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Committee rejects treasurer candidates

by Valerie Mansour

Contradicting reports have been received as to why a treasurer for next year's council has not yet been appointed. The application deadline has recently been extended to April 15.

A member of the appointment committee, vice-president-elect Peter Mancini, said that there are qualified people who have not yet applied and who are of the calibre they are looking for. Other reports received indicate that Mancini along with engineering rep. Dan Edgar, and Senator Thomas Mann could not agree on the choice for treasurer.

Three people have applied for the job: Sheilagh Beal, Marc Simard and Gail Rudderham. Beal and Simard applied before the application deadline, but Rudderham's application was accepted late for undisclosed "good" reasons.

Sheilagh Beal is very upset with the delay. Her application is still in although she does not want to be accepted on the mandate that she was the only one left. Beal is also annoyed with the manner in which the interview was carried out. President-elect Robert Sampson asked her "if being a woman would interfere with her performance as treasurer."

He justified the questioning by saying that 'she must be made to

realize what she's getting into - the question was perfectly legitimate.'

Marc Simard has been forced to withdraw from the race, as he has accepted another job. Simard thought the quality of questioning was good but was annoyed when asked if being married would interfere with the job.

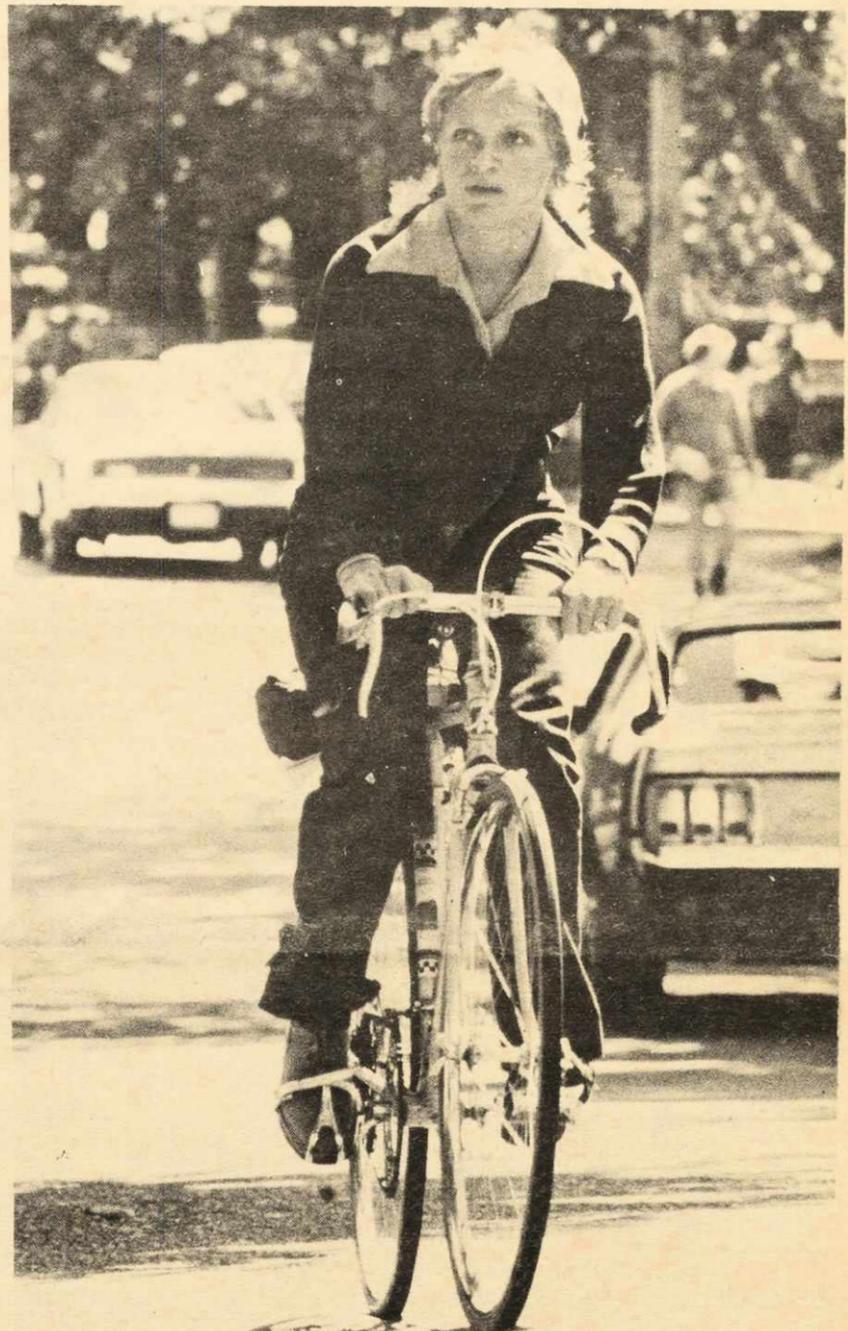
Rudderham said her interview was conducted fairly.

Present Treasurer Patrick Stewart is very annoyed with the delay. He feels there is not enough time for an efficient turnover of treasurers. He feels the basis upon which to select a treasurer should be academic excellence, past experience, ability to get along with people, and a concerned interest in student activities.

In reply to whether council's delay is justified, Stewart said, "I don't know what they're looking for." Stewart added that he attended the initial interview but then was not again invited to join further discussions.

Various council people are under the impression that Sampson and Mancini are attempting to get a person of their choice appointed treasurer.

These allegations have been denied by Sampson who said he did not know about the official application deadline extension until Tuesday night, although he had earlier recommended it.



Spring is here!

CSS dies

Federal gov't guilty

by Harvey MacKinnon

Coalition and Support Service (CSS), "the most effective and best directed government-funded project in the country has been shut down. It would have cost the government \$208,000 to support the project, instead their decision to withdraw support will cost Canadians twice as much money.

The Halifax based organization employed 22 people per month and hundreds over the past four and one half years of operation. What made the organization so original and important was the fact that it hired ex-prison inmates.

The success of the program is obvious when it is revealed that people employed through the programme only had an 8% rate of recidivism, that is, rate of return to jail. This contrasts with the national average of 85%.

According to John Barron, the CCSS production supervisor, the cost to taxpayers will now be over \$400,000. The costs will take the form of UIC payments, social assistance, welfare payments to prisoners families and the \$16,000 that it costs each year to keep a person in prison. This means a net loss for taxpayers of \$200,000. This does not include the cost in terms of social problems, divorces, the af-

fect on a prisoners family, potential crimes, etc.

The program does not qualify for any government department funding and this is the reason that the government has not refunded the project according to Barron. The programme was initially funded by LIP and later, for the past 3 years ending March 25, by LEAP (Manpower).

Chairperson of the group's Management committee, Marty Dolin, told the *Gazette* that a request for financial input was sent to Solicitor-General Francis Fox in October of last year. The Department offered only \$17,000 which could not support the project.

This occurred despite the statement by the Solicitor-General's Deputy minister who said "It is the most effective and best directed (project) in Canada." However, he added that "we are not inclined to extend the scope of the criminal justice system of incarceration." In response to this, Dolin questions whether the government really is interested in keeping people out of jail.

Barron, said the project offered not only financial support for prisoners but the all important moral assistance. CSS also hired

disadvantaged and handicapped people who were not capable of working full time.

The CSS people "did work for low income families, senior people on welfare and social assistance," Barron said. "Our policy was to serve poor people who couldn't afford the assistance otherwise. This took the form of painting, cleaning, fixing machines etc."

The program concentrated on hir-

ing the "least employable people, those without job skills, the young who may never have worked", Dolin said. The parole officers even sent a letter to the Solicitor-General demanding reconsideration.

The prospects look bleak however. Fox has not responded to the many requests to discuss the matter with the people involved, requests which have continued over a six month period.

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