

## Students of the Faculty of Arts

By Geri Sadoway

On the night of January 21, 1969, a serious matter of particular interest to Arts students came before the Student Council of this Union. The action of arts representative Will Offley in sending an unauthorized telegram to Simon Fraser University in the name of the Dalhousie Student Council and billed to the Student Council was made known. A motion was put forward to censure this action, to suspend Will Offley until March 1, 1969, and to require payment for the telegram (approximately \$25) by Will Offley. The three parts of the motion were passed individually by Council and each with a substantial majority.

Fully realizing that suspension of Will Offley meant that the Arts Faculty would be deprived of one of its representatives on Student Council for a period of over a month (by-election is only possible in the case of expulsion) I voted YES to the motion.

I will state my reasons which briefly outline a four hour debate in Council:

FIRSTLY: I felt that the act of suspension was *intra vires* this Council in regard to one of its members. The legal basis for this belief is the fact that Robert's Rules of Order are the procedural rules for this Council and they do provide for such a sanction. SECONDLY: I was much disturbed by the criminal nature of Mr. Offley's action. Specifically he has in effect forged the names of twenty-five Council members to a telegram whose contents was expressly and emphatically NOT representative of the viewpoint or opinion of this Council. In the law courts Mr. Offley could be sued, and if fined or imprisoned would be deported back to the United States.

THIRDLY: Any usefulness which could have been derived from the telegram the Council had decided to send supporting the demands of the Student Council of Simon Fraser University was completely destroyed by the unauthorized additions to the approved text by Will Offley of such phrases as:

"Struggle against the technocratic, bureaucratic dictatorial elite"

"The running dogs of imperialism, the RCMP and 'yours for victorious Marxist-Leninism'". (Incidentally, this telegram, signed: the Student Coun-

cil, Dalhousie University, has already been duly aired by the press)

FOURTHLY: Mr. Offley's unnecessary sensationalism in using such terminology is a set back to all students seriously interested in achieving an effective student voice in university administration and relations with the government. Every such irresponsible act merely provides the opposition, the reactionaries, with one more argument. I happen to believe that students have an increasingly more active role to play in relation to their administrators and to Provincial and Federal Governments and it is crucial, if the necessary public support is to be gained, that a foundation of RESPONSIBLE student action be laid.

FIFTHLY: Mr. Offley acted deliberately - he even provided that a copy of the telegram be forwarded by CNT to the Council office, which arrived three days after the telegram was sent. He was perfectly aware that the majority in Council would disapprove strongly of the contents of the telegram.

SIXTHLY: Such deliberate disregard for Council implies that Mr. Offley was quite certain that his fellow Council members would find it in their hearts to forgive him - that at worst he would get a sound rap on the knuckles in the form of a censure. Such an attitude convinces me that if he continued in office there is every possibility that he would misuse Union funds and abuse Dalhousie's reputation in a similar stunt.

SEVENTHLY: Someone expressed the opinion that punishment is no cure. I agree that suspension will not cure Will Offley's style of rhetoric but it will remedy a blow to this Council and to this Union. If our motion of censure was not followed up with suspension it would likely be interpreted by the press at the best as mild disapproval or even probably as acceptance of the telegram sent by Will Offley. FINALLY: Since Mr. Offley has incurred the censure of this Council and has by blatantly irresponsible action abused the confidence placed in him by the faculty of arts he should not be permitted to continue representing the faculty of arts.

There is no doubt in my mind that this grave consequence was warranted and I hope that these reasons are acceptable as an explanation for my vote in the suspension of Will Offley.

## Apologio pro vita sua

By WILL OFFLEY

The stench of the Great Telegram Affair lingers on. The great wave of parliamentary opposition to the somewhat less than fortuitous phrase "yours for victorious Marxist-Leninism" has led me to re-evaluate its worth. The phrase did detract from the desired effect of the telegram, which was to express solidarity with the students of Simon Fraser in their confrontation with the authorities, and as such I regret having included it.

However, I do not feel penitent for having sent the telegram itself. The President of Student Council had not sent it eight days after a resolution that it be sent was passed by Council. The same night, Council passed a resolution that a telegram be sent to Allen MacEachen asking that the Polish seamen be allowed to stay in Canada; two days later that had not been sent by the President. Due to the urgency of the situation, and after trying unsuccessfully to get in contact with Mr. Smith, I took it upon myself to send the telegram to MacEachen. At the following Council meeting, no one censured or even criticized this action.

Council's reaction to the second telegram was a bit more apparent. I was not notified that there was going to be a move to suspend me until three hours before the meeting convened. As this hardly gave me ample time to prepare a defense, a motion was made to postpone the proceedings until the following Thursday. In the proper spirit of magnanimity which marked the whole trial, this was voted down out of hand.

Why, if this was not a case of Council seizing upon an opportunity to silence criticism of their day-to-day pettiness and ineptitude, then why was I not expelled instead of being suspended? Arts students, as Geri Sadoway so winsomely pointed out, are going to be deprived of a representative on Council until March, come the elections.

If Council really felt that I had abrogated Presidential authority, and if their action were anything more than a purely political move, then they should have expelled me. As it stands now, there can be

no by-election for a temporary Arts Rep, so the Arts students are being screwed. As a matter of fact, they're being screwed from all directions. Thursday afternoon I suggested to Geri Sadoway that she and I appear at a general meeting of the Arts Society and explain our respective positions. She refused. According to her, the pamphlet which was published under her name was sufficient to explain the facts of the Affair to her constituents. As of Sunday afternoon, she was still unwilling to appear at the meeting.

Her pamphlet deserves comment: firstly, she alleges that it was a criminal offense to have sent the telegram. This is categorically untrue. There is no way that the telegram can be construed as forgery, and according to legal counsel, it can hardly be interpreted as misrepresentation of Council.

Secondly, she implies that there was an approved text which was to have been sent. There was none. The Council passed a resolution that a telegram be sent supporting the four demands which led to the occupation. This was the crux of the telegram I sent. It was not this that led the Council to suspend me, but rather the facetious "yours for victorious Marxist-Leninism." Incidentally, for all my shortcomings, I'm not a Leninist.

For many people the most shocking aspect of the whole affair was that Dalhousie's pristine reputation was dragged once again through the mud by the media. I did not release anything to the media. I would also like to make it perfectly clear that I am not seeking reinstatement to a council as petty, ineffective, and self-seeking as the present one. Neither am I going to run for next year's Council, for there is little likelihood that this state of affairs will change. If you as students want to change this university into an educational institution, don't look to Council for anything. For my entire term on Council, any attempt to go beyond a petty facade of liberalism and try to effect a serious change in the administration and governing of Dal was predestined to failure. If you want alternatives, you must create them.

## Questions...

Dear Mr. Gillis:

I am becoming increasingly alarmed at the content and quantity of rules and regulations for student use of the S.U.B.

As your position has been outlined to me, I see it as your responsibility to investigate the following:

1) No food or beverage permitted outside the cafeteria area. Comment - every night, the cafeteria is shut and locked early in the evening; this means, (by virtue of the regulation) that students are confined to the few chairs in a crowded little hallway beside the vending machines. With the increasing number of events taking place in the S.U.B. it is natural that we would like to go to the cafeteria for something to eat or even a coffee in a relaxed atmosphere afterwards. Therefore, as a student who has paid fees for a number of years into the S.U.B. fund, I feel that I have the right to be able to offer myself (and my date) a little better facilities than the vending machine hole.

2) Payment of fees for use of games room. By virtue of my students' council card which allows me entry to the rink and other facilities I feel that I should also be able to use the games room free of charge. I have been told that all the equipment has been paid for prior to being installed. Fees should be limited to those people outside the university community. I see no reason why working people should have priority over Dalhousie students which, whether the S.U.B. likes it or not is the case now.

3) By virtue of whom and what office if the music lounge and sound console kept under lock and key? The excuse that the list of instructions has not yet been written up is unacceptable.

These are three specifics, Mr. Gillis, but I would urge you to look into much of the vast supply of stock regulations that the S.U.B. administration has on hand "so that the students can make better use of their building." - quoted from a member of the S.U.B. administration.

Yours sincerely, and  
with concern,  
Michael Ardenne  
Arts IV

## And a reply

Dear Mr. Ardenne:

1) The cafeteria area is being kept locked at night due to the fact that the contractor has not completed his work there. Specifically, the installation of panels around the serving area and of locked doors in that area is still unfinished. I am sure you can appreciate that leaving the cafeteria open in these circumstances would be in effect inviting thieves to walk into this area and carry away any thing in the way of dishes, plates, glasses and cutlery that they could get their hands on. The student union can hardly be responsible for such losses to Versa Foods. Already nearly \$4000 has been lost from the building through theft or damage, which indicates the extent to which protection is necessary. The only way to protect the kitchen area is to have the cafeteria locked.

This situation is expected to be remedied soon, hopefully within the next two weeks, but we are dependent on the ability of the contractor to supply materials and workmen, and therefore can only continue with our present procedure until such time as the installation is completed.

2) Regarding payment of fees for the use of the games room, there is several thousand dollars worth of tables and equipment in that room which must be paid for, as well as being kept in good repair. There are also employees who must be paid to operate the room. The charges being asked of students are minimal and only necessary to furnish the revenue for the above mentioned purposes. They are considerably below those being charged at any of the private billiard halls in the city, and are thus providing a service to the students by the services much more cheaply than they could expect elsewhere. If they were to be offered completely free an additional charge would likely have to be added on to the student union fee, which would not be equitable for those who may not play pool or table tennis, nor have any desire to learn.

As for working people having priority over students, no one who is not a student may obtain a table. In order to do so he must surrender his student card at the desk. If working people are getting priority, I would be very interested in finding out how, and doing something to stop it.

3) The music lounge and console are kept under lock and key at all times when not in use. The necessity of having some sort of supervision over the seven thousand dollars worth of the equipment hardly needs elaboration. Until such supervision is available, it is only sensible to maintain it under lock.

Should you wish to discuss the matter any further I would be happy to see you at a convenient time.

Sincerely  
Bruce Gillis  
Internal Affairs Secretary.