

# THE GEM

"Jewel of the isle"

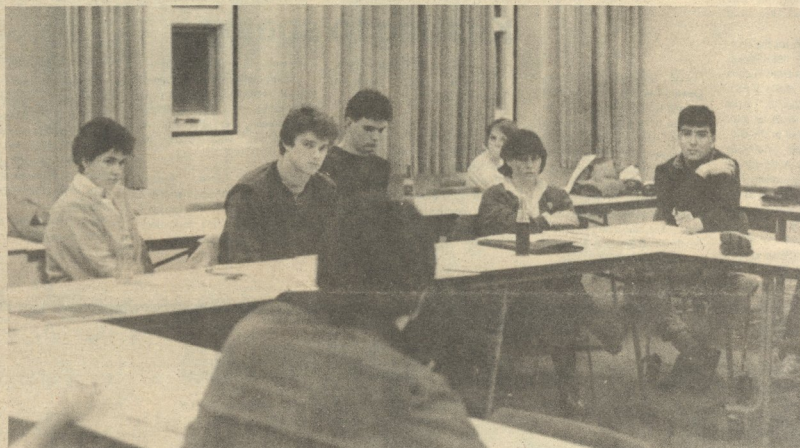


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## Student Council meeting tense:



### Protest and confession

By Sheila Lund

A tense Student Council meeting took place last Sunday night. Heated debate developed around a report of unfair ticket practices at last January's New Year's Eve Event. At one point during the debate, two Student Union executive members admitted to buying tickets before the doors officially opened to the public.

Ombudsman, Kevin O'Brien has been following up on a number of rumors alleging abuses of Student Union rules and regulations. His investigation led O'Brien to present his concerns before Council at the meeting, and to recommend that a motion be passed requiring the education of SU employees on SU rules and regulations.

SU President, Gordon Cobb, and VP Operations, Karen Blacquiere, both admitted at the meeting to purchasing tickets before the doors opened for the New Year's Event. Said Blacquiere, there were so many, "personal influences there that night", adding later on, "I'm really glad this came out." Cobb stated, "We're not trying to bury what Kevin said."

Although O'Brien commented that he appreciated the statements made by the two executive members, he felt that, "What happened that night is not the problem — there is a greater problem". O'Brien was referring to a number of reports brought to his attention concerning the disregard of SU regulations. He feared that

these possible occurrences stemmed probably from ignorance among SU employees about those rules. O'Brien then brought forth a motion that recommended designated executive members carry out a campaign to ensure that employees were aware of the regulations. He felt this campaign would ensure that no rules were accidentally broken.

Many Council members disagreed that the problem was with the SU employees. Board of Governors Representative, Parker Grimmer stated, "I think people who are employed ... have proven they know what to do." "But O'Brien didn't agree with his statement, commenting "I don't think anything could be further from the truth." He then

went on to cite various rumors of violations such as, ticket scalping; too many tickets being sold to events, (and therefore too many people in the Barn to meet fire regulations) and liquor being sold across the bar after hours.

Councillors became very upset at these allegations. Grimmer said that they were totally unsubstantiated, and were potentially harmful because they suggested everyone at the Barn was guilty. VP Acad'c, Carolyn Ryan, sug-

gested that O'Brien "give proof of his allegations," before any investigation is undertaken. Cobb stated that, "we're not really the day to day managers of the Student Union, and so, should not bear total responsibility.

At one point in the meeting, SU

Treasurer, John Orr, said "The problem rests higher than with the CP's and bartenders", adding that "two executive members were ultimately responsible", and "we all know the rules."

Orr did not completely agree with O'Brien's motion, which he felt insinuated that the bartenders and CP's were responsible. As he was expressing his disapproval, O'Brien got up and left the meeting, disgruntled that his motion was not yet going to a vote.

He returned, though, about a half hour later, since he would otherwise be automatically impeached for failing to attend enough meetings (he had some due to illness recent).

Later in the meeting the motion was put to the roll call vote, and passed by a majority.