

Strike causes

Student Union deficit

by Kyle Jolliffe

Losses due to the strike by Dalhousie cleaning staff are costing the Dalhousie student union \$10,000 to \$15,000 per month, according to council treasurer John Murphy.

Much of the loss in revenue has come from the substantial drop in liquor sales, down

\$40,000 from this time last year. Between \$12,000 and \$15,000 of that is due to the Grawood's Saturday closing. The rest would have come from bar and food sales at special functions in the SUB. Beaver Foods rebates 10 per cent of its revenue from catering to SUB special events

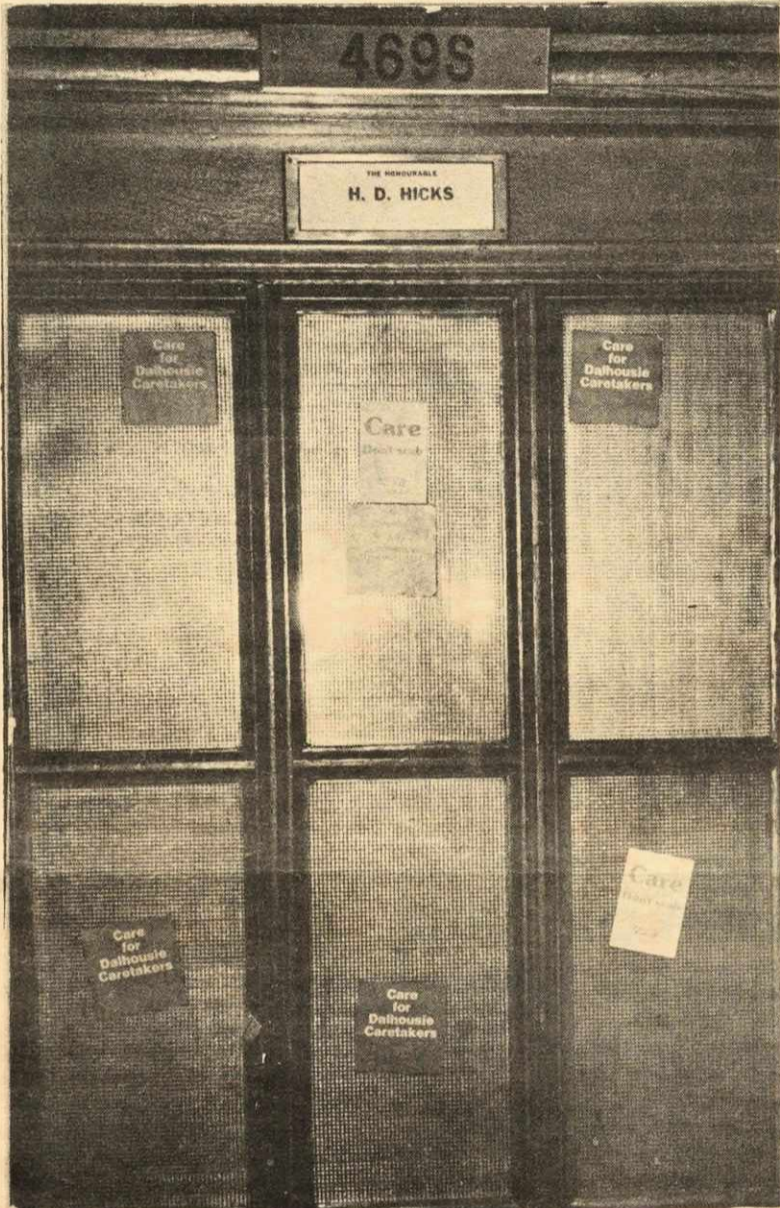
to the student union. SUB general manager John Graham estimates that the student union has lost about \$2,000 from this source because of the strike.

The SUB has been closed on weekends since the strike started and most of the special functions, except for the occasional weeknight speaker or movie, have been cancelled. Graham says he is concerned about the loss to students from the lack of special functions. He believes 50 per cent of the SUB's "reason to be" has been lost by the strike.

The losses, caused by the weekend closure of the Grawood Lounge and the cancellation of special events, will result in a year-end deficit of approximately \$20,000, according to Graham. Treasurer Murphy says student union fees won't rise, though, because the shortfalls in revenue will be treated as a one-time loss, and will be deducted from last year's budget surplus of \$54,047.

Murphy said he was concerned about the loss of convention and special function business from off-campus groups. Joe Wilson, a member of the finance committee also expressed concern about lost business, saying that some students will continue to frequent off-campus pubs after the strike ends, rather than returning to the Grawood.

As a direct result of this significant drop in revenue, a proposal was presented by the Finance committee to last Sunday's council meeting that the committee investigate the possibility of hiring CUPE workers to clean the SUB on a short term basis, prior to a settlement between the workers and the university. The committee was directed to proceed with this proposal. The question of whether the workers would be paid at the wage rate they are demanding from the University has not been considered yet, according to committee member Joe Wilson.



If Dalhousie president Henry Hicks was in Ottawa last week he was reminded of what he'd left behind at Dal. Support stickers for the striking CUPE workers awaited Hicks on the door to his Senate office in the parliament buildings. Before the stickers were removed the door was photographed by the Gazette's Ottawa stringers.

Bank defends SA involvement

by Ron Stang

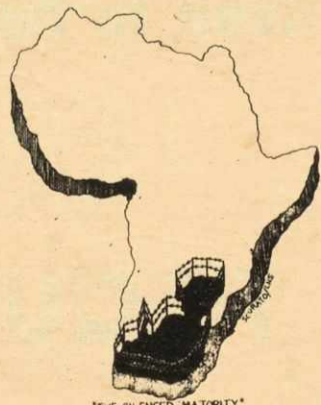
The president of the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, John Fullerton, last week defended Canadian banks' investments in South Africa. The banks have been criticized for their financial support of an avowedly racist regime. Critics have argued that the investments are upholding the economic foundations of the government and its apartheid policy.

In response to an audience question on the subject, after a speech he gave at Dalhousie. Fullerton said that after studying the issue a great deal the Commerce had concluded the consequences of withdrawing financial support for the South African regime would be more harmful to the people of that

country than continuing to invest there.

"You research (the issue) yourself," he told his questioner. "Apartheid is a bad policy, I agree, but we've done our homework and we don't agree with the alternatives," he said.

Fullerton said he was speaking about South African investment generally and declined to say whether the Commerce itself was providing financial support to that country. He said the bank's policy was not to discuss publicly its business dealings.



Council briefs

by Maria Rey

B. J. Arsenault, chairperson of the Students Union of Nova Scotia (SUNS), and Jim Healey, president at St. F.X., were at council Sunday night to speak to members about the new provincial organization. They requested that Dal make a commitment to the organization and to join the plenary, now consisting of eleven institutions.

SUNS presently operates on an ad hoc basis, funded mostly by the Acadia Student Union. The organization's steering committee is asking that until referenda are held next year, plenary members grant money towards its operations.

Arsenault stressed that it is important for the SUNS steering committee, when approached by the MPHEC and the government, to be able to represent a unified student voice on the subject of tuition fees and other matters concerning students.

A motion of general approval of SUNS as an organization and a commitment to become an active participant was passed by council.

A motion to express displeasure of Dalhousie Administration's contracting-out to Modern Cleaners was approved by council. Graduate rep, Joe Wilson told council that this move would not be a reversal of the student Union's neutrality stance on the strike. He stressed that this would be an objection to the conduct of the administration in the wage dispute.

Council member, Denise Soucy-Roberge, summed up Council's move by stating that "it is questionable if the Administration's move was illegal but there is no question that it was immoral."

A second motion that the Student Union reverse its position of neutrality by joining other major organizations on campus in support of the strikers was defeated overwhelmingly.

The Finance Committee received approval from council to investigate the possibility of transferring the Student Union account from the Bank of Montreal to the Royal Bank of Canada. Because they did not want their money to support the South Africa regime, last year's council had voted to move the account to a credit union. The present council discarded this motion because of a feeling that services would not be sufficient at a credit union. The Royal Bank claims no loans have been made to South Africa in two and one half years.

Council will approve of putting the account in the Royal Bank providing that it gives the Student Union equal or better service than presently provided by the Bank of Montreal.

The Finance Committee will also be investigating the possibility of buying a pinball machine for the games room, the profits of which will be used to buy other machines. The committee hopes they will eventually gain total profit from the operation instead of the present 50%.

The two non-council members of the SUB-Ops committee, David Grandy and David Bolivar have resigned. Grandy has left the committee due to lack of time and Bolivar left because of his conflict of interests as a participant in the Gazette incident. Nominations for their positions are open to all Student Union members.

Nominations for Student Council positions for next year are open until January 29 at 5:00 p.m.

Due to lack of interest by council members and observers, Alan Adams, a Gazette reporter was elected by council to attend the Canadian Bureau of International Education Conference in Halifax from January 21-23.

Anyone wishing to attend the SUNS conference at the Universite Ste. Anne's, Church Point, N.S., January 25-26 can submit their names at the Student Council office.

