

EDITORIAL

Council Lethargic... Inactive

In spite of the many faults one can find with the Graduate Students Council, they care!

They have shown by their actions and not merely by their rhetoric that they are concerned about immediate student grievances like housing and available parking on campus. They have also shown an awareness that the student is not a creature isolated from his total environment, and thus they have attempted to make themselves heard on issues like nuclear testing, something that affects our very existence on this planet.

This attitude, regrettably, has not found its way into the green-carpeted offices of our Student Council. What is the Student Council doing about housing and the myriad of other issues that affect students at this university? The answer seems to be damn little — no, better still, the answer is damn little.

One could argue that it has been necessary to spend time on the details that confront any Student Union Council — whether residence should have a voting member, whether the Council should have a permanent chairman and so on, ad infinitum. The argument runs that once these details are dealt with, the Council can get down to tackling the important issues that affect students.

Unfortunately, it is the same argument that we have heard each year as an excuse for inaction.

Council has got to begin to get relevant to the needs of students. The Graduate Council has neither the resources nor the broad representivity to assume the role of defender of student interests as a whole. Yet it has been forced into this position by the lethargy and inaction of the Dalhousie Student Council.

Some may argue that sending telegrams to Prime Minister Trudeau and President Nixon as the Grad Council have done, are irrelevant. But in the context of the activities of the Graduate Council to date, this assertion is ludicrous.

What in essence, the Graduate Council has done is to express concern about our society and its values. Yet in doing so (unlike last year's Student Council) they have not failed to take into account student problems and express themselves on these issues as well. The Grad Council has proved its worth. Has the Student Council?



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