

Saint Mary's Council Bailed Out By University

This summer the Student Representative Council (SRC) of Saint Mary's University (SMU) was bailed out of near bankruptcy by the university administration.

For the past several years the SRC has been going heavily into debt. Finally the point came when debtors could not be put off any longer. The Council was seriously considering bankruptcy as an option and almost all suborganizations of the Council were immediately cut off from all funds until further notice.

Fortunately (!) the SMU administration provided the SRC with funds of an undisclosed amount. It is not known whether these monies were in the form of a grant or loan nor whether the university has attached any riders. It would be surp-

rising indeed if the Council obtained an unconditional grant.

It appears that the SRC's troubles were not due to embezzlement but rather to gross mismanagement of funds. Everything the Union owned was running at a loss, including the bar. Ounce and a half drinks were sold for the price of an ounce; capital expenditures far beyond the means of the body were made, etc.

It appears, though, that the amount of the grant/loan was less than the total of the debts owed by the Council for it is still running on a shoestring. All committees have been cut back in their funding and many have been cut off. It is to be noted, however, that salaries of executives have remained at their former level.

The SMU Journal, the student newspaper, has consistently criticized the student council in large measure for financial irresponsibility. Not surprisingly, even after the university funds came through, the journal was refused any. The Radio Station, also a money-losing venture (all university newspapers and radio stations in Canada, including The CADRE and CIMN, are) was to continue. As a consequence, the journal has not published yet this year.

However, it appears that the SRC will attempt to create a newspaper after all, but only on the condition that it pay for itself through ad revenue. In order to do this, advertising revenue is expected to increase (although there is no manager!) and circulation to decrease. Somehow it is expected that an advertiser will find more attractive a newspaper which reaches half as many people.

Sara Gordon, the only former journal staff member left has established a budget which calls for a deficit of \$4,000. When pressed she admits that this is optimistic. For comparison purposes, The CADRE, a paper with maybe lower costs, projects a deficit of \$5,000. The other two candidates for editor are willing to believe in the

idea that the Journal can operate a break-even operation. Neither has ever worked on a newspaper before.

Nevertheless, Council has appointed a committee of five to select an editor. Ms. Gordon feels that this method of selection is wrong, although it will probably give her the editorship. According to her, all senior staff members should be decided by vote of the newspaper staff. Since there is no staff at present the only alternative is to select an *interrum* editor until there is a staff to decide. She has told this reporter that if the committee chooses she will take the job only on condition that the staff makes the final decision.

Ms. Gordon is presently attempting to get together a staff to produce a small (four or eight page) paper which will come out on Thursday. The committee to choose an editor will make its final decision Friday. According to her, this is to serve two purposes. One to ensure that the journal still retains an interest among students both in terms of potential staff members and in terms of potential readership and, number two to prove to the SRC that the only way a viable and well-read newspaper can exist is without editorial interference from Council.

cadre

'Covers P.E.I. Like The Tourists'

Vol. 7 No. 4



Sept. 30, 1975

Students Free

Faculty 10¢

Student Council Supports Maintenance Workers, Joins AFS

by M. Hartshorn

Sunday night at the student council meeting there were two representatives of the campus maintenance workers present to ask the student union for their support should the maintenance workers decide to strike.

Right now 30 of the 44 workers have a \$4700 salary. The workers are asking for \$1.25/hour increase across the board on a one year contract. The administration has offered them \$.65 for the first nine months and an additional \$.25 for the last three months. At present neither will budge.

On Oct. 9 the workers will vote whether or not to strike and if they decide to strike, when they will strike.

The student council agreed that they would support the strike. How they support the strike will be decided

by council when and if the decision to strike is final.

I feel it is important for all students and faculty to support this strike for two main reasons.

The wages the workers are presently being paid are just not enough to support a family. I think it should be the responsibility of the university to pay their workers a reasonable wage for their day's work. Should the university not set an example for other Island employers as well?

The second point I would like to make is that if we support them, the strike will be shorter and thus have less effect on all of us.

by R. Huyck

There are two new organizations that have now been officially recognized by the Students Council, First one

being, The Student International Meditation Society. For more information concerning this Society, you may contact Joyce Burnett at your Students Council office in the basement of Memorial Hall. The second organization is The Charlottetown Kung-Fu Club which will obtain the University Gym for three sessions a week; for more information about this club, you may contact Ken Tollack, or an executive member of your Students Council.

U.P.E.I.S.U. has decided to officially join the Atlantic Federation of Students. There will be a conference this weekend in Halifax at St. Vincents and Dalhousie University. We will be sending two delegates to this conference, they will be Ray Shalala and Michael Hartshorn. The topics which will be discussed are Entertainment, Student Aid, Athletics and

Communications between Atlantic Federation of Students.

There is also a conference being held in Ottawa, concerning Women in Education. Nominations were held and Pat Vickerson will accompany the administration delegates.

Sandra Dunsford volunteered to sit in on the weekly Student Services meetings, to represent Students Council.

Donna McGough presented recommendations from the Personnel Board. Decisions that were made concerned Bartender salaries, and salaries for the Cadre with job descriptions; also Maurice Rogerson was appointed as the *interrim* period Electoral Officer for the upcoming elections for Science, Education, Senate, Board of Governor reps.

A refrigerator will be purchased for the Barn due