man had to mine 16 tons of coal a year for a family of four to exist.

The final speaker of the evening was Mr. MacDonald on the topic of unions. The need for an effective union was imperative. "I lived in a complex of fear because the only consideration we got was-How much can we get out of that human body?" They were "boss owned and controlled."

Conditions in the mines have improved today. A miner must be 18 years of age, have grade ten education, and pass a physical. These men still see the main feature of the industry as the "peopleness of the industry." But education is a major aspect and they constantly stressed its importance.