

# The Gazette looks at the Prez

by Paul Clark

Sometime, when you're fishing in your pocket for an extra nickel to buy another caramilk bar or buying tickets in your florid Olivia Newton John top for a SUB disco or bitching about the crummy student loan you got this year or feel put down by an arrogant professor or unable to find a sharp scalpel to dissect your boa-constrictor or asked for your ID when you enter the SUB, sometime, a series of questions, perhaps more alien than a UFO, may flash into your mind. Who insures my rights and interests as a student are maintained? Who speaks to the government on my behalf? Who owns the SUB? What happened to the \$56 I laid out for Student Union fees in September? Who's the president of Student Council anyway? What kind of a job is he doing?

Dick Matthews, Dal's Student Council president, hopefully answered some of these questions in his "President's Report". But now, realizing a President's report on himself is not always the most objective piece of journalism, the *Gazette* will report on the president.

Rarely does a politician stay

in office very long without making a few enemies or interring a few skeletons in some unnamed closet, which makes it unusual that few people have very much bad to say against Dick Matthews.

Bikash Roychoudhury, president of the International Students Association, said "I'm very optimistic about Dick. Of all the presidents they've had, he's by far the best".

"He's doing an excellent job. My complaint is not against the present administration, but past ones."

Siona Bastable, president of the Dal Association of Graduate Students, said he has shown "intelligence and statesmanship" and done "a very fine job so far".

"I don't always agree with his methods, but he's always sincere, distinct and personal".

Nancy Tower, Student Council Treasurer, thinks he is doing "an excellent job".

"He's ambitious and follows up on a lot of things. He's very decisive and always takes a stand one way or the other".

Mike MacNeil, chairperson for the Student Union of Nova Scotia (SUNS), said "He's the best Dal president so far to reason with, the most recep-

tive and easiest to work with".

Desperate for something negative, we sought out Alan Adams, irrepressible cynic and ex-*Gazette* editor, "Dick's a nice guy, but he can't see beyond the end of his nose".

"He's totally inexperienced and manipulated by John Graham (the SUB manager)".

For Adams, this was almost praise.

Tom Regan, the current *Gazette* editor, said "I don't think he's doing a bad job—but he's got a long way to go".

Unfortunately there doesn't even seem to exist an opinion about Matthews among those students who aren't personally involved with him. The *Gazette* asked 11 students if they thought Matthews was doing a good job. Nine didn't know who he was. The other two said they knew he was president but didn't know enough to comment.

"Who's Dick Matthews?", "I get so caught up in my work I just couldn't say", and "I just don't know anything about it", were frequent responses.

Doug Arnott, a math student, gave a typical reply, "Who's Dick Matthews? I haven't heard anything about him. Nothing's really come up".

Most people who work with Dick find him approachable,

easy to talk to and a man who is willing to listen to the opinions of others, even if he disagrees with them.

He is reported to handle council meetings firmly and reasonably. He works hard, attending student council and executive meetings, sitting on numerous committees and participating in SUNS and the National Union of Students (NUS).

SUNS chairperson MacNeil dispels fears that Matthews may be neglecting Dal's interests by working with SUNS, "Dick is definitely Dal first. He always states that".

At this, the halfway point in his reign as president, however, Matthews has made a lot of good beginnings, but we have yet to see if he will complete his projects.

Dal has prepared a brief on student aid, but until it is presented to the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission, we won't know if it has done any good.

In the past Matthews has had a very lukewarm attitude to SUNS and still is subjected to heavy criticism about this. Recently, however, he has begun to take a more active, and commendable, role in this organization. How beneficial this role will be, however, is

still up in the air.

Student Council has been deferring the decision to buy the *Gazette* typesetting equipment for years. So far during Matthews' term, he has maintained this tradition. He has said he will definitely make a decision on this issue. Only time will tell if he keeps this promise.

Matthews has been pushing Province House to build a new hockey rink. Good, but will one be built?

Student awareness on campus, as our mini-survey indicates, is deplorable. Matthews must do something to change this. If Matthews is to be successful in improving student aid and fighting government cutbacks in education, he must involve all of Dal students.

So far, only about a third of Dal student counsellors are showing up at any one Student Council meeting. Obviously, their lack of support will greatly impede the fulfillment of any or all of Matthews' objectives. He says he will be doing something to arouse counsellor interest and support. We're waiting.

Matthews has to be commended for doing a good job up to now, but we're still waiting for delivery.

## COMMENT

# BILLY'S RELIGION JUST HYPE AND GLORY

by George Wawin—Chaplain

It is quite obvious in attending a Billy Graham Crusade that hype and glory, is a big part of Billy's religion, and it works, so it seems.

Billy Graham has been rated by many as the closest thing a protestant has to a Pope, and the most successful evangelist in history. The major factor in that success however, is not Billy's faith or

his ability to preach, but his well planned and executed campaign product. In short, his success is his hype! The mystique of the man, the well planned pre-crusade organization, the lights, the crowds, the cameras and the magical music all contribute towards bringing people to their knees in a Billy Graham Crusade.

The evaluation of Billy

Graham's success is often seen in the large crowds he draws, at the crusades. But, one must never forget that all types of people come to a crusade, for all types of reasons.

Billy Graham is in the business of selling religion, and perhaps that's what our consumer oriented society needs and wants. Perhaps our society wants to be sold religion in the same way it's sold a new car or some fancy appliance. Billy Graham is successful, because we buy it! I don't object to the fact that Billy Graham and his organization sells religion, because let's face it, Marshal McLuhan has something to say to the dead beat preacher as well as the business executive (the Medium is the

Message). But what I do object to, is that a myth is being propagated by Graham that religion can be acquired as easily and as readily as instant soup or instant coffee. In the age of instant everything, we are now asked to try Graham's Instant Religion. I know that many strong Graham supporters will now claim that the Billy Graham Crusade has an important follow up campaign for all those who respond to he numerous 'altar calls' that Graham issues. However, it's not enough, is often too late, and is basically inadequate.

The awakening of a christian; a spiritual being, is a long and involved process. The calling of man's spirituality must be a tailor made calling, made for each and every individual. This

calling and sensitive revelation to the spiritual aspect of man's being is often cataclismically brought forward by crusades only to leave a person abandoned amongst the insensitivity and impersonal aggressiveness of its hype and glory.

Crusades are not for the unsuspecting or unprepared. A lot of mixed emotions are aroused and created a crusade. Crusades are here today and gone tomorrow and a lot of people are left confused along the roadside during the trumpet call to retreat. To the faithful perhaps the Billy Graham Crusade is a meaningful form of worship, to the already confused and wounded perhaps the final stumbling block. To the curious and unsuspecting, I would caution them to know where their spiritual doctors are, in order that if wounded in the pilgrimage through hype and glory to 'religion', they might be able to seek refuge and help from those whose education and training have trained them well in the complex process and matters of spiritual awakening.

**MAD MAN McKAY'S**  
6100 Young St., Hfx. 453-4980

12" RCA Black & White "NEW & IN BOXES" \$88.88 CASH and CARRY	14" RCA XL-100 Colour Portable \$348.00 COMPLETE 3 YR. GUARANTEE AVAIL.
---	--

**SUPER STEREO PACKAGE**  
SAVE \$300  
SONY TAF 3A 50 watt per channel AMPLIFIER  
TOSHIBA AUDIO semi-automatic belt-drive  
TURNTABLE (with magnetic cartridge)  
2 x 60 watt AURA AUDIO SPEAKERS  
M.S.L. \$1039.95  
**MAD MAN'S PRICE \$739.95**

**MAD MAN McKAY'S**  
6100 Young St., Hfx. 453-4980

**THE ELEGANT HOME**  
Furniture, Lamps and Giftware



**MARITIME MALL**  
1505 BARRINGTON STREET

