

Treasurer decision upheld

by Alan Adams

A report by Ombudsman Nick Pittas concerning the appointment of the student union treasurer has concluded that all applicants for the position "received a fair hearing at the March 14 meeting of Council and the appointment of Nancy Tower as treasurer is a valid one."

The report was issued after a grievance was filed by Joe Wilson, a losing candidate for the position. Wilson complained that the Recruitment Committee was incapable of fairly evaluating the merits of the applicants because of previous bias displayed by one of its members. Wilson also said

material information relevant to the applicant was withheld from Council by the Recruitment Committee chairperson, Vice-President Graham Wells. Wells alleges that Wells withheld relative information "to mislead Council and prejudice the outcome of Council's decision."

After interviewing people involved in the decision, Pittas concluded "the allegation that the Chairperson of the Recruitment Committee willfully misled Council is so serious that I feel it would be grossly improper for me to comment on it unless it was supported by evidence of an incontrovertible nature . . . the most that I

would venture to speculate is that at least two questions put to the Chairperson were either not fully answered, or not answered at all."

Council's decision cannot be challenged by an applicant for an office," Pittas added. "Nothing precludes Council from acting irrationally."

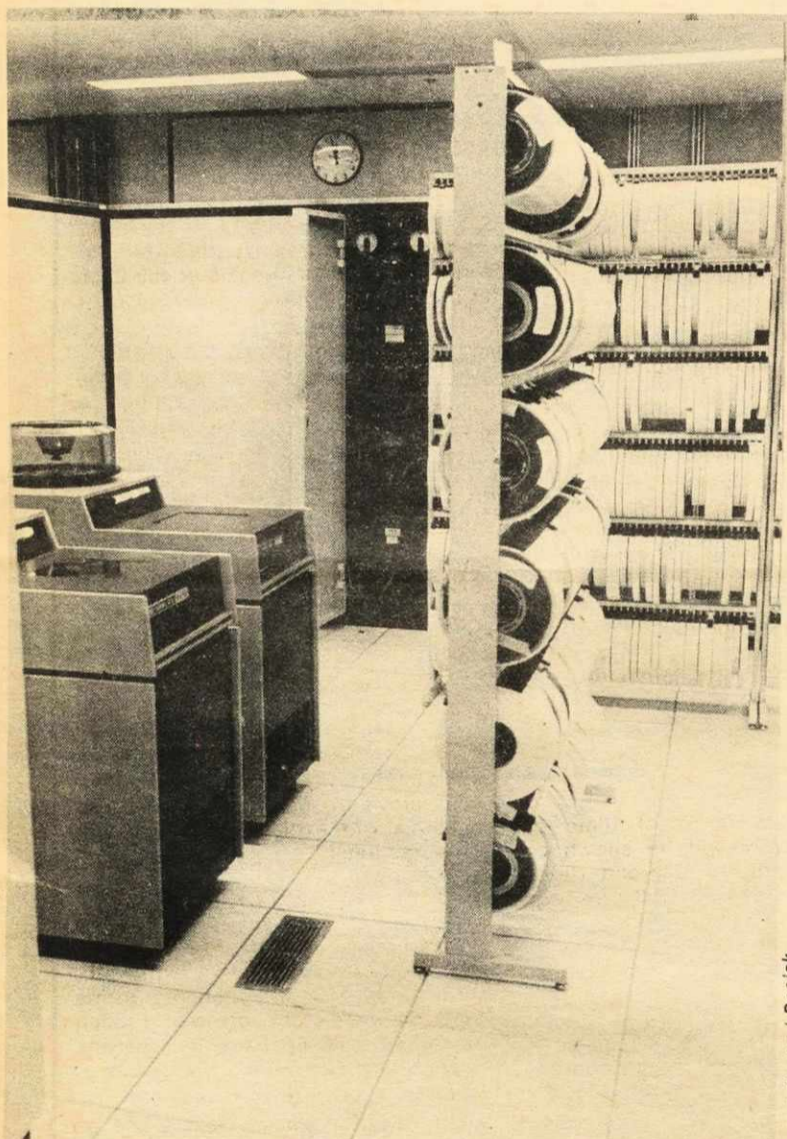
The question directed to Wells that the Ombudsman referred to was, "Who had been the treasurer's recommendation?" Treasurer John Murphy was asked by the Recruitment Committee to interview the applicants and then make a recommendation to the Committee.

At Sunday's Council meet-

ing Wells explained his non-reply saying "I saw the question implying significance in weight of John's recommendation. Our evaluations might have lacked John's but we were concerned with a broader more conclusive recommendation." When asked by Arts representative Denise Soucy Roberge why he didn't reply to the very same question asked him previously, Wells said he didn't remember the question. "Many things have slipped my mind since then," he said.

Wells apologized to Council for whatever damage had been done concerning the whole matter.

RCMP raid Dalhousie computer centre



Dal Photo / Poslak

The RCMP seized tapes from the Dalhousie computer centre March 8.

The RCMP seized computer tapes belonging to a fisheries consulting firm from Dalhousie University's computer centre March 8, using a search warrant later found to be invalid.

But in a ruling March 29, a judge of the Nova Scotia Supreme Court decided the RCMP could keep the tapes anyway.

Crown prosecutor David Thomas said in a telephone interview that "charges will definitely be laid" against Marine Resources Analysts Ltd. of Dartmouth, whose computer tapes allegedly contained information belonging to the federal fisheries depart-

ment.

Dr. P.F. Lett, president of Marine Resources Analysts Ltd., said the data in question "is all public information".

RCMP commercial crime section and fisheries department spokespeople refused to say whether the data was secret or not.

Lett said Marine Resource Analysts Ltd. is a company formed by some scientists who used to work for the fisheries department to provide a "systems approach to the fisheries".

"The firm's clients include the fishing industry, and the Nova Scotia government, the federal government, and some

foreign governments that fish in Canadian waters," he said.

Dalhousie computer centre director Intab Ali said the decision to release the tapes to the RCMP was made by the university administration, not him. He wouldn't comment further, saying that both Marine Resource Analysts Ltd. and the fisheries department were "valued customers".

Ali said this was the first time the RCMP seized tapes from the Dalhousie Computer Centre, although he didn't know whether other computer centres had been raided by the RCMP.

Open hours accepted

by Daniele Gauvin

After five months of surveys, presentations and delays, women residents at Shirreff Hall have finally won their campaign for "open" hours. The Board of Governors gave final approval on Tuesday to the plan which eliminates restricted visiting hours on weekends. The 3 a.m. curfew now enforced will still apply on weekdays.

One floor of the residence will be reserved for women opposed to the open hours. First year students will not benefit from the plan until after the Christmas break, since it is traditional for female students to have stricter curfews during

their first term at Dalhousie.

A security guard hired during the CUPE strike is on duty at the hall until the end of the term. In answer to many fears about the need for extra security with open hours, the guard will continue to work next fall when the new rules come into effect. Before the CUPE strike, only the janitors worked at nights.

Student Union vice-president Cathy McLean was satisfied with the "concrete results from all our efforts". Nancy Cogger, Sherriff's new president, said she was simply "very pleased".

Both McLean and Cogger have been actively working on

the proposal since last fall.

Nancy Tower, Student Union representative for the Hall and president Anne Maher were responsible for the extensive survey which was presented to the Board of Governors as evidence that 75% of residents support the concept. Student Governor Jim Prentice, Hall resident Veronique Blanchard and outgoing Sherriff President Gerry Geldart also worked towards the plan's acceptance.

The women now have at least a portion of the freedom accorded male residents at Dalhousie, who may receive visitors at any time.

Absentia fees not absent

by Elissa Barnard

A council motion to drop graduate absentia fees this year was dismissed Monday night by the Senate council, an executive body of the full Senate.

The motion was not discussed because absentia fees are decided on by the administration and the board of governors, not by Senate, Dr. Arnold Tingley, Secretary of Senate, said.

Dr. Henry Hicks told the Senate council that the question was considered earlier in

the year and he didn't think it was reasonable to expect the administration to change policy now, regardless of current student opinion.

He also said that the administration predicts a sufficient number of graduates not to attend convocation so as to eliminate possible seating problems. However, a closed-circuit television set will be installed for guests unable to fit into the Rebecca Cohn Auditorium, he added.

Senate representative Graham Wells was disap-

pointed that the motion failed. "I felt it would not have been unreasonable given this year's situation," he said, "although, generally, the fees are perhaps justified."

Absentia fees, \$10 for students who inform the registrar's office in writing before May 4, when the graduation program goes to press, and \$15 for students who simply fail to show up without notifying the registrar, have been standard university policy for many years.

According to assistant rea-

istrar Marian Crowell the fees were abolished two or three years ago and then re-established. They cut down on absenteeism a bit, she said, and partially cover the processing costs of graduates. Hicks told the Senate council these costs are sufficient to maintain the fee.

Last year, out of a total of 1700 graduates, 366 students were in absentia and 80 were "no shows", Crowell said. She predicts between 400 and 500 will not attend this year.

Only 171 out of 240 B.A.

graduates participated last year; while 236 out of 332 B.Sc. graduates did. Bachelor of Education and Graduate Studies students tend to be absent but the health professions, commerce, law, dentistry and medicine are all well attended. Seating problems are not anticipated for any of these convocations.

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