

Editorial/Opinion

There are real people this year!

It's not a Rocky Horror Show, but it's a real campaign, complete with sparkle and pizzazz.

The presidential teams have distinctly different flavours to their campaigns, as is obvious from *the Gazette* election interviews. The issues are vital and real to students this year, and some of the approaches are novel.

The Rans and Russell team is marked by presidential candidate Peter Rans, and his consistency in promoting the student cause. From a clear-cut stand on CFS, through the stripper referendum, to the needed links with other interest groups on campus to tackle the deficit at Dal, Rans puts everything in its place in one large strategy.

Fraser and Curry saddle the Dalhousie spirit campaign, and don't restrict themselves to Dalhousie, either. Blitzing downtown bars, vowing to spread the word to high schools, and even proposing a political campaign pressuring the government to fund education in preparation for the offshore oil boom, Fraser and Curry have all the tactics in one big hat. Will all students' problems be solved if everyone gets out and blows Dalhousie's horn? They think so.

Another team with a less than direct approach to student political issues is Harvey and Katsepontes. Efficiency and equity is the promise here. The concept of a cabinet to streamline council's efficiency is a good one. They advocate careful consideration of the value of CFS, and treat most of the election issues from a practical, business approach. The role of societies plays a big part in this team's campaign.

Last but not least, Rideout and Kelly come from a year of council experience, and Rideout presents a platform of knowledge and concern for student issues on and off campus. Kelly can barely contain his enthusiasm when discussing the role of a Vice President in bringing the campus together.

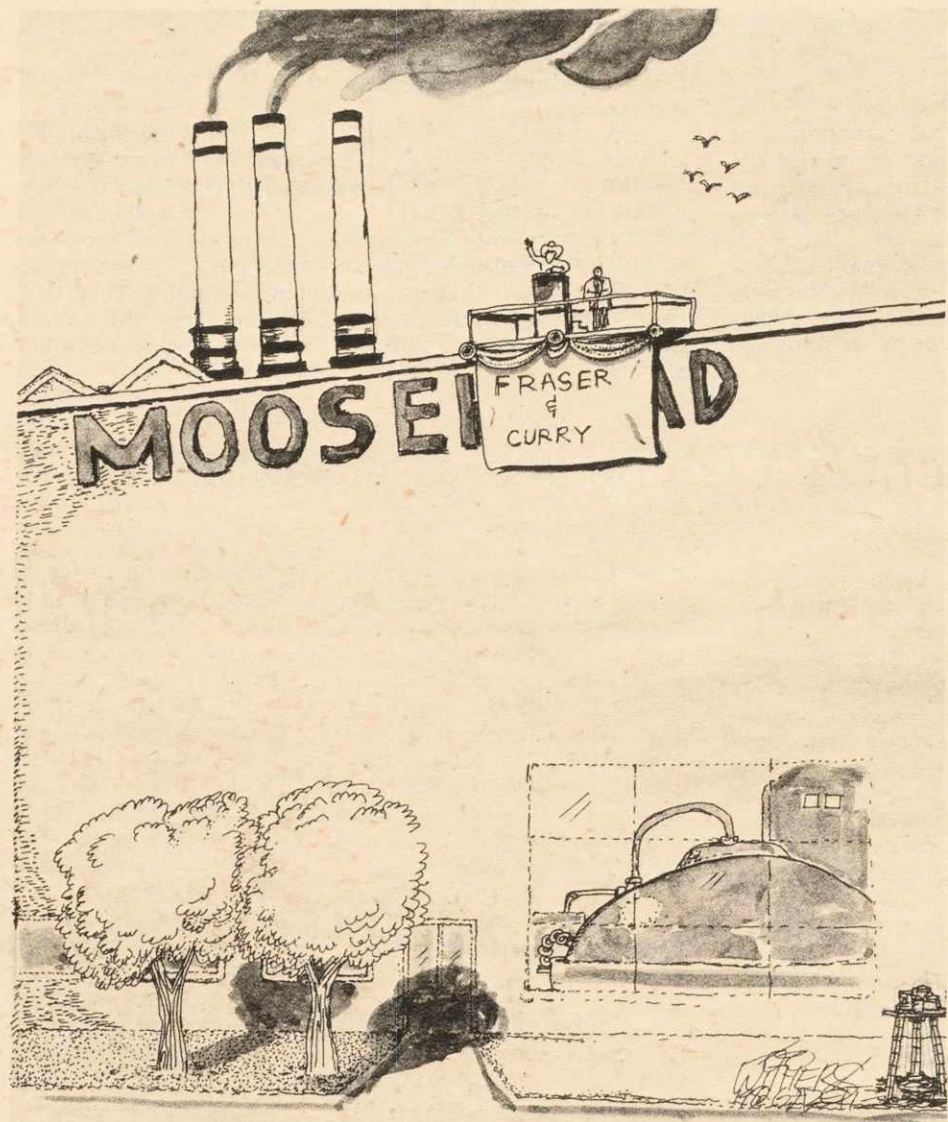
It's fair to say that all teams place emphasis on bringing out societies and involving them in student union affairs, with varying proposals to achieve this.

So there's some comments from *the Gazette*. Leadership qualities should be apparent from the forums taking place as this paper goes to press.

The Gazette is impressed with both Atul Sharma and Jay Doucet, candidates for Board of Governors. Their awareness of the most difficult questions to face Dalhousie next year makes us hope that the candidate who doesn't get elected will be appointed to the Board by council.

As for Senators, the forum for these representatives was only attended by three of the six candidates, and a noisy, disinterested cafeteria audience. A little levity was offered at the expense of Greg Fitzgerald: Chris Hartt called him on his claims that he had only missed three Senate meetings last year, and produced the figures to show he had missed nine, albeit only five during the school term. Fitzgerald countered by saying the real importance is in attending the committees where his attendance was good, he assured us.

We will comment no further on Senate candidates, as their views (or lack thereof) are quite clearly expressed in their interviews.



Gallery, and thus Dalhousie University, as a "beacon of light and culture," is a spinoff benefit -- one of many -- that could be reassessed in a more positive light.

Yours sincerely,

Felicity Redgrave

Art Gallery

closing !?!

To the Editor

I was shocked to learn that the administration of Dalhousie University is seriously considering closing the Dalhousie Art Gallery. Though I am very aware that we are in a time of fiscal restraint, this threat to one of the major cultural institutions in the Atlantic region is a sign of the university's failure to understand the significant educational role of the Art Gallery.

In recent years, the Dalhousie University Art Gallery has played an essential role in the preservation and exhibition of visual art in this region. It has shown a high standard of scholarship that has provided a challenging model for other museums and galleries in the region. Through its varied and well respected exhibition publications, the Gallery has advanced the knowledge of visual culture in Canada and elsewhere. Moreover, its excellent programming and publications

have gained great prestige within the museum world for Dalhousie University. Moreover, its modest operating budget, under the directorship of Linda Milrod, has been matched or increased dramatically by outside funding. This further attests to the confidence that the National Museums and the Canada Council have in the professionalism exemplified by the Gallery. There are few cultural resources in the region that can match the vitality, high scholarship and overall high achievement of the Dalhousie Art Gallery.

I must also say that I was truly saddened by Dr. Betts', Dean of Arts and Sciences, remarks about the Gallery, in a recent edition of the *Dalhousie Gazette*. To flippantly liken the Dalhousie Art Gallery to an "aquarium", underscores an essential naivete if not an aggressive philistinism. As the largest university in the region and one of the few that fails to provide formal coursework in the history of visual culture, Dalhousie has the responsibility to maintain at least this modest gallery operation. If the university has any intention to provide the opportunity for the education of the whole individual, it cannot close the gallery. To do so would be to abandon at least part of its educational responsibility and to point out the fact that Dalhousie University no longer strives to be a great institution.

I hope that your readers will equip themselves with the facts and will voice their support for the Art Gallery to the university

administration.

Ron Shuebrook
Chairperson Studio Division

Subjective objectivity

To the Editor:

Next week the students of Dalhousie University will be asked to make a very important decision. They will be asked to demonstrate, by the action of their vote, whether or not they as a student body will stand in favour of respect for the dignity of the human person. That is the bottom line in the referendum question "Should stripping be allowed in the Student Union Building?" on which they will be asked to vote next week.

A vote in favour of this question is a vote in favour of exploitation of human beings, a vote which will say "Go ahead and use our building and our Student Union fees to promote this kind of activity and attitude.

In such activities, even when done willingly, both the audience and the performer are reduced to objects. Such a reduction definitely destroys the dignity of the person(s).

I would encourage all students to have the courage to respect their own uniqueness and dignity and "to love your neighbours as yourself".

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Letters

Cultural distress

To the Editor:

Writing on the proposed closing of the Dalhousie Art Gallery, I will be stating what all patrons of the Art Gallery would say. is "nice" or "essential" to have the University Art Gallery as a vital part of Dalhousie campus. This is the only university vehicle which is able to organize visually the problems, pleasures,

discoveries and self knowledge that is art today.

To hear of such a proposed closing would be distressing if it came from, say, the business community, or City Hall. But that such a proposal is seriously mooted by the guardians of culture airs a depressing thought. The barbarians are making a bid to close an institution that purveys art, which ultimately cannot be controlled.

On the public-relationships-outside-the-province angle, I would like to comment as contributing editor to *Armagazine*, a national magazine out of Toronto. The exposure at a national level to Dalhousie Art