

\$6,000 MAN

by Bruce Russell

Would you like to know what is happening to some of your \$40 Student Union fees? Well this is largely a copy of a letter sent last week to all Council members, regarding the current budget of our Grants Committee. All 'junk mail' cracks aside, I hope you will consider this situation and let your feelings concerning it be known soon to your Council representative.

Unfortunately, as it turned out in our "budget debate" of 6 October, Barry Ward's proposed budget was already being implemented, and because of this, there was really little opportunity for Council to make any major (and not so major) amendments to this budget. Evidence of this was the reconsideration and defeat of our decision to increase Grants budget by \$1500. This was eventually defeated because, it appeared there was no place for this; because this is a "transition" year for swinging budget presentation to March of the preceding fiscal year, it is almost necessary that we be presented with a "fait accompli" budget this time.

However, my purpose in writing this is to seek your approval and support for a motion to direct the next Union budget to place a greater priority on funding the Grants Committee in the future. My reasons for this I think, are familiar to you. I apologize for resorting to statistics but please consider that the Grants Committee is currently allocated \$9000 annually to provide supplemental or complete funding for over fifty Dalhousie student organizations, as well as for deserving community projects that make application for funding. An excellent example of this latter category is Frontier College which has received substantial funding in the past, from the Grants Committee. Well the point is, by the time the smoke clears, the average grant is about \$125. Now of course, not all fifty plus Dal organizations come to the Committee in any given year. But by the time a few necessary \$500 + grants have been made each year, thank God they do not.

I for one, as member and chairman of our Grants Committee for this year, am getting rather tired of forever taking the "where can we cut them on this item" attitude whenever the Committee is confronted with a grant applicant's budget. I know the other members feel the same way and an attitude of this type caused by our restricted budget, is an unhealthy one that I do not want and I hope you do not want on the Grants Committee. Con-

sider also the effect this has on the applicants when their usually worthwhile budget proposals are arbitrarily cut, simply because the Committee, in view of its limited budget, cannot responsibly recommend a grant for the amount that the applicant deserves and even requires. Action of this type can sometimes severely curtail an organization's planned activities and contributions to the Dal community for the year. I would also note that attitudes of this type do little to endear relations between the Student Union and other student groups on campus.

Dan O'Connor has suggested to me that stepping up the Grants budget is the "easy way out", in letting Council support of these groups take the exclusive form of grants. Surely, in the extreme situation this cannot be refuted however, if anywhere, we are now, with a \$9,000 budget, at the other extreme. In this position all we are succeeding in doing is hobbling more effective student interaction and initiative by our failure to do little more than offer token financial support to student organizations and concerns. I was quite surprised last summer when a friend, the immediate past Vice-President of the Mt. Allison University Student Union, told me their counterpart committee of our Grants Committee had a budget approaching \$20,000. In mentioning this, however, I recognize due to other factors a direct comparison is not always advisable or possible.

To sum up then, what I am asking is your earnest consideration and appraisal of the current situation of our Grants Committee. I hope you then will see your way clear to support the motion stated below or to offer a more satisfactory rebuttal of it than I have yet heard.

"that the next Union budget brought before Council demonstrate some reconsideration of Union policy objectives specifically by increasing the Grants Committee's budget by \$6000 to make a total of \$15000". (seconded by Mark Crossman)

I intend to give notice of this motion at our 20 October meeting and, subject to any comment or further consideration on your part, place the motion on the agenda of the 3 November meeting.

N.B. Please be assured I am no proponent of "do away with the S.U.B. philosophy". After all, maybe the \$6000 can come from the Grawood's profits.



by Denise McKee

WOMEN

October 18, 19, 20, I had the dubious pleasure of attending a conference at Mount St. Vincent University entitled WOMEN TODAY IN NOVA SCOTIA: OUR POTENTIAL, OPPORTUNITIES, PRIORITIES. Information circulating about the conference had been that at least one of its major aims was to produce recommendations, presumably about our potential, opportunities, and priorities, which would have the ear of governments and other power groups. It was also rumoured that due to the approach of International Women's Year, at least some of the recommendations would even be acted upon.

But, the most important function of any women's conference has to be to bring women together, in order to serve the need for real interaction among women. We are all too familiar, painfully, with the prototypes of 'bickering women', and the woman who proudly announces, "I have more male friends than women friends. I definitely prefer men to women." The insinuation is that most women have little to offer as persons. As a result we see many women who have, sadly cut themselves off from their sisters, and a women's conference should serve to bring them together. The conference should help each woman to come to a realization of her own worth, and the real strengths and needs of other women.

Now the reality intrudes. The Gazette was amply represented at the conference, and I am sure that its many aspects will be discussed and criticized. I have room here only to vent my feelings regarding the perversion of the aims and purposes of the conference. Rather than bring women together, and really examine their priorities, etc., the structures of the weekend meetings had the tendency to divide, and to produce the results which were fed in. In no way do I mean to indicate that some group or individual set up the conference this way on purpose, - I am merely attempting to learn from mistakes, and point out the source of error.

We arrived at the Mount on Friday and were divided into groups of about ten, which were to provide the one opportunity for delegates to discuss our own objectives, our own reasons for attending. But we were handed a questionnaire of the most personal sort, which we were to honestly fill out, and discuss our answers with ten strangers. Not only was there overt structuralization, but it was intimidating. Only by ignoring the group process, and whispering like children out of turn could we actually communicate to each other our feelings, needs, and expectations. And when our group finally managed to rid ourselves of the restrictions of the piece of paper, and finally began to learn from one another, we were told to stop. They would now be shown around the campus. Our hour had passed; the few personal contacts which had been made, evaporated with an official tour. For myself, I lost the opportunity to share with a woman twice my age the identity struggle one faces as a wife. Our paths will probably never cross again.

The workshops on Saturday were structured towards the same end. They were well oiled machines; feed in a certain number of a certain kind of woman, and feed out two predictable results. A simple, if unsatisfying, operation. It is also interesting to add that via the workshops, men were present at the conference in the role of authority figures, when they had not been able to attend as delegates.

These factors, and many more, caused the women to split into two factions, the intimidated, and the angry. And it is here that the divisiveness evidenced itself, - the intimidation and anger were directed against other women instead of against the structures which caused these feelings. The usual societal forces were reflected rather than escaped.

I cannot end off without adding that there is no entirely pervasive structure existing in society today. Occasionally women stayed on after the short workshops, or met at meals, or in the halls; but it is sad that fulfilling relationships had to develop in spite of the conference organization. May we have better luck next time.

More Money

by Bob Clements

There are a number of very poor professors at Dalhousie.

I've spent an entire evening trying to think of a way to write this article without having to come out with this statement but have obviously concluded that it was necessary.

The Student Union has spent four thousand dollars in the production of the Course Evaluation to help you avoid these professors - also to help you avoid courses of a similar nature. I don't intend to defend the Course Evaluation. It has its faults; there are some errors not caught before printing. It is not intended that students

should use it as a sole guide to selection of courses but should keep its faults in mind when using it. If you are one of the many who will be deleting and adding courses be sure to use the Course Evaluation - your money paid for it.

The Student Union has spent a further two thousand dollars in setting up the Academic Affairs Secretariate. One of the functions of this Secretariate is to give you support and assistance in resolving your problems with professors and Departments in your Faculty. This work is in the hands of the Course Monitoring Committee. Members of the Committee in-

clude fellow students, the Ombudsman, and a Faculty member. Complaint forms giving you access to this Committee are available at the SUB Enquiry Desk.

There are a number of very poor students at Dalhousie. You are requested to do a little introspection of your problem to see on whom onus lies.

There are many honest, sincere men and women teaching at Dalhousie who are eager to help you. Chances are that if you approach your professor with your problem you will not need the services of the Course Monitoring Committee.