

a choo choo that knew it could

EXECUTIVE EXPRESS

*Driving my train,
High on Cocaine,
Casey Jones you'd better watch your speed,
Trouble ahead, trouble behind,
Don't you know that notion just crossed my mind.*
The Grateful Dead



Photo by Bob Steele

The grateful dead is probably as apt an expression as any to describe the present status of Dalhousie Student Union's Radio Department. At a meeting of Student Council last Sunday (September 29) representatives voted to close down Dal Radio for a one month period and to appoint a committee to redesign its structure. The committee will also decide who will be re-admitted to the radio ranks (suggestion that some of the old staffers will be left behind). Serving on the committee are: President, Dan O'Connor; Communications Secretary, Stan Beshunsky-Smith; Technical Director, Fred Mattocks; Council Rep., Chris Hart; and Dal Radio Station Manager, Doug Wavrock.

All this was decided some time ago (who knows how long) at an Executive meeting, or should I say after an Executive meeting. You see, certain members of the Executive thought this to be such a touchy subject that they didn't want any one to know that they were discussing it. Of course the constitution allows for In Camera meetings on controversial subjects and the minutes of such meetings need not be published for three months. This allowance, however, was not enough. At the meeting, at which the radio plan was conceived, the motion was not discussed until after the meeting was adjourned thus no minutes of the discussion will be available. A second meeting was held a half an hour prior to the Sunday night council meeting this was to inform the Dal Radio Station Manager of the decision to put the motion before council. Wavrock was asked if he would go along with it, he had little choice one way or the other and quickly agreed.

If secret meetings and eleventh hour dealings seem a little bit dubious, they certainly do not seem that way to Council. When O'Connor brought the motion before council, only a few of the councillors felt it important enough to speak, all of them supported the motion and it was quickly and unananimously passed. The whole affair took less than five minutes. The council did not seem concerned that the plans were brewed in secret; that no one had consulted the radio staff for their feelings about the situation or that a media arm of the Student Union was being disbanded on the initiative of the executive.

In the end many may think that the closing of Radio, was a wise decision. Certainly Radio has been suffering a decline for the past three years and the situation was becoming critical. Even some Radio staff themselves feel it is a good idea, but we must take issue with the tactics used by the Executive and the unbelievable lack of interest and consideration shown by council.

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