

# Councillors Quarrel Over Grants Budget

by Peter Clarke

Dal Radio finally came to fight back at last Sunday's Council Meeting (October 6) but all to no avail. When the Council finally hit Item 3b on the agenda the Chairman announced, "Dal Radio", a unanimous gasp could be heard from the council Chambers.

Tom Clahane (Arts) introduced the subject with a motion to reopen room 424 (Dal Radio's SUB studios) for the purpose of training new members. Council moved into informal consideration with a hesitant show of hands. Clahane was the first to address the motion. He showed agreement with the closing and re-organization of Radio but complained bitterly about the way in which it was handled. He felt that members of the staff should have been consulted or at least informed of the Executives proposal to form a committee to administer Dal Radio.

The tactics adopted by Council would result, he claimed, in the alienation of old staff members and the discouragement of new and prospective members.

Clahane asked who was Chairman of the committee and demanded some explanation of their actions. Dan O'Connor (President) indicated that he would have to be considered Chairman as his name appeared first on the committee's members list. He pointed out that the committee worked by consensus only, not under a formal structure, so it would be difficult to determine where any particular member stood on any issue. O'Connor conceded that possible the committee had not given sufficient priority to initiating contact with the old radio staff but assured council that all suggestions would be welcomed and considered.

The President contested the opinion that the committee had no knowledge or understanding of how radio stations functioned. He pointed out that, one member of the Committee Doug Wavrock was Dal Radio's present station manager, two others Chris Hart and Fred Mattocks were past Dal Radio members, a fourth Stan Beshunsky-Smith had extensive experience in both forms of electronic media and that O'Connor himself had served as a staff member on the radio station of another university.

Several of the eight members of Dal Radio present for the meeting commented on the issues. They generally agreed that a clean break was needed but felt that the whole process could have been accomplished with the help and co-operation of the old staff. Certain members felt deep offence at the way the problem had

been handled. One ex-member blamed Council for the troubles at radio, because of Council's appointment of allegedly incompetent management over the last few years.

Clahane spoke again asking how new members would be trained and all old members retested by a committee of five, only two of whom were qualified to train and test members. O'Connor explained that nothing concerning that had been decided yet and it was not yet established that old members would require retesting.

Chris Hart (science) commented that the New Dal Radio would require training News, Public Affairs, Continuity, and Advertising. He said it would be useless to start training now as procedures for training in these departments did not exist yet.

O'Connor summed it up by saying that this was an inappropriate time to debate the re-opening procedures of Dal Radio and that such things should wait until the committee submits its report. Members then moved to go our of informal consideration. Clahane protested that he still had several points to put to Council regarding the affair but he was voted down. His motion was forwarded to the Committee that is presently administering Radio.

The radio debate may have been bitter and fiery but at least it was short and sweet. The real dragger of the evening was the motion to sanction and adopt the minutes of the 1974 Summer Student Council, this contained within it the traditional nemesis of the 'early-to-bedders' - 'The Budget Debate'. The budget which had been passed by Summer Student Council had been presented to the full council three weeks prior to Sunday's discussion, to allow council time to digest it. One amendment had already been proposed by Treasurer Barry Ward. This was an amendment that allocated \$3,500.00 of surplus monies to a contingency fund. The fund is established to protect the union in case revenues fall or expenditures rise unaccountably. Ward explained the need for the contingency fund at great length and assured council that if towards the end of the year it was found that the money was not needed, then council could reallocate it as it sees fit.

Martin Ware (graduate studies) who seemed both concerned and confused asked pointedly of Ward, if this was the only opportunity Council would have to discuss the budget. Ward launched into another lengthy explanation which appeared to effectively side step the ques-



tion. It finally took O'Connor to admit that "Yes this is the Big Budget Debate".

Bruce Russel (arts) began rummaging the spoils for extra funds he asked if closing of Dal Radio would have any affect on the Budget. Russell is a member of the "we always need more" Grants committee. He seemed disappointed when Ward assured him that Radio's temporary closure would have little significant affect on the budget.

Phil Hicks expressed surprise over the fact that Entertainment was scheduled for such a low profit. He felt that the Entertainment Department could be one area expected to produce large revenues. Ward only added to Hicks' surprise when he stated that the Entertainment Department actually made less than it appeared. Ward explained that the salaries for the Entertainment Department appeared under Expenditures in the Operations Budget. The surplus in Entertainment was almost exactly equal to the Entertainment Salaries in Operations. Ward added that Entertainment was designed to operate on an almost break-even budget. Profits were not to be made, Ward said, from Entertainment. The Students would never stand for it.

Martin Ware started the major battle of the evening in questioning the priorities of the budget. Ware deplored what he called the meagre allocation of \$9,000.00 for the Grants Committee. From his viewpoint most of the money in the budget seemed to be going for to Beer, Billiards and Beurocracy, instead of in the form of Grants to the Societies and meaningful extra-curricular activities.

O'Connor argued that the Grants budget had not been reduced from last year but remained the same, he noted that of the fifteen schedules on the Budget, eight had been increased, five were reduced,

and two remained the same. Thus Grants were not low man on the totem pole but actually somewhere round the middle. O'Connor continued suggesting that Grants are not the only ways to help clubs and societies, but that every other schedule on the Budget make a contribution to extra-curricular life.

Finally Council decided to put the Grants question to the test. This led the Council into one of the absurd merry-go-rounds for which they are so famous. First, Bruce Russell moved that the Grants Committee be allocated an additional \$1,500.00. The motion was carried. Certain members then insisted that the sum must be deducted from the another area of the budget to make it balance. Ware made a motion to remove \$1,500.00 from the contingency fund. He was ruled out of order by the Chairman as the contingency fund was not yet in existence.

The treasurer then pointed out that this years enrollment figures were not yet tabulated and there was a possibility of extra revenues in this years budget. This brought forth a motion by Mark Crossman (commerce) to delete \$1,500.00 from the Grants budget. The motion was carried.

All in all the Grants question had taken well over an hour of Council's time and they ended up back where they started. In the end the motion to sanction and adopt the minutes of the 1974 Summer Students Council (Budget included) was passed with three minor amendments (one of which was the contingency fund).

Now that all that was over with, O'Connor presented a written report on the terms of reference of the Entertainment Director, Council had expressed some disagreement with the Executives decision regarding the non-student status of the Entertainment

Director, the report had recommended the establishment of a council committee to deal with the problem. The report was accepted and Martin Ware (grad studies), Wayne Gillis (law), and Mike Zed (dentistry) were elected to the committee.

The Grants Committee asked for the approval to grant The Scuba Club \$300.00 for purchase of equipment. It was amended to read \$500.00. The members tied with one abstention on this and Chairman Ron McCabe got his first chance to vote. Ron voted in favor and the motion as amended was carried.

O'Connor asked permission of Council to send a letter to the Prime Minister condemning the action of the R.C.M.P. regarding the September 30 native rights demonstration in Ottawa. Chris Hart insisted that the violence had been initiated by the Indians and thus spoke against the motion.

Wayne Gillis (Law) told Council that the R.C.M.P. Riot Squad had been in existence for seven years and had never been used until now. He also felt that the government should be criticized for their handling of the situation.

O'Connor explained that the government should have anticipate violence and taken measures to diffuse it. Instead he explained it appeared they had set up a system that encourage violence.

The motion was approved.

Only two things were left to do, elections and appointments. Warren Meek (pharmacy) was elected chairman of the Elections Committee and chief returning officer. Catherine Dyke, Wayne Gillis and Dan O'Connor were appointed delegates to the National Union of Students Meeting in Saskatoon this weekend.

The meeting ended at midnight.