

Judicial board meets...

by Juanita Smith

While the Dalhousie Student Union elections may be over in most people's eyes, they certainly aren't over for Lara Morris and Beth Beattie. On Monday, March 25, both women were present as the judicial board of the Student Union sat to review some controversial issues arising from the elections.

Enough complaints concerning the Morris/Beattie campaign were presented to the Election Returning Committee to raise some eyebrows. They were accused of campaigning through Sheriff Hall twice, a no-no, and of attempting to solicit votes by phone before the campaign had officially started, as well as a few other minor offences. Chiefly on the basis of this, the Committee disqualified Morris and Beattie from the elections. Morris and Beattie were informed they had been expelled on the afternoon of Saturday, March 10.

While Morris and Beattie did go through Sheriff twice, on the

first occasion not all residents were visited. "No door was knocked on twice" said Juanita Montalvo, their inquiry representative.

Concerning the phone call before the beginning of the campaign, made to Charlene Fairchild, Morris said it was just a way of seeing if people would be interested in helping with her campaign, not a means of procuring their votes.

However, Fairchild clearly did not agree and wrote a letter of complaint to the Committee. In her letter Fairchild said "the phone call was a clear breach of the rules."

Morris and Beattie claimed they did not receive proper notification of the Committee's action. They appealed and were readmitted on Monday, March 12, having been fined \$100 by the Committee for their actions. However, the rumours had already begun to spread.

The Elections Returning Committee admitted to breaking some of their own procedural regula-



Morris and Beattie. Victims of incompetence?

tions in disqualifying the team, and further procedures were broken in the process of readmitting them.

At least a day was spent trying to convince people Morris and Beattie were still in the race. Royden Trainor, a member of the Morris/Beattie campaign team, said the task was made more difficult by a worker of another presidential campaign who had gone from table to table in the Greenwood telling people of the disqualification.

The fact that Morris and Beattie lost by 64 votes led them to suggest the temporary disqualification may have been a deciding factor in their loss.

Morris and Beattie did not ask for a new election. They thought this would taint the image of the Student Union. Instead, they asked for a formal apology from the Student Union and a sum of money equal to the honorarium they would have received had they won — \$18,200 between them.

..and decides

The Dalhousie Student Union Judicial Board released their decision on the Morris/Beattie case yesterday at noon. They said the elections committee failed to meet "even minimal standards of procedural fairness" when reprimanding Morris and Beattie.

Edyth McDermott, DSU Chief Returning Officer, testified before the board that she established a policy of verbal and written warnings followed by punitive action, but this was not followed.

The board said the events clearly illustrate "the incompetence of the Elections Committee."

McDermott called the March 10 decision to disqualify Morris and Beattie "a mistake." The DSU also failed to contact Union lawyer Tim Hill until after it had decided to disqualify the team.

As a remedy, the board ordered the DSU to return the \$100 it had withheld from the Morris/Beattie team, and they apologise in the *Gazette* in a full-page ad. The judicial board, lacking the legal authority to order the DSU to pay damages, recommended that Morris and Beattie each receive \$1000 compensation.

The board's report criticized the DSU Election Committee's lack of professionalism, and called "the type of adhoc administration (shown in the Morris/Beattie case) neither acceptable nor consistent with basic principles of fairness."

Memorial march

ST JOHN'S (CUP) — As many as 5,000 students may be on the streets Mar. 30 to protest federal government cutbacks to post-secondary education in Newfoundland.

The last federal budget froze the growth of post-secondary education transfer payments, eliminating approximately \$17 million for universities and colleges in Newfoundland over the next two years.

Memorial University student council president Robin Russell said, "Students will be marching together on all the issues we've been slapped in the face with over the last few months."

Students from the three post-secondary education institutions in St. John's are organizing the march with the Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Students.

"Students are very upset and frustrated with how both levels of government are treating us," Russell said.

However she added that Friday's protest is not directed at the Newfoundland government because the Mar. 14 provincial budget allocates increases to spending on post-secondary education.

"This shows we've accomplished something," she said. "But the federal government has ignored students and their concerns in this country."

The demonstration is being held with the Canadian Federation of Students, who are helping to organize similar marches in other provinces.

"What we are doing is saying to the federal government 'When are you going to put a priority on PSE and students?'" explained Russell.

Acadia Athenaeum attacks

WOLFVILLE, N.S. (CUP) — A crude drawing of two men holding hands crossed out in red, and the words "No fags!" scrawled on it hung over the entrance to an Acadia university male residence.

The banner went up March 16 and was taken down the same afternoon. Bill Scott, the residence coordinator, removed it upon hearing of its existence.

A member of Acadia's gay community, also anonymous, felt eight pages was enough "considering we had enough (submissions for 12, and) considering we haven't had a supplement since 1979."

The news editor for the paper, Wally McLean, said the reaction was immature. "It showed how necessary something like the gay and lesbian supplement was for this campus."

McLean said it was the Heterosexual Questionnaire that provoked the most outrage. "We wrote an editorial this week explaining the purpose behind the questionnaire."

"It stemmed from our general anger at reding the Ath last night," said the residence assist-

ant of the floor which displayed the banner.

All residents who were interviewed spoke on the condition they remained anonymous.

"... all you need is a good gay lover."

The demonstration was in reaction to the Acadia student newspaper's "The Athenaeum

Gay and Lesbian Splash," an eight page supplement in its March 15 edition. Many men in the residence were "offended" by the eight page supplement.

The quiz took questions often asked of gays and lesbians and turned them around. For example, instead of asking gay people if they needed only a straight relationship to turn their life around, the questionnaire asked "Isn't it all you need is a good gay lover."

AIDS activist dies

Canadian AIDS activist Jim St. James died Tuesday after a six year battle with the disease.

St. James was one of the first people in Canada diagnosed with AIDS. His courageous decision to go public with his condition pioneered Persons with AIDS activism in Canada. He was active in the Toronto PWA Coalition, appeared in television AIDS awareness spots and was the subject of June Callwood's book *Jim: A Life With AIDS*.

He survived such a long time after his diagnosis due to sheer determination and willpower. He remained active and healthy until the last eight months of his life, which he spent in a Toronto hospice.

Jim St. James taught us that in the face of hatred, fear and misunderstanding we can still take pride in ourselves. He taught us this lesson with beauty, grace and love. We will never forget him.

