

# Dalhousie Gazette

SPECIAL EDITION



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## Council Votes

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# REFERENDUM ON GILLIS

Dalhousie students will vote Thursday December 11 to decide if present President W. Bruce Gillis should remain as Student Union chief. The motion to herald such a referendum was passed after an initial motion calling for the resignation of the President was defeated by Council. It was felt that the decision regarding Mr. Gillis' fate is one warranting the ultimate expression of the student body as a whole.

In presenting the original motion of non-confidence Science Representative Hugh Nicholson, outlined his reasons. He cited the instance of the George Report, where, he said, the President had acted "completely without regard for the sentiments of the Student Council".

by Andrew Cochran

Secondly, he thought Mr. Gillis' actions during the CUS referendum held in October, were somewhat questionable. He concluded his remarks by stressing that the motion was motivated by the President's "misuse of powers granted to him", and that the number of incidents where this was evident "would force one to bring about a motion of non-confidence".

Arts Rep Trevor Parsons, seconder of the motion, warned Council that all of Mr. Gillis' objections would be on technicalities, which "he used to get out of quite a bit". He went on to add that as President, the third year law student was attempting to serve his own political ends, where he should instead be "serving the ends of the students of this university".

D. A. Campbell, Internal Affairs Secretary, supported Gillis' position in her remarks. She expressed the view

that he was in a difficult position, and it was "unfortunate that Bruce made a mistake".

In the course of Mr. Gillis' ensuing remarks, he offered explanations to partly refute the allegations intended in the motion. For each, instance mentioned, he countered with his variation of the situation. On the whole, he attributed the matter largely to a problem of apathy on the part of the Council.

Throughout the rest of the debate, both members and observers, from an audience of over 100 students gave their opinions pro and con relating to the issue of non-confidence.

What was perhaps the classic commentary on the discussion came from Law Representative (interim), Bob Hamilton. In obvious disgust, he said, "How 1 or 2 people at 1 or 2 tables can cause all this ruckus is so utterly amazing." He was referring to controversy surrounding the question of selling in the Student Union Building lobby.

Kirk MacCulloch - member-at-large - was the first to make mention of polling the student body about the matter. "After all, who are we (the Council) to accuse?"

After a close defeat of the first motion of non-confidence (6 in favor; 9 opposed; 2 abstentions), a motion calling for a referendum was moved by Graduate Rep Larry Fredericks. Seconded by Cathy Smiley, the question, of the referendum is to be "The President of the Student Union should resign. Yes/No". Decision to adopt the campus-wide vote was supported by all but two Councillors

Questioned immediately after the end of the meeting, President Gillis declined comment. All he had to say was, "I really haven't had time to think about it all... anything I'd say now would probably be incoherent".

At any rate, assuredly this Christmas vacation will be one of significance for, W. Bruce Gillis, either as a welcomed vacation, or as the beginning of an early retirement....



Gillis must face student vote.

## Vote obscures council feeling No Real Support

"I don't think he's shown himself to be responsible in his position as president". This opinion comes from a Council member who voted against a motion to have Union President Bruce Gillis resign his position.

There is more opposition on students' council to Gillis' rule than Tuesday night's vote on the resolution calling for his resignation would indicate.

The vote was nine against, six in favor, with two abstentions, but within minutes of the count it became apparent that it could easily have swung the other way had hindsight been at hand earlier.

Vice-president Derryn Crowston said that she had abstained on the assumption that she would be implicated by the vote and to avoid possible conflicting interests. When Gillis ignored this customary procedure and voted to save himself, V. P. Crowston revealed her feelings and said, "I would've voted 'for' (the non-confidence motion)."

After the meeting, Science Rep Cathy Smiley and member-at-large Kirk MacCulloch, both of whom opposed the motion, said that they should have abstained on the vote because they personally wish to see Gillis removed but felt that it was not their decision to make. They will actively oppose Gillis in the Dec. 11 referendum called to determine whether his term of office will be aborted.

The vote thus might have been 7-7-3. This is, in itself, conjectural and not what really did happen at voting time, but it does illustrate the precarious nature of Gillis' position in relation to the members of council.

The article on page 2 is based on a conversation with councillors Smiley and MacCulloch in which they talked about their feelings toward Gillis and those of the Council as a whole. The reasons for the grounds well of opposition inside the student council offices can be found in the remarks of two people "on the inside".



The great "not-so-silent" majority registers their opposition to Gillis motion.