

# Dalhousie council in capsule

by Ralph English

The October 19 council meeting did not reach quorum. As a result it functioned as an "advisory council", the proceedings of which were ratified by the full council on October 30.

- Council granted \$150 for a new escort service for women concerned about walking on campus at night. Two Howe Hall volunteers will leave the Kellogg Library and proceed from there to the Weldon, Killam and McDonald libraries and on to Sheriff Hall and the Glengarry residence. This will occur daily at 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. with two exceptions. On Friday the service will only be available at 8 p.m., and on Saturday the service will not be available at all. This service is scheduled to begin Sunday, November 13.
- A proposal to centralize advertising sales is under study. At present the Student Union, its societies, and the residences independently solicit ads for their publications. Some ads have been misleading and the companies

involved are on file at the Better Business Bureau. Centralization should help to obviate this problem.

- In the upcoming weeks a number of council meetings will be held at different locations on campus as part of an effort to increase council's accessibility to students. Council may be coming to a location near you. On Sunday, November 20 at 1 p.m., council will meet at Howe Hall.

Proceedings of the October 30 meeting:

- Should Dalhousie remain in the Canadian Federation of Students? A referendum on this issue will be held in February. In the interim some members of council will state their case at a C.F.S. conference in Ottawa.
- Two by-elections, one for a Senate position and the other for a position on the Gazette Publishing Board of Directors, will be held on November 23. Note that this involves shorter than usual nomination and

campaign periods.

- A motion forbidding councillors to hold jobs as SUB staff was defeated. But an ad hoc committee will be set up to study possible conflict of interest guidelines.
- The Student Union will donate \$1000 to the University of El Salvador Book Campaign. The Dalhousie Faculty Association has donated an equal amount. Council had earlier voted to match the DFA contribution dollar for dollar to a maximum of \$1000.
- \$400 was granted to the SUB Staff Society to assist them in supporting the Special Olympics Program. The program involves staging an athletic event for retarded individuals.
- The appointment to council of Nursing Society representative Karen Fowler was questioned. Proof of enfranchisement was not required of voters during the election which led to her appointment. However, Ms. Fowler will continue to represent the society.

## A Quest for World Order at Dal

One of the world's best known international lawyers will be speaking at Dal next week.

Richard Falk, Albert G. Milbank Professor of International Law and Practice at Princeton University, will be delivering a lecture entitled "The Quest for World Order: The Legacy of Optimism Re-examined." on the

evening of November 10.

Professor Falk, a teacher in peace and world order studies, is best known in scholastic circles for his many books and articles on peace, world order, and the western view of international law.

Outside scholastic circles Professor Falk is well-known for his

criticism of the American war effort in Vietnam and his views on peace and world order issues.

The 8 p.m. lecture will be held in room 115 of the Weldon Law Building. The lecture is the second of three annual lectures funded and dedicated to the memory of Dorothy J. Killam.

## Comment on CFS referendum

The students at Dalhousie have elected a group of councillors who vote with little knowledge and lack of consideration on matters of import to the Student Union and to students as a whole. This is a form of irresponsibility that I cannot condone.

In meeting this Sunday, October 30, Council discussed internal matters for several hours, then turned to hastily deal with some rather important external business. The Union contributes approximately 30,000 dollars of your money to an organization called C.F.S. Canadian Federation of Students is a national organization which is supposed to represent students nationally and with a unified voice.

For some time now, the Student Union mandarins and executive have been questioning whether C.F.S. fulfills this role. Well, like it or not, we've paid the money and we are in the organization until spring.

Next week, three Dalhousie representatives are going to a C.F.S. conference. The important external business that was decided upon Sunday was to hold a referendum to pull out of C.F.S. But there was no discussion of this momentous decision, or its implications; and it's not as if the majority of councillors knew what they were doing.

The question was interrupted by an irate V.P. External who asked, "Do any you people know what you're doing? Do any of you people know anything about C.F.S.?" After a brief silence, one of the councillors, voicing what a

silent majority were thinking, said, "Certainly not." And then he and the others immediately proceeded to vote on the question.

This is enough to boggle the mind! It is not that I disagree with the outcome to the question, but I am amazed at the proceedings! What kind of legitimate authority, or effectiveness, can the decisions of such a procedure have?

But I cannot leave the matter here. The motion to pull out of C.F.S. was discussed tangentially immediately prior to the calling of the question. What was being discussed was the effect that discussing the motion would have on our delegates to the upcoming conference. In other words, would it be good for our delegates to go to the conference with the threat of a pullout referendum hanging over the head of C.F.S., or would it not be a good thing? Okay, we decided it would be a good thing to discuss C.F.S. before the conference, but in no way did we discuss the actual implications of pulling out.

Why did this happen? Well, it seemed to be a product of momentum voting. Four quick votes in a row, with the discussion curtailed after the first vote because we thought the previous discussion might have had something to do with the remaining questions—well it didn't, and we got tired of discussing the question. It was late, so we cut off debate and voted on the question. But we also cut off discussion on whether a pullout would

be a good thing or not before we'd had a chance to discuss it.

All the sheep voted Yea, with only an angry V.P. External voting Nay, and another councillor abstaining in disgust. Even later, when the fools' gallery had time to reconsider, any idea that *this* should happen was quickly trampled to death. After all the majority had decreed, and besides, to go back would require effort . . . , or thought.

Ironically, discussion of C.F.S. will have occurred on Wednesday, Nov. 3. Council will become educated about C.F.S. after they've voted on motions relating to C.F.S.

Taking direction from the executive is all very well. Council, when compared to the executive, is a bigger information pool, and a broader base for decision-making. Take direction, then, but don't let it take you. Question and redirect when necessary, but don't impede.

After I've slandered Council, I must end on a note of appeasement. Council does a commendable job. Individuals, especially executive members within Council, come under undue harassment simply because others are unaware of the efforts that go into their work. Nevertheless I must condemn inconsiderate decision-making. I await with trepidation the recrimination that *should* follow.

Painfully,  
Martin Tomlinson  
Students Councillor

On Stage  
at  
the Cohn



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