

# President ousted after drunk

By TOBY SANGER

A drunken escapade in which he destroyed another student's artwork at the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design has cost the student union president his job.

Ken Robinson was voted out of office last Sunday in a non-confidence motion after council members complained about this and other "irregularities" in his administration of the student union.

Robinson refuses to resign and disputes the legality of the motion and of an omnibus resolution used to appoint the interim president, Joe Blades.

Council voted 10 to 3 in favour of the motion to remove Robinson after two previous attempts had failed.

Robinson survived a non-confidence motion brought against him November 5 because of criticism of his role during the college's 20 day faculty strike. Students complained he wasn't providing them with enough information from board meetings about the strike.

Blades says many people also disagreed with the position of 'theoretical neutrality' he took during the strike, while scheduling student meetings on college property, accessible only to those crossing the faculty union's picket lines.

Robinson's position as president and chairperson was challenged at a council meeting four days later but the motion was tabled indefinitely, an action Blades says is contrary to standard rules of order.

Council then persuaded Robinson it would be in his interest to relinquish his position as chairperson so he could address complaints against his conduct — making it possible for council to appoint another chair and vote on the motion of non-confidence.

Blades says council members were angry about irregularities in his appointment of a vice-president internal for the student union. Robinson initially didn't want to advertise the position and neglected to hold interviews with the two applicants, says Blades.

Robinson claims formal interviews with the applicants were not necessary because "everyone knew them" in the 525 student college. "The candidates were talked to, but we didn't state 'This is an interview'," says Robinson.

Catherine Gruetzke, an exchange student at the college from the United States, says Robinson discharged a fire extinguisher into her studio space, damaging her artwork on the evening of November 6, the day after the strike was settled. Other students present say he had been drinking earlier that night, a charge Robinson doesn't deny. Robinson says he wasn't acting in his capacity as president when he discharged the fire extinguisher and so claims it is an irrelevant matter.

Gruetzke complained to college president Garry Kennedy who discussed the matter with

Robinson and warned him if he acted again in this manner, he could be kicked out of the school.

David McCarthy, a first-year student at the school, says many students felt Kennedy didn't take strong enough action to discipline Robinson over the matter and suspect this was because of the "close relationship" between Kennedy and Robinson.

"There's a lot of people who feel he should have been expelled," says Blades. "In other art schools, destruction of another student's property would be grounds for automatic expulsion."

Robinson claims he was removed from office unfairly. "Everything was sprung on me. A little gang of people came in and pushed an omnibus bill through council."

He says council members who opposed him only adhered to formal rules of order when it was convenient for them and ignored them otherwise. Besides, he adds, "there usually isn't a need to be so formal."

Blades says Robinson abused procedure to resist challenges to his authority. "He creatively used Robert's Rules of Order to his own advantage."

Council appointed Blades, who was vice-president external for the union, as interim president at Sunday's meeting until by-elections are held next term. Blades is now responsible for the work of the president and both vice presidents.

A standing committee, consisting of council members and other students, was also appointed to allocate and administer the work of the president. Rick Janson was appointed interim chairperson until elections are held next term.

Robinson says his short but eventful political career might not be over yet. "I quite possibly might run" in elections next term, he says.

## Insurance blues

SASKATOON (CUP) —

The students' union of the University of Saskatchewan is trying to ease the burden of campus groups seeking insurance by implementing a university-wide policy.

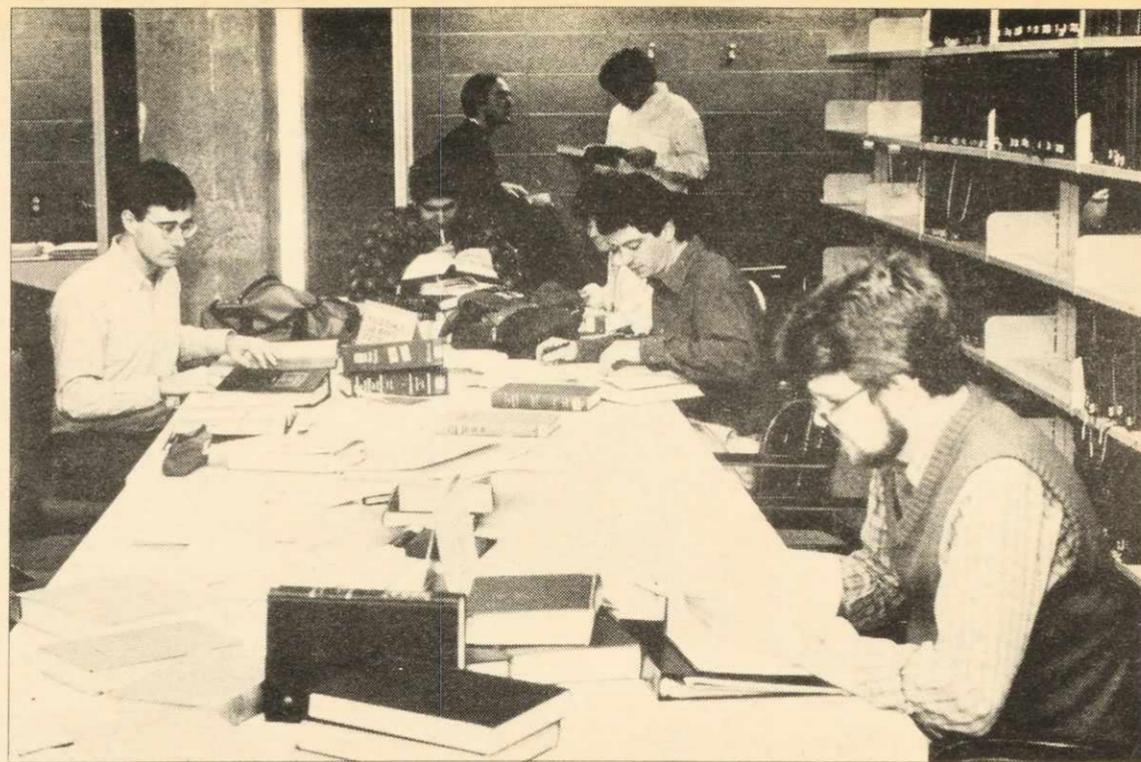
However, council can not judge how negotiations with Saskatchewan Government Insurance (SGI) are progressing.

"The information is now in (their) hands, and we are waiting for a response as to how much it will cost us, if in fact we get a group policy," said council president Gord Flaten.

A rash of well-publicized liability suits in North America during the last decade has increased the need for liability insurance, but decreased the number of insurers willing to provide it.

Even with sound safety records, U of S groups are having difficulty insuring alcohol-related events.

University official Howard Nixon said the problem lies with



Computerized indexes are making law students more productive, leaving more time to study BMW maintenance. Photo by Jacques Roy/Dal Photo.

## Libraries to go high-tech.

By GEOFF STONE

Installation of a computer system to link files of all the five Halifax university libraries is being held up by funding problems.

The computer system, which would be set up to manage the collections of all the Halifax universities, has been approved by the presidents of the five Universities, but the approximately three million to fund the project still has to be found.

For students, the best part of the system is the possibility of using terminals to do subject, author, or other forms of research.

Presently, a limited version of the system sold by the DEAC company is in use at the Law library. The 500,000 titles on file give law students access to an electronic card catalog, which speed research on the books available.

Leslie Foster, on staff at the law library, sees this system as something that would be very beneficial to Halifax universities, "you'll be able to do your searching at your desk."

One of the main projects needing completion before a complete cataloguing is available is the conversion of the present records into the computers' files. According to Bonnie Best-Fleming, supervisor of the Killam circulation, there will be a number of ways that the catalogues could be filed. Cost and speed are two areas of concern, "it depends on how it's done . . . however long the transfer takes."

William Birdsall, university librarian, estimates that the cost of converting Dalhousie's files to the system would be about \$1.4 million, around half the estimated cost of the system's whole installation.

Funding for the project is hoped to come mainly from the

provincial government, but the universities are prepared to try raising funds from industry to help pay the three-million-dollar cost. Birdsall sees the cooperation of the Universities as a main incentive for the systems support. "I'm optimistic . . . this is a very exciting cooperative project."

When the system will be available depends on both the funding and when an adequate data base will be available. Saint Mary's and NSCAD already have most of their material on the UTLAS data base, a Toronto library service. Dalhousie still requires substantial conversion, but there are hopes to use the best methods possible to get the information available on the terminals.

Student union representative Runjan Seth, a member of the library committee, sees the project as a great aid for students, "with a terminal, you could search at three in the morning."

## Correction

In last week's issue, we neglected to attribute the opinion piece on NSERC granting procedures to anyone in particular. This was not due to a request of anonymity on the part of the contributor, Terry Parker from the Biology Department, but rather due to bleary eyes and foggy minds in the early hours of Thursday, November 20.

*NEXT WEEK'S Gazette* will be the last to appear this term. We'll be having a Special Arts Issue with all sorts of fun things packed into the pages — but we need your contributions of photos, drawings, poems, stories, thoughts. If we don't get anything, it'll be a do-it-yourself arts issue (wow! what a concept!)

Please drop any contributions off by Friday, November 28 at 5:00 pm in the Gazette offices, third floor Student Union Building with your name and phone number. You can have it printed anonymously but we'd like to be able to contact you if there are any problems.

Calendar announcements for any events before January 8 must be dropped off at the *Gazette*, Friday, November 28 before 5:00 pm.

Our next issue (you guessed it) will be coming out January 8, 1987 — if we survive the national CUP conference in beautiful North Bay, Ontario.