

# Council Meeting Nov. 21

## Council in Brief...

The Council session that according to one Council member would be the "liveliest and longest" of the year, ended up producing 363 yawns and 18 Law students in four-and-a-half hours of dull discussion. Janet Bird appointed Winter Carnival Chairman, Nick Pittas and Pam Etter appointed to Curriculum Committee. Hugh Cowan and Bill Smythe appointed to discipline Committee. Drinking Gourd Club obtains recognition and a used filing cabinet from Council. Gazette Committee Report. The game goes on. Arts Society talked around for third time.

Dalhousie invited to attend Conference on the role of national student unions. VISA gets Council endorsement. Council votes to support St. Mary's University students and President Mike O'Sullivan. Technical Director Doug Hiltz gets \$300 honoraria. Council declares in favour of open Senate decision making. Council declares in favour of graduating students selecting Convocation speakers. Undergrad Physics Society Conference Report given.

## Council votes Solidarity with SMU

The "intransigent and patronizing" attitude of the administration at St. Mary's University has led the Student Council of Dal to declare itself in solidarity with attempts of SMU Student Council and President Mike O'Sullivan to gain some measure of academic democracy at that university.

According to Nick Pittas who introduced the motion, the facts concerning recent happenings at SMU have been distorted by both the university Administration and the Halifax newspapers. The symbolic dumping of food from the university cafeteria into the waste can was of very little importance in the situation. It was rather a symptom of the problem, which is an attempt by the Student Council there to gain some say in the decision-making process of the

university. This whole situation according to Pittas was being misrepresented in the media and by Dr. Labelle, President of SMU. "They are trying to hound the President of St. Mary's Student Council and create some sort of a backlash among the student body," he told Council.

Randall Smith agreed with Pittas saying that currently O'Sullivan is under pressure from his Dean. This kind of "personal attack should not be tolerated," he told Council. "Quite frankly, I don't think we should keep quiet on this."

The decision to direct Smith to make a statement to the press expressing Dalhousie's support for O'Sullivan and St. Mary's Student Council was unanimous.

## McCutcheon gives Fifty Dollar Report

"I have no doubt in my mind that it was a good thing for physicists. It was of great personal benefit to me. I've decided not to continue in pure physics," said Science Rep Murray MacCutcheon as he dead panned his way through a report on the recent Conference of Undergraduate Physics students held in Winnipeg.

The hotel was pre-Gothic, he told Council, and the plumbing pre-Roman. Delegates held sit-ins on chairs and many vital issues were discussed, including

"making a pig", which provided Law Rep Hugh Cowan with an opportunity for one of his witty remarks.

A good deal of "social interaction" took place at the Conference but he assured Council: "I don't think anyone got any really bad diseases."

MacCutcheon concluded his report by telling Council: "Your money was well-spent. You got a very entertaining speech." The Grants Committee gave \$50 towards the cost of the trip.

## Drinking Gourd Club Aids Draft Dodgers

It took awhile, but the 'Drinking Gourd Club' organized to help American draft resisters obtained recognition and a used filing cabinet from the Dalhousie Student Council. The club derives its name from the underground railways to the North during the American Civil War who were following the Drinking Gourd.

The organization, represented by Will Offley originally requested \$160 to cover the "bureaucratic necessities", but the Grants Committee failed to reach a decision and asked for assistance from Council.

Offley in a brief to Council talked of the plight of the person who has to make a decision between going to jail and leaving his homeland, possibly never to return. "There is no one right answer; it is up to the individual to decide which alternative is least repugnant to his own value system. . . For those who come to Canada, we can offer help. Draft dodgers arrive in this country in need of shelter, jobs and moral support. The average dodger has taken an irrevocable step; most likely he will never be able to return to the U.S. without facing prosecution and imprisonment. Totally cut off from his friends and family, he has literally to start a new life in an unfamiliar country. He must find a place to stay. He must find a job."

Although Hugh Cowan head of the Constitutional Committee had earlier accepted the constitution of the Drinking Gourd Club, making it a duly recognized Dalhousie organization, the question of whether or not it should be recognized came up. "There are no grounds for refusing it," said Cowan adding, "although perhaps I tried to think of a few in this case."

Member-at-large Bruce Gillis however found a

section of the Constitution which would give members a chance to consider the organization's validity, and they proceeded to do so. After some discussion Council however unanimously approved recognition of the Drinking Gourd Club.

"However much sympathy we may have for American draft dodgers," commented Bruce Gillis as Council turned its discussion to the question of the requested funds, "it's one thing to recognize the club; it's another to give it money. They are contravening the law of their land, no matter how unjust it may be."

Nick Pittas retorted: "The Senate of Dalhousie has set aside money for Czechoslovak students fleeing oppression. Presumably they are breaking the law of the land. It is quite legitimate for the Dalhousie Student Council to give money to this organization. In fact there are two draft dodgers on this Council."

Treasurer Bill Smythe told Council: This involves national and international politics. If there is enough feeling for this idea, it's up to the Senate to act on it. Students should not take it upon themselves to override the Senate." Added Hugh Cowan: "Do our constituents want their money given to an organization such as this."

Apparently not as the vote to grant the Drinking Gourd Club was defeated by a 12 to 6 margin and was defeated again on reconsideration.

Offley however was not yet satisfied and near the end of the meeting he asked Council for one of the old filing cabinets from the Arts Annex. With very little discussion Council grant its approval unanimously and the duly recognized Drinking Gourd Club had one used filing cabinet to begin its work.

## Arts Society under Investigation

A great deal of investigation has taken place during the past few weeks involving the financing, structure, and leadership of the Arts Society.

The financial situation has now been clarified and it was found that most of the money which had been allocated to the society last year had gone toward buying sweaters for their various sports activities; it is now known that the society is trying to sell them to the Sports Department to get their money back, due to a lack of interest in Arts sports.

The money which the society has received this year will go towards the Arts Ball which will be held in the month of January.

At the last Council meeting, Arts representative, Nick Pittas, stated that the society was a "social club for just a few." He felt that they should not get

together for social reasons alone, but for student interest.

Two alternatives were proposed. Either abolish the society or give it a new status.

The leadership of the Arts society had been given stiff criticism.

Council member Gillis stated that the president, Brian Ashworth, wasn't doing much for the society and he also said that he was very unimpressed and

In order to improve the present structure, more local clubs must be formed, and in this way its position would be strengthened as an effective, and active society on campus. Without further strengthening defeat and subsequent abolishment of that society is imminent.

Martin Dalley



January 11 & 12.

The German Club will sponsor a weekend of skiing at the Mt. Martock Ski Lodge. It is open to everyone.

Cost has not been determined as yet.

For further details, call Stephanie Robinson (422-5575) or Olga Dimitriadis.

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