

Council Favours City Police

by J. Trapnell

Council Meeting: September 8, 1974

Despite a sparse collection of reps for the Student Council Meeting—Sunday September 8, several important discussions took place and on the whole the meeting was quite profitable for all those attending.

After the reading of the minutes by Recording Secretary Allen Barrett, President Dan O'Connor introduced an item of new business, the office of the Ombudsman, for immediate discussion. A report on this item is presently being examined by Senate Council and will be moved to the Senate for discussion on September 16th.

Ombudsman, Bill Pieschel, was invited to speak on behalf of his office. He expressed disappointment over the reception of the Ombudsman Report, saying that it had been "kicked around". He was of the personal opinion that the report "showed considerable substance" and he hoped that Council would eventually make the Ombudsman a permanent fixture within the university. Mr. Pieschel explained the purpose and function of the Ombudsman, emphasizing that the office is not an advocate of student griefs, but that the Student Union is the body more responsible for these. The function of the Ombudsman is to criticize the inefficiency of Student Council, Student Union and the Administration in dealing with problems and complaints that are directed to them by students and employees of the university. It acts as a liaison between these three bodies and with agencies external to the university framework, as circumstances dictate. The basic problem the office encounters is ignorance of its existence and lack of recognition for what value it has. He blames this on the university media, saying that this year a "higher profile" of the Ombudsman office will be maintained.

Contradicting himself, Mr. Pieschel then said that he believed the most effective way of enlightening the students of the existence of his office was by word-of-mouth. At any rate, the office of the Ombudsman this year will try to ascertain its direction and role in the university, and will make a comparative study of the other university offices, such as Loyola. For further information, Mr. Pieschel said that he could be reached through his office. A copy of the Report of the Office of the Ombudsman can be read in last week's issue of University News.

The meeting continued with another exciting discus-

sion arising from the Minutes, that of the hiring of city police for certain campus functions, specifically those occurring in the SUB.

Richard Haugen opened the discussions explaining the issue had arisen in the first place. It seems that when the local Teamsters booked the McInnes Room for a function that would draw approximately 900 guests, it was decided to augment the security staff of the student union with city police. It was believed that only the City Police would be able to handle the teamsters in the event of Trouble. Contrary to both expectations only 400 people showed up and there was no trouble with either the teamsters or the city police. Tom Clahane, who made the motion to ban City Police from the building (on a hiring policy) responded to this saying that if any group could not be handled by Campus Police then they should not be allowed to make reservations in the building. This remark created



Tom Clahane, Arts

an uncomfortable stir in the chair of Treasurer Barry Ward...for such reservations contribute generously to the S.U. Budget. Dan O'Connor then entered the discussion saying that he believed it was better to hire police and have them act on orders of the Student Council (i.e. in one place, at one time) than to have to call them in and have them looking for trouble. Tom Clahane retorted that City Police don't have too much discretion when dealing with students. Whereas CP's work in the best interest of the students. Mr. Clahane elaborated, if a cop is on duty at one of the doors and an unaware student walks by and accidentally reveals a joint he is holding in his hand, the city cop is going to arrest him and charge him, while the CP will just kick him out of the building. To this emotional remark, President O'Connor replied that in the past six years, whenever City Police were hired to attend functions, only 2 arrests resulted and in both cases the arrest was justified.

Mike Zed contributed in the discussion saying that it should be up to the Night Manager on duty at the time to determine the security arrangements. After a total of twenty minutes discussion, the motion to ban city police

from the SUB was voted upon and defeated by a vote of 6-4.

Other new business on the agenda concerned the employment resolution. This resolution to establish priorities in its employment policies and procedures. Richard Haugen expressed his opinion that favouritism and "knowing the right people at the right time" played a big part in the hiring of people for Student Union Building jobs. He said that too many "sub-rats" had cheated their way into one job after another, and that it was time that fair hiring policies were initiated and maintained. Dan O'Connor expressed his belief that with the establishment of some definite policy priority that a system could be set up with rules etc. that could possibly make the university a model employer.

He recommended that a chairperson be elected for the Committee of council and report to Council on or before September 30 with its recommendations regarding the employment resolution and proposed terms and conditions of Student Union employment. Cathy Dyke volunteered for the position which went unopposed.

Other major new business concerned the appointing of a council-member to look into alternatives for food service in the university. This involves possibly the replacing of SAGA foods with a university run vending company. There was a motion that Council ask SUB Affairs Secretary Richard Haugen to take on this job and report to council on or before Oct. 30th. He accepted and the motion was passed.

As a result of the pending amalgamation between Dalhousie and N.S. Tech. new business involved the following motion. "that the members of the Nova Scotia Technical College Student Society be granted the rights and privileges, except voting, that they will obtain when our agreement with the Nova Scotia Technical Society takes effect, in return for and effective upon their payment of fees under that agreement commencing with the 1974-75 academic year, and with the understanding that the N.S.T.C. seats on this Council will not be created until the two institutions have merged." Of the \$7 fee that is received, 5 of it is allocated for drug insurance and the remaining 2 goes to the Student Union.

There were several amendments to the 1974-75 budget and Treasurer Barry Ward briefed Council on six items. The Communications Secretary received a \$1,000 cut in his budget because of unnecessary office equipment. The GAZETTE was allocated an extra \$1,000 for increased printing costs.

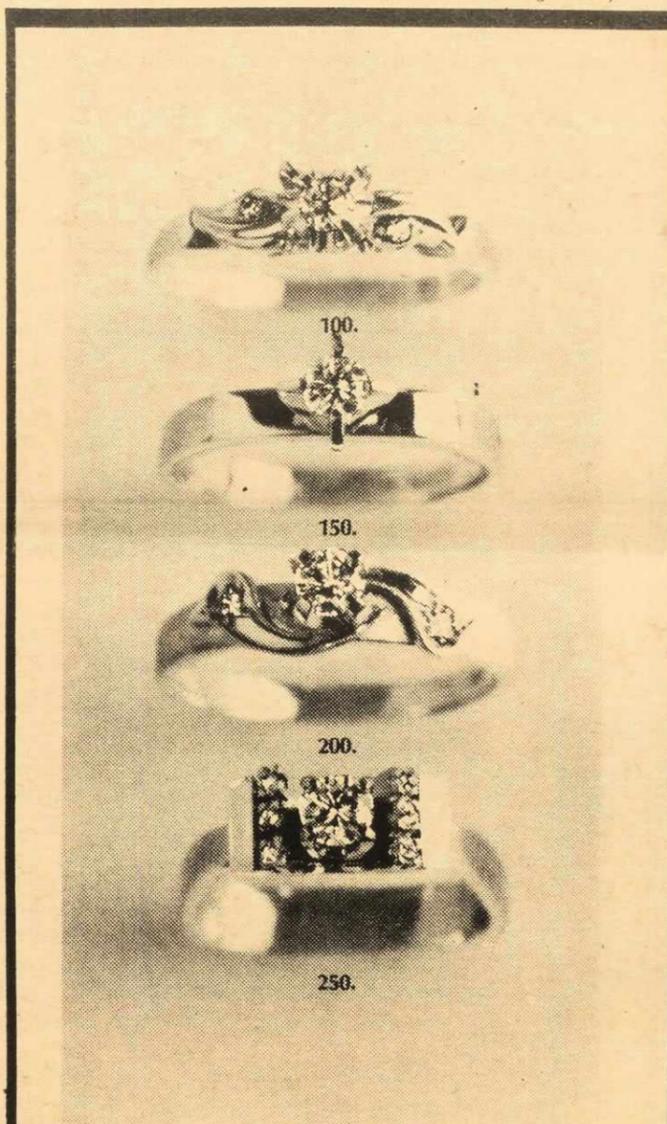
Among other new business it was recommended by Communications Secretary Stan Beshunsky-Smith that someone be appointed from Council to the Communications Board. Chris Hart proved to be an enthusiastic volunteer and was quickly endorsed by Council.

Community Affairs Secretary Catherine Dyke recommended that the Dalhousie Student Union become a members of the Canadian Association for the Native Peoples. This organization is one of the more active and competent of such groups in Canada.

Of Communications received, perhaps one of the

most interesting was from the Committee in Defense of Black Prisoners. Later in October, Angela David will be on a speaking tour through our Canada, and for \$1500 we could put Halifax on her itinerary. This will be considered by Community Affairs and the Entertainment Committee, and will be brought up in the next meeting of Council.

The last item on the agenda was announcements. The only announcement concerned the Tour of Moosehead Brewery on September 20 for all Council Members and employees of the Student Union. With that bright prospect in mind the meeting was adjourned most agreeably.



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