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Second to go

Campbell forced to resign

by Dorothy Wigmore

The Student Union Building has been hit by another wave of bureaucratization this year, and like last year is reacting by firing and resignations.

The latest casualty is Special Events Chairman, Ken Campbell, who was asked to resign his post effective November 28.

The decision was made November 20 by the Student Union executive — President Brian Smith; Vice-President Jim Hearn; Treasurer Ian Campbell; Communications Secretary Jim Kayne; Internal Affairs Secretary Tom Carter; and Acting SUB affairs secretary Dave Murdoch.

According to Smith, "there were problems that have made themselves evident over the past three or four months and something concrete had to be done to combat these problems."

"On behalf of the executive, I think the decision was made in the best interests of the Union", he added.

The minutes of the special executive meeting are confidential "to prevent embarrassment", although Student Council members will receive a copy.

Campbell was bitter about the decision.

"I'm bitter to the extent that I tried to serve the Union as best I could and some of the mothers who aren't ever in the building are not constructively critical. So for them to get to the bottom of something is to fire someone."

He blamed "phantoms" in the building for his firing, as well as "reliance on innuendoes and hearsay coupled with the usual jealousy that pervades the Student Union Building." The last part was 25 per cent of reason for his firing, he claimed.

The main reason, according to Campbell, was former SUB Affairs Secretary and Entertainment Chairman, Peter MacLellan, who resigned his position two weeks ago.

"His lack of direction, especially when I asked him and told him I needed it, is part of the reason for my going down."

MacLellan was supposed to interview and get people to help Campbell in the entertainment programming, but "he didn't let me have any say in interviewing these people. He didn't ask me what kind of people I wanted."

MacLellan does not deny that he did not help the former chairman in advising him on certain things.

"I thought the Committee might have worked, but like everything else in the SUB, it's a world to itself. And I didn't know enough about entertainment to tell people like Ken what to do. But I think I was right that Kenny wouldn't have come with an open mind."

Campbell was Brian Smith's assistant last year when the President was entertainment or program-

ming committee chairman. During the summer and after Smith's accession to the presidency, he looked after programming for the Student Union. He was paid \$100/week for sixteen weeks during the summer.

MacLellan took over the entertainment chairmanship in early October and Campbell was removed, on Brian Smith's recommendation, to the position of Special Events chairman.

Another 25 per cent of the reason for Campbell's firing, he felt, is that "one or two others of the resident phantoms got upset at being 'by-passed'. I would never by-pass anyone, unless they're not around. When it comes to the stage of sabotaging the job while you're waiting for them or going ahead and doing it, well then I'll go ahead and do it."

The two "phantoms" he is likely referring to are the instigators of Campbell's firing — Communications Secretary, Jim Kayne and Vice-President, Jim Hearn.

Hearn was prepared, for some unknown reason, to bring up the subject of firing Campbell at the next Student Council meeting. To avoid this, and since Kayne had brought the matter to President Smith's attention in another way, Smith called for the closed executive meeting.

Kayne was worried about the current rumours that a lot of Smith's good friends had positions in this building and were functioning with impunity.

He also based his position on "the basis of his (Campbell's) performance and on the basis of this and the comments of others I decided maybe we should let Ken go, on my own initiative."

He wasn't after Campbell's throat, he claimed. "The action wasn't merely negative."

Campbell's performance seems to have been the main criterion for his being fired.

"Ken wouldn't agree to modify his behaviour and in the sense that the Student Union was paying him, we felt it was incumbent upon him to modify his behaviour in accordance with the money he was receiving", Kayne said.

Campbell admits he was not entirely void of blame, "but I've been busy tearing around doing things for the people that I missed the writing on the wall. I wouldn't hesitate to say that he (MacLellan) dragged me down with him, maybe not consciously, when he left", he said.

He claims he was a victim of a political firing because no one else is capable of stepping into his job. However, he did admit that "no one ever has been or will be indispensable to the Student Union. But there's a level of common sense that's not used by the 'phantoms'".

Informed sources indicated Campbell was not performing his job up to par, that he was responsible



Ex Special Events Chairman Ken Campbell.

for "screwing up the works". Although he claims he spent 40-85 hours a week in the building doing his job, regular SUB rats hardly ever saw him. He also rarely turned up for other meetings he was supposed to attend.

There is also a dispute about the method by which Campbell was paid. During the summer he earned \$1600 for organizing programs for this academic year. Reliable sources indicate this was not actually done, and that others were forced to do most of the work.

In addition to the money he earned during the summer, Campbell was also collecting seven per cent of the gross income on special event functions he arranged for this year. There was approximately \$1400 budgeted for this.

On one particular special upcoming function, however, he could possibly have netted \$1400 on this event alone. He is supposed to have refused to take a cut in this, since he felt he had done the work for it.

Campbell also sees himself as indispensable, although he won't admit it. He emphasized the offers he has had from Canadian and American universities to do an equivalent job for \$9000 to \$14,000 a year. He also doesn't know where they will find someone to replace him.

Reliable sources indicate this was his own fault. Campbell had plenty of chances, they say, to train people, but turned them all down because they were only just out of high school. He forgets that's how he started.

But Campbell's firing is not getting rid of the problem, in many ways. Apparently he was so full of his own power, which he had gradually assumed, that his personality interfered with his job performance.

(cont'd on p. 8)

Sex discrimination persists

by Walter Plaut

Dalhousie's female cleaning staff, members of Dal's local of the Canadian Union of Public Employees, now receive higher wages, yet sex discrimination persists in the new two-year labour contract.

Female cleaners will receive \$1.65 per hour the first year and \$1.80 the second year, while male cleaners will get \$2.08 and \$2.30 respectively. Thus women get 43 cents an hour less than men the first year and 50 cents less the second year.

Although men do certain tasks which women don't have to do, such as heavy lifting, climbing ladders, and operating floor polishers, women do such hard and tedious work as mopping floors and cleaning both men's and women's washrooms, as well as some lifting.

The contract between the University and CUPE Local 1392 also includes foremen, porters, mail sorters, groundsmen, caretakers, truck drivers, and

tractor operators, all of whom will receive higher wages than female cleaners. Because most of the membership is male, and everyone votes on everyone's wages, the women members have virtually no control over their own salaries. The professional negotiator from CUPE who negotiated the contract is also male.

Nova Scotia in general is quite backward in its treatment of women. The Minimum Wage Act discriminates against women to the tune of 15 cents an hour. (The minimum hourly wage for women is \$1.20 in metropolitan areas and \$1.10 in rural areas, except that minimum rates for women 14 to 18 years old are \$1.00 and 85 cents respectively. Domestic work, done almost exclusively by women, has no minimum wage.)

Again it is men — in this case the politicians who created the Minimum Wage Act — who dictate women's conditions.

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