

News

Senate stands up to university president MacKay

by C. Ricketts

More than 150 people attended a Special Session of the Senate called to address the president's handling of financial constraint on Tuesday. Normally Senate draws less than 60.

Although only five signatures were required, 37 appeared on the notice to call the meeting. Of four motions, the most important was one drawn from an emergency provision of the Dalhousie Act calling for a joint Senate-Board of Governors committee.

The committee will investigate the circumstances which triggered the imposition of financial constraint. Nine Senators, three of whom will be student representatives, and nine members from the Board of Governors will make recommendations to deal with the university's financial crisis.

The final dealing for recommending restraint measures to the president's office was pushed back from December 20, 1982 to March 1, 1983.

One Senator accused the Dalhousie Faculty Association of "stacking" the meeting. Dr. Heard said the motion for the committee "arose from a DFA document". "Their troops are out, the others are out, to see who's going to win," he said.

It was a close vote. Those against implementing the committee seemed to be of the "Old Guard", according to DFA President Om Kamra. "A start has been made to ask the right questions," he said.

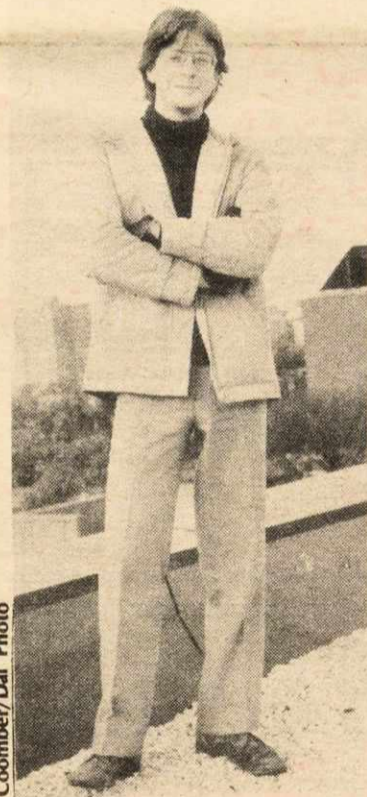
It tended to be the younger faculty members who supported the other two motions passed in the Special Session. It was recommended the administration change its accounting practices to provide president was asked to present a plan for public and political defence of post-secondary education.

It was also suggested the Board take the Senate's example and open their meetings to observers. They have been in camera since spring 1979.



"Hear! Hear!" The Senate holds a special meeting, demanding answers from Dal President Andrew MacKay over his lack of public action in protecting the university's financial health.

Taking on the bookstore and its magazines



Coomber/Dal Photo

by Wendy Coomber

Andrew Ager claims he is not a censor. Nor is he a mid-Victorian prude. He is a student who disagrees with the degradation of women through pornography and is trying to have Penthouse, Playboy, and Playgirl removed from the Dalhousie campus bookstore.

The idea is not a new one. Laura White, a student at Simon Fraser University in British Columbia, is fighting to remove pornography from her campus bookstore and two years ago students at the University of Ottawa succeeded in just this.

Ager met with bookstore manager Irving King twice, asking him to remove the magazines, and Kirk refused. Kirk told the Gazette,

"Academic institutions should stand for something — stand for anti-suppression of ideas and anti-censorship." He also added his personal opinions do not matter much because the bookstore policies are generated by a bookstore committee.

Said Ager, "I am not denying them (readers of these magazines) their right to read what they want. Those people who want to read it — how am I going to stop it? Why should they worry about one person trying to stop it? It is my right as a free citizen of Canada to fight with conviction against something which I find degrading against a majority just as it is their right to fight against me. Pornography aims at suppressing the free speech of women.

"It is extremely important to differentiate between pornography and erotic art," adds Ager. "Art is an expression of the beauty of the human body. It is a positive expression. Pornography is an expression, usually only the male viewpoint. It is a degrading stereotype of women, sexually and emotionally. Censorship is arbitrarily applied by authoritarian powers. This (removing the magazines) is not censorship if it is accomplished because it is a show of public concern."

These magazines thrive, according to Ager, by combining pornography with some good literature. Ager feels this makes it more dangerous. It makes it accepted and deeply ingrained alongside of the other common products of society, like producing cars or furniture. "Playboy is a corporation that is symbolised by the male being served by a lovely young woman with a cottontail stuck on her ass," said Ager.

In answer to the oft-expressed argument that women have the choice whether to pose for these

magazines, Ager replied, "The women do it voluntarily, not at gunpoint. They do it voluntarily in the sense that a 14 year old goes into prostitution 'voluntarily'. Would you support her right? Financial despair, peer pressure from 'friends', an inability to see any alternatives... This free and voluntary choice which one would

be hard pressed to support in principle results in the disappearance and presumed death of more than 8,000 children and adolescents into the streets of New York City per year," he said. Ager was citing figures given by Father Bruce Ritter, founder and president of New York's Covenant House, a sanctuary for children caught up in the

city's billion dollar sex industry. "Yes," resumes Ager, "it's voluntary. Is it to be supported because of that?"

Ager plans to continue fighting to have the magazines removed from the bookstore with the support of the Dalhousie Lutheran chaplain and "quite a number of people".

Faculty strike vote preview

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are actually paid," said Cameron. The StatsCan figures show the mean salary for the Atlantic region is \$33,573, while Dalhousie's mean salary is higher at \$35,772. These figures include administrative and non-union faculty salaries.

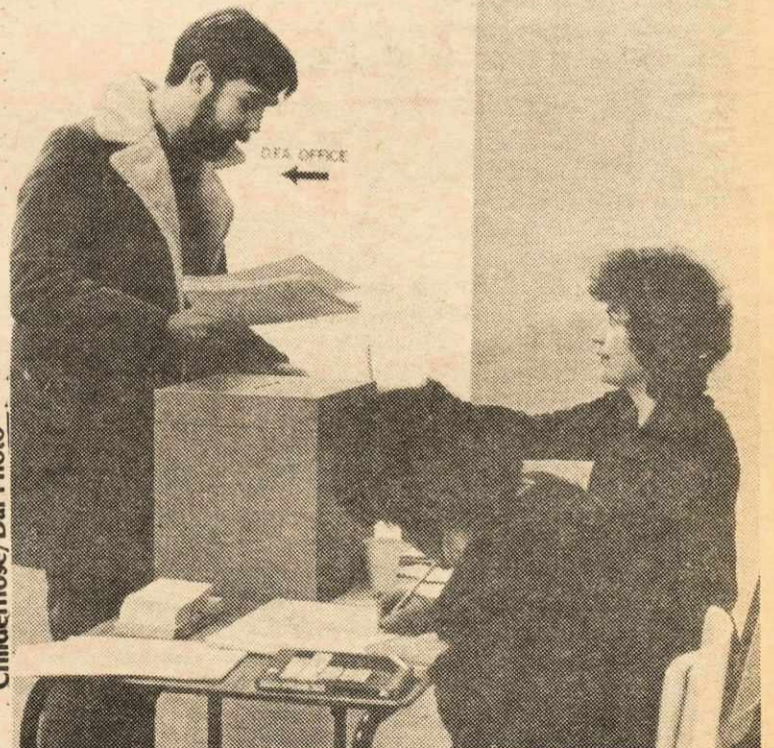
"We don't think the faculty are overpaid," said Cameron. "But within our resources we feel we don't have to apologize to them."

Kerans feels the statistics are not indicative of the true situation. "The figures can't show how long it takes to be promoted," he said.

Cameron responded to accusations of "union busting". "A university, of all places, should allow for individual freedom of expression." He continued that membership in a union should not be restricted to the date of entry.

One professor does not agree. She said people seeking employment at a university where they know a union exists should not be able to withhold union dues. However, she did feel sympathetic to those members of the faculty who were employed at the university before the DFA was formed and were required to become members.

Whether or not the negotiations may be resolved without a strike is anybody's guess right now. It's dif-



Childerhose/Dal Photo

Profs have been seen yelling at each other in the halls. They're voting now on the strongest action ever taken by the faculty union, a strike.

icult to foresee if the RAND formula controversy or wages will play the largest role. Some profes-

sors are already outlining the DFA's position in their classes to generate student support.