

Bookstore Committee Now Dissolved

By MAUREEN PHINNEY

After last month's demonstrations in an effort to lower textbook prices at the Dalhousie Bookstore, a committee was formed "to investigate the policies surrounding the sale of textbooks on the campus, with a view to reducing the price to publisher's listings."

The committee has since been dissolved.

After examining the University's financial statements, the committee discovered that several policy statements and decisions were open to question.

These were: (1) the university marks up American books 10% to recover the cost of American funds. Other city bookstores sell the same books at the publisher's listing. (2) Dalhousie University is paying an annual subsidy to King's College, estimated at from \$50,000 to \$100,000, "the justification of which is questionable." (3) The services provided by the university for the surrounding community such as the Dalhousie Art Gallery, the King's Symphony concerts, and the Institute of Public Affairs, cost the University \$22,000, \$16,000, and \$35,000 respectively.

After this investigation, the committee made several proposals to the Student Council: (1) that the Student Council executive be directed to approach the University Administration to (1) adjust the bookstore's selling price on American texts to eliminate the exchange differential, (2) to offset the profit from non-text product lines in university bookstores (engraved beer mugs, sweatshirts, etc.) against bookstore operating costs. (3) that the Student Council direct its executive to examine the extent of direct and indirect support being extended.

The committee's report ends with the statement: "Whereas the financial resources of a University are a basic tool in attaining the goals of an education: be it resolved that the Council press for full participation in setting financial priorities of the University community. To this end the Council directs that a committee be constituted to investigate and report on University financial policies and administration.

For this reason the bookstore committee was dissolved.

"The problem of University financial priorities runs a lot deeper than just the case of the bookstore", Dave Bell, head of the bookstore committee told the Gazette.

"Before we're able to do anything about lowering bookstore prices we have to know more about university financial priorities. The money cut off textbook costs is going to have to be put back into the University's finances. President Hicks suggested cutting it off something with lower financial priority than texts."

"We still have a lot to learn about the University structure," he continued. "There are a lot of evils to be discovered in the way the University is financed. It is possible that we can work with the Administration to change financial priorities. Education should be first priority, and textbooks are an essential part of a university education at Dalhousie."

"We need representation on the body that decides where the University finances will go—and that means on the Board of Governors.

There are changes that need to be made—not just the bookstore thing. If, when we have defined what

the issues are and what changes must be made, no action is taken by the Administration, we'll attempt to mobilize the student body to pressure the Administration into making the required changes."

What action is being taken now by the financial priorities committee? Bell told the Gazette, "We've sent a letter to President Hicks announcing our existence and purpose to the Board of Governors and the Administration. We're also requesting that the University Comptroller meet with the financial hierarchy of the university and find out just where things stand."

CIASP: A Summer in Mexico

By BRIAN WALLACE

The conference on Inter-American Student Projects, is a student organization which does community work on a non-paying basis during the summer months in Latin America. Students work chiefly in fields of education, alphabetization, hygiene, nutrition, recreation, and construction of community projects in conjunction with existing social programs. To date, this work has been concentrated in Mexico. The daily functioning of the Canadian organization is invested in a student chairman and a student board consisting of a vice-chairman, treasurer, and a secretary. There are also four area Chairmen in Canada and a CIASP leader in each participating college or university. There is easy access to dialogue with American leaders, made possible by a permanent office in Mexico city, staffed by full-time workers.

Since 1963 Canadian CIASP students have concentrated their efforts in the state of Hidalgo in villages or towns in mountainous areas approximately 150 miles north of Mexico City. They split up into teams of two or three and venture into the heart of Mexican peasant life. Their object is then to become involved in this very different but fascinating, almost romantic life in the

short time that they are there.

They do work among the people as catalysts while they develop their powers of communal decision and action. In doing so they find out who they are as individuals whether Canadians, American, Mexican, or any other nationality.

The Halifax training program is beginning its second year of operation. Dalhousie will organ-

ize their own group this year and then be responsible to the Halifax co-ordinator.

Brian Wallace is the campus leader for this year, and can be contacted in Howe Hall by phone; 429-8523. If you are interested, call him. Be on the lookout for signs around the campus posting dates and times of the first recruiting sessions.

COMING EVENTS

Tues. Oct. 15 - Rm. 234 Arts & Administration building.
Arts Society Meeting.
Thurs. Oct. 24- 7:30 p.m. Rm. 215 Chem. Building. First meeting of Dal. Table Tennis Club.

APPLICATIONS
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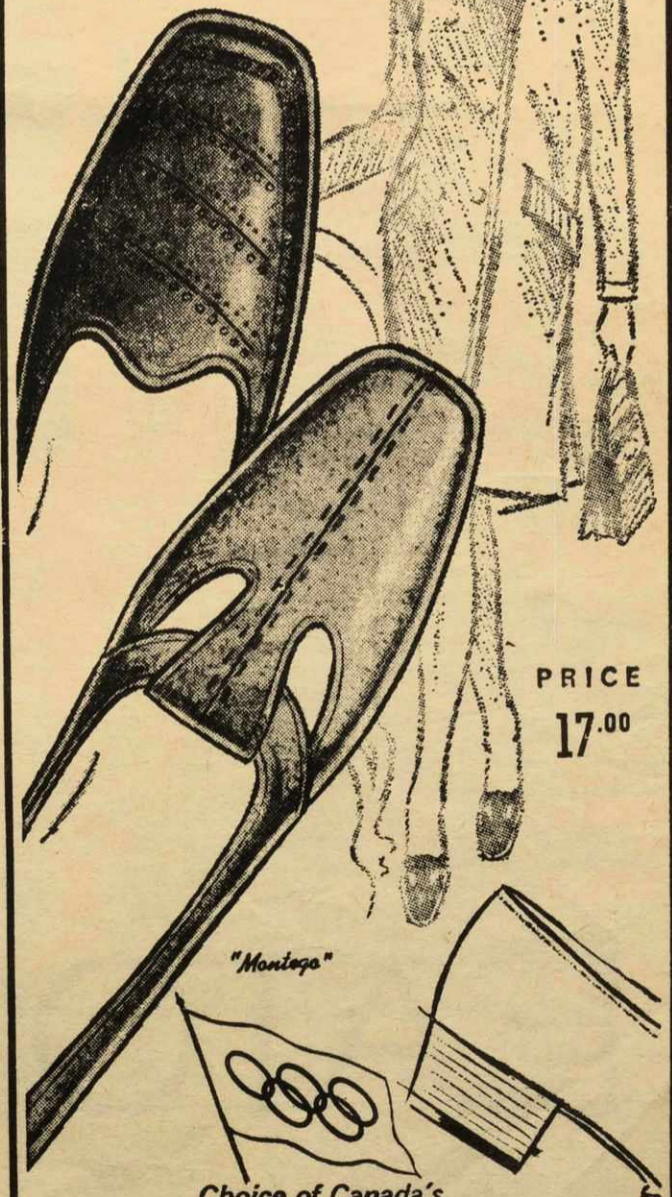
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