

# Appointment under scrutiny

by Alan Adams

Even before officially taking office a decision made by the new student council is under investigation by the Office of the Ombudsman.

The controversy concerns Joe Wilson, a losing candidate for the position of treasurer. The *Gazette* has learned that present treasurer John Murphy, after interviewing all the candidates, had recommended Wilson to the recruitment committee, but when asked by council before the vote who the treasurer had recommended Vice-President Graham Wells did not mention Murphy's choice.

Law representative Michael Lynk said "Wells evaded the question and left the distinct impression that Murphy didn't give any overall recommendation." Both Graduate rep Bill White and Arts rep Denise Soucy Roberge confirmed Lynk's statement. When asked who he recommended for treasurer John Murphy said "I recommended Joe Wilson."

Wells said "Murphy's interviews only constitute part of the process and we made the recommendation that would be in the best interest of the student union." Wells added, "on the basis of the five categories in consideration for the position Murphy said he could go only with Joe Wilson but his recommendation is not binding on the recruitment committee."

Also being considered is the presence of Health Professions representative Keary Fulton on the recruitment committee. Both Fulton and Wilson have had words and have had to go to the SUB-Ops Committee to deal with one instance. Wells said "I remember them talking about this before the interview", but fellow committee member Jim Hathaway, who was present, stated "I don't remember them talking about this at all."

The Ombudsman's report is expected to be finished by Friday.

## for Gazette New Structure

Dalhousie student council agreed Sunday night to give The Dalhousie Gazette limited autonomy.

Under the Gazette's proposal, accepted unanimously with two abstentions after a 45-minute debate, the Dalhousie *Gazette* Publications Society would be set up to assume responsibility for publishing the Gazette, after Sept. 25, subject to its own constitution and that of the student union.

Gazette advertising and business manager Matt Adamson told council that autonomy would make the Gazette more financially responsible and avoid the risk of political harassment of the Gazette by council or other campus groups.

Editorial policy will continue to be the responsibility of the Gazette's staff. The management of the paper, will be turned over to a broadly-

based nine-member board of directors, who will oversee both the financial and editorial aspects of the paper.

The board will include three students elected at large during student council's elections, one person nominated by student council, a Dalhousie faculty member, a professional journalist, a lawyer, the *Gazette's* business manager, and the *Gazette's* editor.

The Publications Society constitution calls for a general meeting of the Society to be held at least once a year. The business of the meeting will include the ratification of directors, examination of financial data, and general concerns voiced by the students present. The first general meeting is slated for September.

## Another one

Alan Adams, a first-year history student, was elected editor of The Dalhousie Gazette for 1979-80 at a staff meeting March 22.

He has been an active member of the Gazette staff since September, and a member of the editorial board since January.

Adams says that "long-term planning is vital. We can only grow and improve, but we need to plan this growth."

"I'd like the Gazette to have a legislative reporter, and I want to improve our coverage of off-campus issues and events, local, national, and

international, as they pertain to the students of Dalhousie."

Adams feels that a student newspaper has to provide interpretive and analytical coverage. "We aren't doing our job if we just print press releases."

What work is cut out for the Gazette next year? "There's a lot to be done. We need new people. We need more in-depth coverage of council, senate, and the board of governors," according to Adams.

Adams is a native of Campbellton, N.B.

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Gazette editor-elect Alan Adams said that he was looking forward to working with a board and getting students involved in the management of the paper.

"The Gazette joins a growing number of Canadian newspapers that are free to manage their own finances responsibly, avoiding the inevitable conflicts that arise when the student politicians, about whom the newspaper writes, are the same ones who have the power to close the newspaper," Adams said.

This spring, the Gazette will present a budget to council as a department of the student union, since the Gazette Publications Society will only take over responsibility for managing the paper in late September. After this year, however, the student union and the Gazette Publications Society will negotiate a grant for the Gazette. If the two parties can't agree on the amount of the grant, the question will go to arbitration.

## Dal students try smuggling

by Brent Melanson

Twelve Canadian university students participating in a language exchange program were temporarily detained by Soviet Customs authorities at Moscow airport when it was discovered that they were attempting to smuggle bibles into the Soviet Union.

The students, of which six were representing Dalhousie University, were on their way to the Pushkin Institute in Moscow for a session of training in the Russian language.

The bibles were found when Customs officials conducting a routine search of the students' baggage discovered a total of seven copies, all in the Russian language. Bibles in the Russian language bring a very high price on the Black Market due to the unavail-

ability of such items within the Soviet Union.

Norman Pereira, a spokesman for the program, stated that the students had been forewarned against undertaking actions of this kind and attributed their actions to a lack of experience and maturity.

Furthermore, he said that the transfer of bibles into the Soviet Union is legal if the bible is for one's own personal use and is properly indicated on the declaration before entrance into the country, which in this case was not done.

The exchange program between Canada and the U.S.S.R. was inaugurated in 1976 with the Canadian operations being centered at Dalhousie University. Under

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