

More trouble on the entertainment front

by Paul Creelman

The Dalhousie Student Union entertainment director has resigned from her position, effective the 31st of this month.

DSU Program Director Fay Pickrem cites a bad working relationship with Student Council as the reason for her resignation.

"Council wants me out. That's quite clear—the working relationship has deteriorated to a point where I don't want to stay", said Pickrem.

"Basically, when I was offered the job and came to work here, I was under the impression that I would have some authority and would design and implement pro-

grams. However, Council will change their minds on programs. . ."

Pickrem adds that she does not want to act as a puppet of the Student Council.

Gord Owen, President of Student Council says that the reason that Pickrem is leaving is because of a lack of flexibility in dealing with SUB

staff and student administrators.

"In any full-time position in the building, you have to be very flexible in that you're working both with part time students on the staff and student administrators. Also, especially in entertainment, you work closely with the societies. In that sort of

position, everyone needs something different, and everyone has different demands.

Owen added that the losses incurred in by the Student Union are not the reason for Pickrem leaving her job.

"No, I don't think so", said Owen.

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Hicks back in news

Senate gives degree 'on basis of friendship'



Ex-university president Henry Hicks is now being accused of awarding a Guyanese dictator an honorary doctorate on the basis of friendship and "royal" hospitality.

by Paul Clark

Former Dalhousie president Henry Hicks knew about the human rights violation and oppression in Guyana when he nominated that country's president for an honorary degree, says Business Administration professor Yassin Sankar.

"I know it all, but he (Guyanan president Forbes Burnham) was my friend," Hicks is alleged to have told Sankar at a cocktail party in 1978.

Sankar has recently been calling for the revocation of Burnham's honorary degree, citing numerous political assassinations, human rights violations, and riggings of elections as making the Guyanese leader unworthy of holding a degree for "outstanding public service." He plans to have the matter raised in the Dalhousie Senate in the near future.

Hicks had longstanding relations with the Burnham regime, first as a financial advisor to the University of Guyana, later as a member of the University's Board of Governors, and would travel there annually.

The Gazette could not reach Hicks at press time, but he told the CBC last week that Burnham was awarded the degree for promoting post-secondary education in Guyana.

Sankar dismisses this answer, claiming Hicks was simply rewarding friendship, and perhaps a little more than that. "When he'd visit I would think they entertained him like royalty to some extent. . ."

Hicks' wife, Gene Hicks, speaks warmly of Guyana as a country with a mixed ethnic heritage and praises Burnham's efforts to invigorate the economy.

"I think if he really was rigging elections he was doing it in a desperate attempt to save the country," she said.

Meanwhile Senate chair-

man Alisdair Sinclair, unable to predict how a 293 member Senate will react to Sankar's proposal to revoke Burnham's degree, said he can imagine circumstances where a degree might be withdrawn.

For example, if someone obtained a degree fraudulently, this might motivate Senate to take it away, he said. But Sinclair said dishonourable actions committed after a degree is awarded (like a doctor's conviction for malpractice) would not seem to affect the status of that degree. Respecting the Burnham case, Sinclair said he did not know whether the transgressions Burnham has been charged with are alleged to have been committed before or after Dalhousie honoured him.

When it was pointed out Burnham was charged with rigging elections as early as 1968, Sinclair said he couldn't remember if this issue was raised in Senate in 1978. He said if these charges were public knowledge someone in Senate probably would have raised them and, if they were raised, Senate may have had an overriding reason for bestowing Burnham with the degree.

He said it might be appropriate for a Senate committee to address the issue. Confronted with worries that a fear of bad publicity might cause Senate to obstruct the taking of just action on the issue, Sinclair defended Senate's democratic procedures and its concern to look at any issues without hesitation.

Sinclair said Senate's Honorary Degrees Committee employs a variety of criteria in awarding honorary degrees and has honored a number of personages, including politicians and artists. Former Yugoslavian president Tito and American black activist Julian Bond are among Senate's other past selections from outside Canada.

U of A - affirmative action

EDMONTON (CUP)—The senate task force on the status of women at the University of Alberta has recommended that the university start an affirmative action program to give women equal job opportunities.

According to Dr. Dorothy Richardson, head of the task force and senate representative to the board of governors, the university should make a "long range commitment to proportional representation of women and men in all job classifications." Not only should this affirmative action program "secure equal opportunity at all job levels," says Richardson, "it should also ensure quality of results."

"There are serious equal pay problems on campus," says George Walker, executive secretary of the Non

Academic Staff Association (NASA).

The average non-academic staff member at the university earns \$13,000 annually. The average male non-academic earns \$21,900.

Of the 417 job classifications, 173 are filled exclusively by men and 150 are filled only by women.

Janitorial staff is a case in point. The building services worker classification, the lowest paying janitorial job, is occupied only by women, while the building services 2 category is occupied only by men, says Walker.

Although the university is "probably no worse than any other major employer in Edmonton," says Richardson, it should show leadership in this area.

However, Walker says the effectiveness of the program will depend entirely on how much money is spent on it. "It could be very effective if you put a lot of money into training, etc.—if not, it won't do very much."

The external labor market will directly affect the implementation of the program, says Richardson. For example, there are more female secretaries available than male secretaries.

University hiring practices should therefore reflect the percentage of "men and women in a relevant labor market area who possess, or who are capable of acquiring the skills required for entry into specific job groups," states the proposal.