

## opinions

### What do you know?

Dalhousie students: What do you know about the motivations and activities (besides that which they choose to tell you) of your student union council?

Motivations? Yes, as in personal agendas versus "student body" representation — sometimes inferences have to be raised from actions — actions speak louder than words. Amongst many of the politically astute here on campus, your student council makes a very bad impression, especially that "gang of five" or so dominating procedures and non-procedures (as in improper or questionnaire procedures) — where there's smoke, there's fire. In this case puritanical "gun-sliding gunfire."

**Question 1:** Which came first, the horse or the cart, student apathy or successive regimes of so called "student councils?"

**Question 2:** What's wrong with your elected representatives, their decisions, and their decision-making procedures? What's wrong with you?

**Question 3:** Do you think your student council resembles those infamous back-scratching, power-slinging societies that represent doctors and lawyers; do you think your elected representatives would report to you any "improprieties" taking place at student council meetings?

**Question 4:** As per Question 3, if there were any instances of unreported improprieties to the student body, do you think it acceptable for elected representatives to "plead ignorance?"

**Question 5:** In light of general student apathy and the "unchecked" power of student council (elected by 11% of the student corpus), do you think it is about time for the groundbreaking creation of a student council "watch dog" committee, which is "unbehold'in" (not dependent on) to the council, and would report directly to the student body? Do you think it would be democratically ethical for your elected officials to oppose such a measure?

**Question 6:** Theoretically speaking, do you think it possible that there could be profound differences in attitude/motivation/agenda between council members and those who would seek re-election and those who would not be returning the following year? Can you conceive of older "last of year study" council members having influence over council "green-horns?" Do you know how many of "your" council members will be bare-backing it outta here this spring?

**Question 7:** What measures are needed to ensure that a new sheriff and his/her puritanical posse do not cross the line of ethical, democratical reality?

Dal Students, saddle up and head on out to the Student Union General Meeting on Jan. 25th — come face to face with those whom "some" of you gave unbridled power. If you don't show, you'll have only yourselves to blame (what's a few hours out of a whole pathetic school year?) when/if you find that you and/or your society have been targeted because the law has lost its order. Bring your Silver Bullet votes!!  
**NAME WITHHELD**



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## Who was Richard Nixon?

Last night I had the pleasure of seeing the new Oliver Stone movie, *Nixon*. Up until then, I had always thought that I had a pretty good idea of who the former president was. I knew of the speeches he made. Of his famous debates with Kennedy and Krushchev. And who does not know the famous words, "I am not a crook."

What else could there be? Lots. The man, called "Tricky Dick" by many, was so complicated that he makes Pierre Trudeau look like a Care Bear picnic. If only one-third of the items filmed by Stone are true (unlikely, considering the wealth of sources that he researched), then he would still be unimaginably complex.

Like former Prime Minister Mackenzie King, he worshipped his mother, often referring to her as a saint. He often saw his dead mother standing over him, and from her, he drew strength. His other source of strength was his wife, Pat Nixon, whom he affectionately referred to as "Buddy."

His accomplishments are well known. He opened up China and Russia. He got the US out of Vietnam. He got a treason conviction on Alger Hess (something Joe McCarthy couldn't do). He destroyed Nikita Krushchev in the "Kitchen debate." He gave new life to the Republican party after Kennedy and LBJ nearly destroyed it. He even outlasted J. Edgar Hoover. He was involved in every major political event in the second half of the 20th century.

His mistakes are also legendary. He organized the Bay of Pigs Invasion. He authorized what was known as "Track 2," an attempt to assassinate Fidel Castro. He called out the military to the Kent State protest in Ohio, resulting in the death of four students. He was president for half of the Vietnam war. His nemesis turned out to be a hotel called Watergate.

The break-in at the Democratic National Headquarters by the White House intelligence agency (called the Plumbers) was the beginning of the end for Richard

Milhaus Nixon. It took two years of digging by the Washington Post team of Woodward and Bernstein, and later by Special Prosecutor Cox, to uncover the extent of the cover up. The final coup d'état was "The Nixon Tapes."

In a fit of paranoia Nixon taped every word he, and everyone else around him, uttered. The final knife in his back were those tapes. The Supreme Court ordered him to turn them over to the Justice Department. And rather than let the world hear his mistakes, he resigned.

In the movie, the night before he actually resigns, Anthony Hopkins stands before the White House portrait of Jack Kennedy. He says, "They look at you and

see what they want to be. They look at me and see what they are." Nothing sums up the man's demons as does that statement. He constantly compared himself to Kennedy. He knew that he would never be able to beat him (although his 1960 attempt was the closest presidential race in history) and refused to try again until both he and his successor were gone.

I still do not know who Richard Nixon was. I know that I like him. I know that I respect him. And I know that I pity him. He is possibly the greatest president who ever was. Without a doubt, he is the most infamous. He wasn't a womanizer, he wasn't a

fool, and maybe he wasn't even a crook. In his own words, "It's the lie that gets you."

Who was Richard Nixon? I doubt that anybody really knew him. Pat Nixon maybe did the best. But even she got her share of surprises.

To sum up the man, I leave you with two statements. First, from Nixon himself, who said, "Like all kids, they love that dog...they named him Checkers...and I'll be damned if I'm giving that gift back." And secondly, Adlai Stevenson, who astutely observed, "This is a man of many masks. Who can say they have seen his real face?"

**DANIEL CLARK**

## Rules in Joe's world



Some of you might remember an article of mine from the beginning of the year, where I listed my rules for life. These rules have been a source of strength for me over the years, and I'm glad I have them to follow. But these rules, like all rules, are not permanent. From time to time, I amend and append them, based on the experiences that I encounter. It's sort of like fine tuning an instrument.

I've had to do some fine tuning as of late, in light of a recent reality check, so I thought it only appropriate to reissue my list of rules in their new, updated format.

So, here it goes.

### Joe's Rules for Life ('96)

#1: Everything costs something. It's the currency that changes. So, make sure you always know the full price.

#2: There are only about four really great jobs in the world, and they're all taken by someone more qualified. Don't even bother applying.

#3: Don't ever whine and really mean it. It's tacky and child-

like, and no one wants to hear you.

#4: Nothing is ever really a surprise. If you're surprised by something, you're lying to yourself and you should seek professional help.

#5: It doesn't matter whose fault it is, or who did it. You're still responsible for fixing it.

#6: Stay away from people who complain. They are highly contagious.

#7: Laugh at everything. Everything is funny if you find the right perspective. If you don't laugh enough, no one will want to be near you.

#8: Look for trouble. It will happen to you anyway, and if you're looking for it, you can be sure to see it coming.

#9: Never admit to fear. In fact, never admit to anything; it's much safer.

#10: It's OK to be greedy, as long as you call it something else. Try acquisitive, it sounds better and not many people know what it means.

#11: Always be ready for death. Your own and that of other people. Everything dies eventually.

#12: Make sure to watch "Auntie Mame" at least once and year, and always remember the line: "Live, live, live! Life is a banquet and most poor suckers are starving to death."

#13: The phrase "Power corrupts" is inaccurate. Something much more insidious is the case. "Power attracts the corruptible." (Frank Hurbert, the *DUNE* series.)

And of course, in closing, we must remember that one most important rule that keeps you on track in life: **Don't ever take shit from anyone!**

**JOSEF TRATNIK**