



JOAN MacKEIGAN

"Council should be a servant"

Joan MacKeigan, Student Union Vice President: on her position:

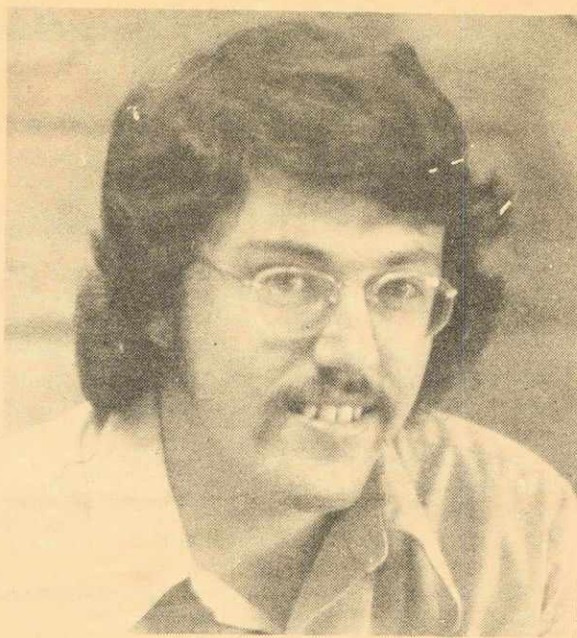
"I did not run for the V.P.'s office for reasons of prestige; I do not want to give the impression that I am someone important. For two years I just watched what was happening from the outside. I didn't want to get involved because I wasn't sure of what my work load would be at university. Finally I decided I wanted to see how things were run from the inside. I hadn't thought of running for Vice President — an Arts Rep maybe — but when I was asked to run for the position, I did."

on the council:

"The council ought to be considered a servant of the student body, not its master. The council needs improvement, a good deal of improvement. The council reps do not prepare adequately for the meetings beforehand, although they are given the relevant information and ample opportunity. They don't seem to grasp what's really expected of them. A small minority of the same people are still running things. More power should be delegated to a greater number of students, but for some reason, people are reluctant to get involved and actively participate."

on the role of Student Union in the university:

No opinion was offered at this time.



MIKE BOWSER

"Council is ineffective"

HIS ROLE: to act as liaison between Council and all Dalhousie student committees, clubs, and organizations.

"To be available to serve" as the President and/or Executive may so direct. He gets in touch with the officers of all the 70 clubs on campus, tries to find their numbers and meeting times, et certera and makes such information available to the student population at large.

Also, he helps new organizations to get established and explains their rights and privileges and the facilities that are available to them. Bowser sits on the SUB Operations Board, the Entertainment Policy Committee, the Mount Liaison Committee, the Council Executive, and the Students' Council.

He is a member of an informal entertainment committee of campus organizations trying to coordinate activities and entertainment in order to lessen the competition within the student community. Bowser tries "to make myself available."

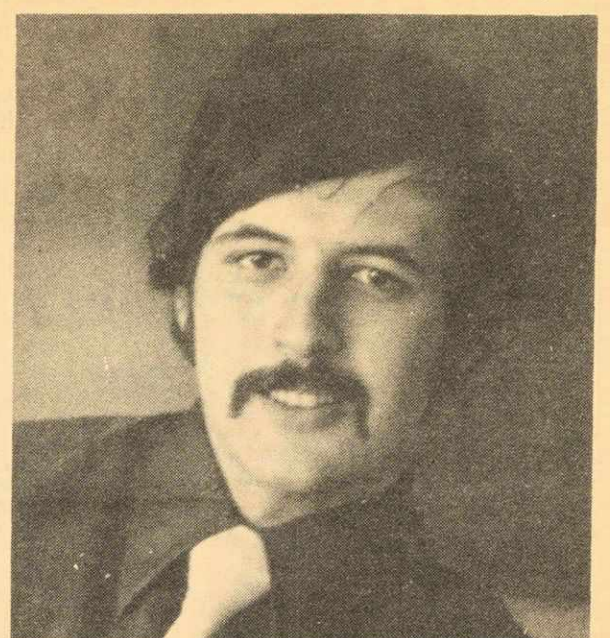
HOW HE WOULD CHANGE HIS ROLE:

He would like to become more involved in the day-to-day operations of the Student Union. He feels that he is presently doing a double job and will be doing so until an Assistant SUB Affairs Secretary is created.

COUNCIL AND HOPES FOR ITS IMPROVEMENT:

"Council sucks as it is now constituted"... "Council is ineffective." He favours "a smaller Council of perhaps eight members with the emphasis more on quality than quantity."

"Some Council members are doing a good job and working hard while others are just taking it easy... there is too much dead wood on Council."



STU BARRY

"Union has many things wrong with it"

Stu Barry SUB Affairs Secretary

on his position:

"I am responsible for interpreting policy as it pertains to students and the Student Union Building. I am responsible for providing various groups with rooms and SUB facilities. I am more concerned with the policy side of administering the SUB."

on the council:

"The structure of the council could be changed so that the lines of responsibility would be more clearly distinguished. Some other university student unions have modified their setup so that they now possess a multi-vice presidential system. I don't know however, is such a system could be effective at Dalhousie."

on the student union:

"The Student Union has many things wrong with it. Communications between the student and his/her representative should be improved."



Present structures are unsatisfactory

Editorial

You may be wondering again why we have given so much space to Dalhousie's student government. It centers on the feeling that if the present undemocratic and ineffective form of student government is to change, we must know how it operates and why.

Last year, the Dal Student Council 'representing' all students spent almost one-quarter of a million dollars. It does not just plan dances and parties — it is involved in student affairs, academic and non-academic. It is also involved in representing us in the university structure.

The university is a multi-million dollar operation and is little different from any other corporation. We are inextricably connected with this operation. To begin with, the Student Union Building is owned by Dalhousie University. To use it, we have contributed \$335,400 towards the cost of the building, furniture and fixtures. Over the next 11 years, we will pay a further \$707,000.

The Union is also responsible for replacement of furniture and fixtures and accordingly, \$10,000 will be charged against revenues each year to create a fund for this purpose.

Over the next 11 years, we will give grants to the

University totalling \$195,000 towards the operating costs of the Building.

Moreover, the Board of Governors in theory can veto anything that this Student Council does.

Yet when one reads what these people have to say, they seem to have little conception of what their positions entail. They are satisfied with their arrangement with the university if they commented on it at all.

It is too easy to say that student participation on University bodies has been sufficient because up until this time, it is said, the wants of the university and students have been much the same. If in fact they have been the same — and that is very doubtful — it is ridiculous to assume that they always will be.

Most of those interviewed here did not relate their presence here to the university except in general terms. Supposedly the university is a place of learning, an institution — not an organization — based on the principle that if mankind has any hope for survival and harmonious co-existence in the world, it lies in knowledge and its humane application. If this were the case, students would be the most important members of the university community. But this is not the case.

This union of students is controlled by the

university. Dalhousie is owned and controlled by business and industry and serves its interests. The Board of Governors, all industrialists and businessmen who know little of the student community and their needs and wants, has the final say in all matters concerning the university.

They control the students, as it serves their need to train students to be good working members of the society they also control. And, of course, the Board controls Student Council and its executive. Not that these people object — it's to their advantage to conform to the system. Council seeks reforms but these reforms are merely ways to make the system work more efficiently. The student and his or her interests are not a major consideration.

We feel they should be.

Read the interviews again. There are blatant contradictions and major disagreements amongst these seven people. They don't even know if there is a bureaucracy or not.

We believe this form of government to be totally unsatisfactory. We will continue to oppose this form of government and propose alternatives at the same time. There must be changes, here at Dalhousie and in the community.