

# Trouble stirring on the entertainment front

by Paul Clark

Regardless of where you stand, there appears to be trouble on the Dalhousie Student Union entertainment front.

If you are Student Union Treasurer Scott MacLeod, you are worried about the thousands of dollars of deficits in Bar Services and Entertainment income this year.

If you are Finance Committee rep Neil Erskine, you are laughing at entertainment functions like Urban Cowboy and California Sun nights.

If you are Student Union President Gord Owen, you are fed up with the problems of putting on SUB entertainment and are suggesting getting rid of entertainment completely.

If you are Entertainment Director Faye Pickrem, you

are being pressured to perform at your job.

If you are a Dalhousie student something must be wrong, because you are not showing up to events.

What's gone wrong? Council members point to several things. The prices for hiring bands have risen, but ticket prices haven't increased proportionally, making for less net revenue. Discos formerly a cheap, popular form of entertainment—are out of style. Show bars like the Misty Moon, which outclass the SUB at only slightly higher ticket prices, are drawing students off campus. Tight SUB security which requires students to show their identification three times to enter an event is turning people off.

Moreover, the overall costs of this year's entertainment schedule have yet to be squared with their actual budget. Money making bands like Spice have cancelled out on short notice. Three films have been shown on TV the same week they were to play at the SUB (at two or three hundred dollars a shot).

But bad as things they may

be, councillors all think something can be done.

Treasurer MacLeod says the secret to success lies in providing specialized entertainment unavailable elsewhere in Halifax. "The SUB is not the Misty Moon and it is not Howe Hall and we shouldn't try to copy them". Instead of showbands and "Animal Houses", he suggests more New Wave nights, "where you can see a movie and get crazy at the end of the night". "They should find out what students want and give them that instead of making a product and trying to sell it."

He also says he plans to keep an eye on a budget which is \$2,700 in the hole right now. (Liquor sales net revenue is also down about \$6,000, chiefly due to poor attendance at entertainment functions, MacLeod says.)

Entertainment chairperson Gilkinson defends Entertainment Director Faye Pickrem against charges of incompetence. "A lot of people don't realize the high pressure of her job. She knows her stuff-what works and what doesn't". Gilkinson admits,

however, that Pickrem's promotion of events could be improved.

But she says the most important thing is for the Entertainment Department to be concentrating more on special events like "Super SUBS" and "Double Deckers". A new policy of inviting A Societies to co-sponsor events should help too, she says.

Gilkinson doesn't go for student president Owen's proposal, voiced in a council meeting, of dropping entertainment as a service of the Student Union. "The idea sucks. Entertainment provides a direct return on students' investment in the union. Also entertainment, if utilized properly, can build spirit. It would be totally crazy to drop it completely", she adds.

Both Gilkinson and Pickrem agree attendance can be improved if Saint Mary's students are allowed into Dalhousie functions. But while Saint Mary's decided last summer to let Dalhousie stu-

dents into their events, Dalhousie has not yet made up their mind what to do.

"If they've extended the favour to us, we should reciprocate", says Pickrem. "Dalhousie's creating a lot of animosity towards themselves."

Gilkinson says blame for the failure to reach a decision lies with the SUB Ops, not the Entertainment Committee, of which she is vice-president. "There are people there who won't let a policy in until they can get all the snags out", she says. "I'd rather have it the other way around: put in the policy, then if there are any problems, work them out."

Gilkinson and Pickrem, unlike MacLeod, are optimistic Entertainment can begin drawing students again to make up the losses incurred thus far. They have high hopes for the upcoming Downchild Blues and Water Street Blues Bands doubledecker. MacLeod, no doubt, is crossing his fingers, hoping they are right.



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# Combatants change, battles continue

by John Cairns

Recent copies of *The Dalhousie Gazette* have been scarred by feuding between the newspaper and the university's Engineering Society. The fireworks have a history of several years, and they may extend into the future. As repugnant as such shenanigans may be to some, they are not without precedent. *Bygone Gazettes* are spotted with accounts of student warfare. The issue of October 23, 1973, carries an example on the front page.

The adversaries were students of Dalhousie and those of Saint Mary's, and they too carried spirited combat from year to year. Here is a taste of what was happening.

"FRIENDLY HATE CAMPAIGN: DAL-S.M.U.

S.M.U. has left its mark. Not only did S.M.U. defeat our vulnerable football team, but Thursday night in a repeat of last year's effort, the students splashed huge red S.M.U. initials on the rink wall facing Studley Street. Sand blasting and repainting will remedy the situation.

Friday Dal retaliated. Two S.M.U. students were kidnapped and tied to the flagpole. By 1:30, one was

released, but the second remained hostage—partly to insure protection for Dal students. After last year's kidnapping of a Dal student and subsequent beating, feelings were high. However, our willing prisoner was fed and taken to the game in the pep rally truck.

Dal students were keyed up. At Wanderers Grounds, sentiments for a riot were

mainly in the Dal standards. Quietly Dal students hung a gas-soaked dummy from the northend goal posts, fired it, and S.M.U. was burned in effigy. Small riots resulted, several were ejected from the field and a riot was near. Pitiful S.M.U. cheers resounded from around the fire. The score was sufficient.

Upon leaving the game, a

Dal student and his date were accosted by three S.M.U. students. The S.M.U. students used abusive language to the girl, and tried to provoke the student to a fistfight. The same S.M.U. students appeared at the dance later that evening.

Also, several attempts were made to steal the Dal Tiger. One attempt was an elaborate scheme in an Avis rent-a-truck and three photographers who claimed to represent a Halifax paper, but who were in actuality S.M.U. students. A bass drum and two cymbals were taken from the Dal Gym by a lone S.M.U. student who was immediately apprehended by three Dal types."

There the account ends, leaving the distinct impression of battles remaining to be fought. The tiger mentioned must be a relative of the one mentioned in earlier "Peeks at the Past". Had the animal been able to speak, it might have protested the constant threats to its well-being, or even urged S.A.L.T. talks between the two universities. In any case, the Middle East has not the monopoly on recent warfare that we might have thought.

