

SOMETHING OLD

by Brian Smith Pres. 1971 - 73

As a supplement to my report of Summer (1972) operations of the Union, this message will communicate the State of the Union up to the completion of my term as President.

During the month of September, the Council returned and was charged with the responsibility of many committees. It may be pointed out that there were probably more committees appointed at this time than in any previous year. The purpose was to give as

many students as possible an opportunity to partake in the operating and planning of the Union. Unfortunately the representations made to myself to the effect that students had a desire to participate must have been untrue representations, as only a few of the committees have even bothered to meet, let alone work and report.

During October another meeting between the Minister of Education, the Honorable Allen Sullivan and representatives of

the various Nova Scotia Student Unions was held at Saint Francis Xavier. Once again the problems associated with Student Aid were discussed and it is hoped that something constructive will come of this meeting. Also, it was at this meeting that the Nova Scotia Association of Student Unions was formed. Incidentally, this is the first time that an effort to effect such an organization has been successful.

During the months of November and December the University Parking Committee, appointed by City Council, drafted and presented its final report. I have participated on this committee for a year and I must say that a lot of effort went into the final recommendations. Two public meetings were held to allow citizen input but though

the meetings were well advertised only three students appeared besides the students on the committee. One of the recommendations was that a student fare be instituted by Halifax Transit Corporation.

January was a month of receiving the reports which were submitted to Council by our committees. From these we now have a course monitoring and evaluation structure which, if operated properly, will greatly benefit all students at Dalhousie. I would particularly like to thank Miss Debbie Henderson for her efforts on your behalf over the year. It is too bad that all council members could not share just a bit of her enthusiasm. She deserves a lot of credit.

The later part of January and February saw of course the GAZETTE issue come before the Council. The decision made at that time was in my opinion a correct one. In fact, the Council did no more than it has done in previous years, i.e., appoint the editor based on the proposals of the individual applicants. While I feel no responsibility for

many decisions Council may make, in its wisdom, I do feel that this one was made in the interests of the Union.

During the year, the Union operated with relative financial success, as will be evidenced by the auditors report at year end.

As an overview, the year 1972-73 has been fairly successful. But tomorrow's success is something which cannot be measured today. I believe that very shortly you will be treated to an announcement regarding the Athletic Complex and possibly the Dental School.

From my personal experience over the past two years there remains much I could say, but only one thing I must say. In reference to the coffee cup critics (and you have all met them at some time — even worse, some of you may be them), remember... it's much easier to criticize than it is to do.

To use a closing used many times when I was a working musician — Goodbye — Good Luck and may the Good Lord take a liking to you.



Ted Coldwell/Dal Photo



Elio Dolente/Dal Photo

by Joan MacKeigan Vice-Pres. 1972 - 73

Having just finished my term of office in the inner workings of the Student Union, I'd like to set down a few conclusions and observations I've made concerning "the road of the Union."

I think the Student Union is at a junction which divides into route A and route B. Route A is centered around the SUB and entertainment (which is all the Union means to many students). Route B is much broader. Its concept is that the Union is a body of student, comparable to labour unions, which must regard itself in relation to the University Administration, the Government, the community and the society.

In this past year I think too much emphasis was put on route A. We had too many complaints about the hundreds of students being turned away from Jazz 'n' Suds and Pub

Stop. But even if we could accommodate them all we'd only be reaching a small minority of the overall student membership. There remains a few thousand students who never come into the SUB. Why then should this building be of such importance?

At times I think the building is a malignant tumor in the brain of the union. I'm not to be misunderstood, though. It serves a purpose, it houses the officers and staff, there are lots of meeting rooms with nice soft chairs for student meetings, a dance hall, a pub, a sitting room, a counselling service, a chaplains office, a newspaper, a radio, and a cafeteria.

All are there for the better interests of the students and I don't mean to belittle any of them. But I do feel that they will continue to be there and serve students if we don't put so much

visible emphasis on them.

The government of the Union is like a sports team. We'll do fine if we all play our positions (which is great if you know just what is your position.) In our constitution we have provisions for a SUB Affairs Secretary and an Entertainment Secretary. Between these two people almost every day to day or week to week problem in the building should be ironed out. To help them out we also have a very qualified permanent staff.

This should leave the President and Vice-President the opportunity to pursue route B. They should work together with the Council and co-ordinate specific projects. With an active Council we could have prime channels of communication to and from the student body concerning students' opinions

and wishes. But this is a problem I won't expound upon.

This past year some achievements were made on route B. For example, the student representation on Senate has doubled, students will now have a better deal with student loans, we have the Association of Nova Scotia Student Unions, we've had official extension of term paper deadlines at Christmas, the calendar year was changed, students have discount rates at some city theatres (Odeon, Mon.-Thurs.). Those are a few that stemmed from the student government end.

But the student government has supported projects stemming from the students as well. One big project of this nature is Outreach Tutoring, a programme in which university

students tutor high school students. We have also sponsored several conferences and speakers in the interest of students. I think we need to do a lot more along these lines. The student government has to make the Union a worthwhile organization for all its members. It has to have goals and tangible roads of action.

But it's not for me to make platitudes. My term is up. I've succeeded in a few things and goofed in a lot more. The future of the Union is in the hands of the present government whom we elected. I think this coming year may see a better balance of routes A and B. Let's be optimistic and give the new government all the backing ideas and interest it needs. There's some new and excellent potential in it.

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