

# Council briefs

by Maria Rev

Student Council passed a motion Sunday night to give Michael Wile, CKDU station manager, \$750 from the non-SUB capital fund. Wile works for DKCU full time for \$180 a month. Joe Wilson, graduate representative, said it was a crime to expect someone to work full time for that amount of money.

Alan Goodwin was selected winter carnival chairperson. He had been recommended by the recruitment committee over the other applicant, Darlene Acker.

A special "Help the children fund" of \$250 was set up by Council to provide Christmas gifts for the children of the striking CUPE workers. Joe Wilson said that, "There is a considerable degree of suffering undergone by the families of the striking CUPE workers, especially since they are no longer receiving paychecks. This is an unobtrusive way of showing our sympathy. It would not destroy the Council's neutrality in the matter because there's no sense in denying the fact that the children of the workers are the innocent victims of the strike. The money is not for the CUPE strike support fund. It is not a strike support grant. It is a gesture to indicate our desire for a warm community relationship."

Peter Baltzer said that he didn't think the \$250 would hurt funds too much. There are 125 children involved, and the grant would therefore be about \$2 per child.

The Engineering Society's stamping of the front page of the *Gazette* was discussed at length. Student Union treasurer John Murphy introduced a motion to bill the Society \$425 for the incident (\$300.00 for advertising and \$125.00 for distribution damages). Joe Wilson, circulation manager for the *Gazette* said engineers had disrupted the normal distribution system and that the *Gazette* and its advertisers did not receive the distribution they had paid for. Engineering representative Jean Paul Deveau argued that the distribution was not disturbed to any great extent.

David Bolivar, president of the Engineering Society, said the society should not be fined because of the Student Council, publishers of the paper, did not object to the stealing and stamping of the papers. He said that the practice had been carried on for a number of years with no action being taken.

*Gazette* editor, Marc Allain, however, said that several attempts have been made in the past to end the practice. He said that he did not want the Student Union to bill the Engineering Society for advertising but for damages. "Billing the Society legitimizes their act", he said. He said it was the responsibility of Council as publisher to seek compensation for the damages. Regarding the question of violence he said that action against the individuals involved for the violence that occurred during the incident involved the SUB operations committee and the Senate Discipline Committee.

The vote on the motion was tied. Chairperson Sandy Ball broke the tie by voting against the motion.

Student Union Treasurer John Murphy reintroduced a similar motion by giving notice of motion for the next Council meeting.

Denise Soucy-Roberge also gave notice of motion that Bolivar be removed from the SUB ops committee. A grievance against Bolivar has been filed with the committee. The committee is presently considering disciplinary action against Bolivar for his involvement in the attack on *Gazette* staff members.

Reports were accepted from the Health Plan committee, housing Secretary, and the Community Affairs Secretary.

The following societies received grants from the Student Union: International Students Association, \$500; A.I.E.S.E.C., \$250; German Club, \$200; and the Inter Fraternity Council, \$200.

## Santa Claus joins strike

by Alan Adams

At Sunday's meeting of the Dalhousie Student Council, council members overwhelmingly voted to establish a committee to co-ordinate fund raising activities for the purchase of Christmas toys for the children of striking members of CUPE 1392. Council also agreed to donate \$250 to the fund.

Jim Prentice, Chairperson for the Help The Children Christmas Fund Committee, said the committee wants to raise \$500 by December 15.

He explained that a donation box will be set up at the Inquiry Desk in the SUB starting December 9. Prentice added that Santa Claus will be gratefully accepting donations for this period of time.

Prentice said the committee has decided to place boxes in both Shirreff and Howe Halls along with other strategic buildings around campus. He added that individual societies will be canvassed for donations.

Over one hundred children will benefit from the committee's efforts.



Student council treasurer John Murphy

Dal Photo/Grandy

## "Excell-A-Read" a rip?

by Elisa Barnard

"Excell-A-Read" Academy Ltd. of Vancouver has just opened a Halifax office and is in the midst of a blitz advertising campaign to attract would-be speed readers.

The promise is a tripling of one's reading speed from the average of 200-250 words per minute at a rate of 55-65 per cent comprehension, to a phenomenal 2,000-2,500 words per minute at 60-75 per cent comprehension. Since a page usually contains 300 words, this would mean reading approximately six pages a minute.

The course has been offered in the United States under a different name for six years, according to "Excell-A-Read" director of education Doug Scott, with no failures in readers below 1,000 words among 70,000 "graduates." Fifteen hundred Canadians have successfully completed the course since the firm's opening in Canada last March, Scott said.

After attending five three hour sessions, completing a four week homework assignment and then an eight week homestudy course on cassette tapes, anyone with the vocabulary of the ninth grade can become a "life-time" speed reader, "Excell-A-Read" promises. In fact, it guarantees half of the total tuition back if you do not triple your reading efficiency upon completion of the entire course.

The figures are tantalizing, especially to students beleaguered by reading assignments, but the theory is a little less alluring.

In an article which appeared in the *Manitoban* earlier this year, Don Ebert, head of the University of Manitoba's Student's Learning Center, said it was "psychologically impossible" to read faster than 800 words per minute. Skimming and scanning allows one to cover 2,000 words per minute, but that isn't the same as reading, which requires comprehension, Ebert said.

"Excell-A-Read's" program, however, treats reading as a physiological, not an academic skill. It maintains that if several bad behavioural habits can be broken, reading

speed will soar to unknown heights.

The first and worst habit is subvocalization, the saying and hearing of words in the back of one's mind as they are read. This limits reading speed to one's speech rate. Scott said, at one of 20 free lectures being given to describe the course. "Excell-A-Read" works on jumping from seeing to registering and understanding words without this intermediary process.

Another behavioral problem, according to Scott, is limited visual span caused by having to slow down and say one word when your eye can presumably see and perceive more. Eliminate the vocalization and a person can see and read a paragraph four inches wide and an inch thick in one take, Scott said.

Eye movement photography described in Walter Park's book, *How to Study in College*, has shown that the average college student makes only four eye fixations per second and that the eye sees an average of only 1.1 words during each fixation, or just four words a second. At the very highest level of recognition, of 10 words per second, it is possible for the

eyes to take in only 600 words per minute the book says.

Scott said at Sunday night's lecture that speed reading is "almost mandatory" for students. Six meetings were programmed in the Dalhousie Life Sciences Center to interest "Excell-A-Read's" best customers—high school students, college students and young professors.

Everyone who attends the lecture is given a letter which "commends you as you are individuals who obviously want to improve yourself personally, academically and professionally." Ebert said this was a "psychological trick" to make students feel good.

On Sunday night Scott also told those present that they had obviously come because they were success-oriented.

The regular tuition for the "Excell-A-Read" course is \$417, but on the occasion of its opening in Halifax the "Academy" is offering a discount rate of \$339.50 to adults and of \$289.50 to students. When asked why "Excell-A-Read" seemed so expensive Scott said advertising was the firm's biggest cost.

**HELP THE CHILDREN**

**CHRISTMAS FUND**

Donations accepted at the Inquiry Desk

in the SUB  
Organized by the Dal Student Union