

Special council meeting on vital issues

"Well, it's not exactly a mob," said Neil Erskine, VP Academic as he strolled into the council chambers.

Sunday's special council meeting to discuss responsibilities of student councillors and the imposition of financial constraint did not reach quorum of 18 members until 42 minutes after it was scheduled to begin.

Student president Peter Rans moved the council Financial Constraint break into a Committee of the Whole for discussion.

Rans' opening comments on the Week of Information indicated participation was "not as terrific as we wanted" but it was time to examine where it had failed.

Britt Dysart, Arts rep, said marches every year might lose meaning and alternate forms of protest should be implemented. Rans countered that all other forms, including letters, and meetings with MLA's, had already been exhausted.

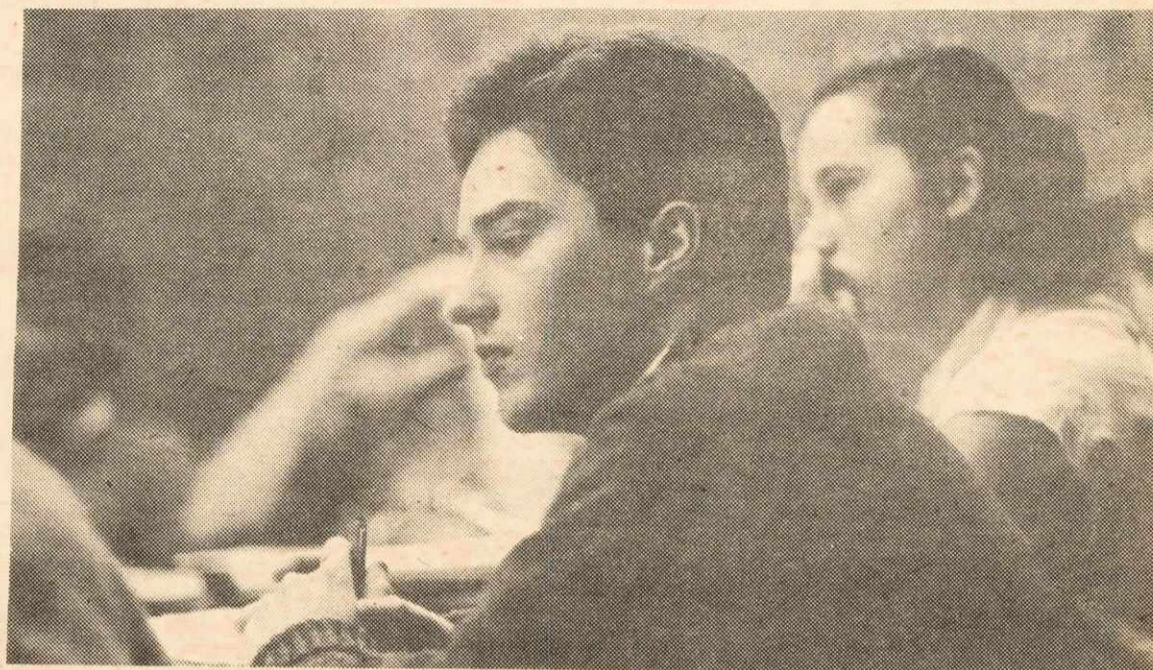
Board of Governors rep Atul Sharma said marches were not overworn, and the march this year against provincial policies was for a different reason than the previous year's demonstration. "The

magnitude of opposition stopped the EPF cuts" he said, referring to year's demonstration. The federal threats to reduce transfer payments to the province in the 1981 fall budget. He said Dysart's reason was "an excuse not to do anything" and "not based on fact."

On the issue of poor attendance at council meetings, Rans apologized because "in a sense I'm speaking to the converted." He was especially upset at councillors who left shortly after roll calls, and did not contribute to the meetings.

Arts rep Phil Dunn said council meetings did not move efficiently and were "a waste of my and everybody else's time." Rans suggested punctuality would shorten meetings, pointed to the 40 minute delay at the meeting and an 80 minute holdup in the previous one.

Rans said council should refuse motions made on the spur of the moment during meetings. He suggested that be written out and handed to the Chair ahead of meetings before any discussion could begin.



Morris/Dal Photo

Erskine said time could be saved on "silly motions" discussed at length but having little support, "Second motions only if you agree with them," he said.

University President MacKay's imposition of financial constraint means "we will have to make recommendations by the end of term" said VP internal John Russell. Recommendations from all groups will have to be presented by December 20.

Rans urged "We have to formulate a policy or one will be made for us by the DFA, the administration or as a result of a clash between those two groups." He said the DFA will attack the administration on its sale of housing. He also noted most of the houses that will be sold are occupied by students.

Rans suggested Senate and Board of Governor reps meet to consolidate policy and avoid contradictions between respective groups. "To have an impact we must be seen to vote together, to have a coherent policy," he said. Rans instructed council that financial constraint was the most important event in years and indicated the needs of council to pool its resources.

Sharma explained MacKay's document on constraint to council, and expressed his concern that needs of students will be consulted," he said.

Financial constraint will affect courses being offered and the numbers of people in them, said Erskine. He added departments may disappear a few years from now. Erskine opposed user fees in any form and wished councillors to inform him of them, including seemingly minor charges for pho-

tocopied handouts and audiovisual use.

After returning to regular proceedings from committee of the whole, two motions were passed. Senate rep Colin Hames moved to update the report presented to the Board of Governors last year which successfully prevented tuition fees from rising more than 12% this year.

Board of Governors rep Jay Doucet moved attendance be kept more ruthlessly pursuant to by-law 14 of the Student Union's constitutions, and letters to that effect be placed in councillors' mailboxes.

Although there was a complaint the motion was redundant, Bill Walsh, Chairperson, ruled otherwise. "The time-frame makes the motion relevant," he said.

Dalhousie Student Movement responds 'vigorously'

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have defended the interests of the foreign students, but the VP Russell is on record as stating that he supports "in a general way" the imposition of racist quotas on foreign students. And, according to your editorial, this executive seems to be more worried about the stand of DSM against the cutbacks than in organizing the active opposition of the students against them.

DSM has never considered itself in an aloof and high-handed manner, over and above the interests and life of the students and the general students' associations. At the same time, it permits nobody to use anti-democratic rules and regulations as a weapon whereby political and ideological views, which run counter to our Marxist-Leninist political and ideological views, the basis of our unity in Dalhousie Student Movement and the Communist Youth Union of Canada (Marxist-Leninist), are dictated to, and imposed on, our association.

Nor will the DSM publish the list of our members as the executive in effect demands, which will give satisfaction to the secret political police. Unlike others, DSM has never sold out principles nor compromised them in order to achieve an odious "respectability".

The SC executive and Dalhousie Board of Governors hold no copyright on the word Dalhousie, just as the federal government holds no monopoly on the word Canada. It is a fact that a minority of the students vote in the SC elections (42 per cent) and, if the executive is worried about the news media of the rich unknowingly associating one student organization with the entire student body, then they can call themselves Students' Council (Minority) or SC (42 per cent). Or they can demand that the BOG change their name to BOG of the Monopolies and Multinational

Corporations & Token Student.

The article quotes the executive as hoping that "the issue can be settled amicably", then misquotes Charles Spurr. Regarding the continuous political persecution by the administration, he stated, "We have always opposed this vigorously. This comes out as "violently". This, unconsciously or consciously, has the effect of smearing the Marxist-Leninists as being a source of violence, and confusing the victim with the victimizer.

What is the central issue? Despite the statements made by W.A. MacKay when he was installed about the university being "a haven for ideas and discussions" (Feb. 7, 1981), this freedom extends only to various trends and schools of bourgeois ideology, and the right of progressive expression, opinion and freedom of association is not guaranteed or defended. This is also shown by the persecution of students at Universite de Moncton. The SC executive is trying to prevent students from organizing around progressive or revolutionary politics while it is dis-organizing student opposition to the cutbacks. In effect, the SC executive states that their politics will be the only "approved" politics on campus and their organization will be the only "approved" organization on campus. Any club which does not agree is damned.

DSM calls on all students to oppose the political interference in the internal affairs of the student clubs, and to demand that the constitution regarding club composition be scrapped. We will be bringing forward an amendment to the effect that all associations are guaranteed the right to exist, organize and use the facilities, with the exception of racist or fascist groups or views.

submitted by
Dalhousie Student Movement
October 25, 1982.

Linus, we believe in the Great Pumpkin

by Valerie Edwards

If you thought that blanket-toting Peanuts character, Linus, was the only one who fervently believed in the coming of the Great Pumpkin, you're wrong. Since 1973 members of Harrison House, a male residence at the University of New Brunswick have participated in the Ceremonial Sacrifice of the Great Pumpkin on All Hollow's Eve.

According to the "Harrison House history manual," the preparations actual begin a few days before Hallowe'en, when house members gather at midnight to bay at the moon. There is also the "getting and preparing of pumpkins." Several of the boys cruise the local area to stake out the best pumpkin patches and "return under the cover of darkness" to retrieve them. The largest is destined to become "the great one." Before returning to the university tradition dictates that one pumpkin is thrown over a bridge to give thanks for a great haul.

The pumpkins are carved with different designs, fitted with candles and placed in the windows of the Harrison House lounges just before midnight on Hallowe'en. But the face of the Great Pumpkin is special — a combination of the two-faced Roman god, Janus, and the

Comedy and Tragedy faces of the Greek dramatic masks. The face of Janus, whose principal festival in Roman times was New Year's Day, represents the beginning of the academic year. The Greek mask symbolizes the possible futures of the students.

At midnight the procession begins to the chimes of monastery bells and Gregorian chants. The "Monk" heads the procession, followed by the banner carriers, the Great Pumpkin carried on a litter by bearers, "His Grace", three "wise men," and white-robed worshippers in rows of two.

The march leads them to the courtyard of one of the female residences where the Great Pumpkin receives gifts, whereupon the bearers, returning to Harrison House, carry the pumpkin to the roof of the residence. Five old Anglican prayers (from the Book of Common Prayer) are read in honour of the harvests, the university and for all people. The pumpkin is lit on fire and the "biship" hurls it from the roof.

With triumphant cheers, the worshippers throw their candles into the flaming remains.

Festive celebrations begin as all proceed to sample the original "Pumpkin Punch" composed of sweet apple cider, rye, sherry, eggs

and cinnamon.

Harrison House members cannot stress the ceremony's importance enough. Two years ago CBC televised the event and last year ATV picked up the coverage. The 1981 celebration had a record turnout of close to 1000 and the "Great Pumpkin" was the "greatest" ever — 145 lbs. The students said that this is not a sacrilegious occasion as the events portray three primary goals; 1) it is an attempt to unify house members and promote house spirit; 2) it is a ceremony of prayer to give thanks for the Acadian harvest, (represented by the pumpkin) which is a main socio-economic aspect in the surrounding area; 3) it is a ceremony of prayer for a bountiful Academic harvest (symbolized by the students).

Harrison House president Rob Boyd, who will be participating for the third time, said that he has always taken the ceremony very seriously.

"It's great for house spirit," said Boyd. "It really pulls the house together as it's one of the only times all 101 of us get together."

So, Linus, if you're going to be sitting in the pumpkin patch this year awaiting the arrival of the "Great One," you'd better move over. Harrison House will be right there with you.