

## Charges fly back and forth

## Candidate has membership revoked

by Tom Regan

A student council presidential candidate has had her membership in the Mount Saint Vincent Student Union revoked because of an alleged attempt to mislead the Student Council in the booking of a meeting room at the Mount.

Janet Mrenica, former external vice-president at the Mount, was told on Friday that her membership had been revoked because she had

committed an infraction of the constitution by booking rooms through the Student Union for an outside organization which did not have a charter given to them by the council. Mrenica had booked the rooms in her own name. The outside organization involved in the dispute is the Halifax West New Democratic Party.

When asked if the charges were true, Mrenica said she

had done nothing wrong.

"In order for a student union member to book a facility we must go through the student union offices. It has to be approved by an executive assistant, usually the council secretary. My requests were approved by both the council secretary and the physical plant."

Mrenica said she was accused of deceiving council by not naming the organization

involved.

"Under our constitution it does not require that we put the name of the other organization on the paper. The room was booked in my name and I had invited the NDP people to attend a meeting I was holding."

Mrenica said the charges are "outrageous and unfair".

"They called me on Thursday night and told me that I had to attend a special council meeting the next day", said

Mrenica. "They would not tell me what the meeting was about. They said it was confidential, but it was very important that I come."

When she went to the meeting on Friday she met interim entertainment director Sue Drapeau, who had also been asked to attend the meeting. Drapeau had also not been given a reason for the meeting.

"Sue went into the meeting continued on page 19

## Non-election elections

by Tom Regan

Gil Whitehouse, chief electoral officer for the Dalhousie Student Union expressed his disappointment at the large number of acclamations to next year's council during the student council meeting held on Sunday night.

Whitehouse told council there were a "horrendous number of acclamations". He said there had been years in the past when it had been hard to find people to run for council but that this was the worst that he had ever seen.

The elections, which will be held on February 20th, will have actual races in only three areas. Positions to be decided on the 20th will be president and vice-president, the Board of Governors representative and a *Gazette* Publishing Board representative.

All five positions in the senate, the law representative, both arts positions, all three science reps and the representatives of commerce, engineering and health were declared elected by acclamation.

Council was also informed by the presidential team of Jim Enman and Brad Wicks that they have no intention of showing up for any of the presidential forums to be held before the election. Enman told council that he and Wicks are not running a serious campaign to get elected but are running as a protest team against the apathy shown by students at Dalhousie.

The announcement, which virtually assures Gord Owen and Jeff Champion of victory in the presidential race was greeted with laughter by most council members. Several council members said it was time to take a new look at the constitution and the running of student elections. Whitehouse said this would be an excellent idea and it would help avoid council elections from becoming 'joke' elections in the future.

Whitehouse is still hoping for a turnout of 30% for this year's election.

## CKDU plebiscite wording finalized

Announcing that cooler heads had prevailed, Dick Matthews, Student Union president, told council that the executive and CKDU had come to an agreement on the wording of the CKDU plebis-

cite. The plebiscite which had caused so much heated debate at the previous council meeting will read: I am in favour of: expansion of CKDU service including potential FM licensing; maintenance of present level of CKDU service; discontinuing CKDU service as a union operative.

Matthews was asked by CKDU member Neil Erskine if money was available to publicize the plebiscite. Matthews said he did not think a publicity campaign was necessary.

"I don't think there should be such an effort", said Matthews. "We are just looking for information".

Erskine then asked if a fund could be set up for CKDU to advertise more about CKDU as the campus radio station. Nancy Tower, student union treasurer, said this was out of the question.

"CKDU has spent twice as much on publicity as it was supposed to have in the first place," said Tower. "There is no more money in the budget for more publicity. If you want some publicity, get the *Gazette* to do a story. Everyone reads the *Gazette* so it would be a good way of getting your message across".

The plebiscite will be held on February 20th along with the council elections.

## Law Hockey refused grant

The Dalhousie law hockey team lost an appeal to council to have \$200 granted to the team to help pay their expenses to a hockey tournament in Quebec.

Robert Sampson, spokesperson for the team, said the action was unfair and irresponsible on the part of council.

"The law hockey team is not a part of the law society so we can not get any funding from them", Sampson said. "We have filed as a club with student council for the last three years. We need support from council."

Sampson was told that the Student Union did not want to set a precedent by giving money to a sports team.

Sampson responded that the Student Union used to finance athletics in 1969.

"Rugby, water polo, other sports were all supported by council", said Sampson. "And look at clubs like the geology club, the African

Students Society, the pre med clubs. They are all supposed to be open to everyone on campus but they really aren't. And they receive funding from council."

Sampson then made a remark about the chairman of the grants committee, Jim Wentzell, and the fact that the debating club, of which he was a member, had received a sizeable grant from council. Chairperson Steve Campbell said the tone Sampson had used was insulting to the council members and demanded that he immediately apologize. Sampson said he didn't think that his tone was any different from any other time he was speaking; but still reluctantly apologized.

The matter was then brought to a vote before council. Wentzell said the committee had been looking into the law hockey question very hard over the past two weeks after they had been asked to review the question.

They said they decided not to give the money to the team because the team was a sub-organization of the law society, which already receives fees on its own.

"We don't give money for other societies to send hockey teams elsewhere", said Wentzell. "We don't have the money. We just can't afford to help everyone. It's also a question of policy; you can belong to other groups on campus, but not everyone can play for the law hockey team".

The question on the vote was called and the motion to give the team the money was defeated 4-9-7.

The grants committee did announce that it had granted money to several clubs on campus. The pharmacy society, the International Students Association and the French club were all given \$200. The biology club was given a grant of \$100.

In other council business, the classroom grievance committee was given permission to continue its work on its terms of reference and council picked the representatives who would attend the SUNS conference at Dalhousie this weekend. Representatives picked to attend are Alex MacKinnon, Nancy Tower, Shirley Murray, Jeff Champion, Gord Owen, Peter Rans, Carolyn Zayid and Alice Tousseint.



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