

# Student pols present platforms

The following space has been purchased by the Student Union to allow candidates in the upcoming by-elections to present their platforms to Dalhousie Students.



**Dave Woods**

Overshadowed by chronic student apathy and the motivational ineffectiveness of the present student council, student politics at Dalhousie seems to be on a decline, or at least at some low point. Most students pay only minimal attention to the activities of the Student Council; and to those who do pay attention the unending stream of council issues, decisions, indecisions, and characters no doubt seem as a virtual comedy or an exercise in futility. Many come to the easy conclusion that the Student Council really does not care for the general interests of students, and its membership is there for only self-serving reasons.

Regardless of one's views on the Student Council, however, two major facts are undeniable: (1) the Student Council is a vital instrument for providing student services—services which in turn help to make our stay at Dal more interesting and enjoyable; (2) and as a student organization, students (regardless of their personal merits) are required for its membership.

I have found Dalhousie to be a large and cold environment, permeated with very little of what is popularly termed as "university spirit." As the major body purporting to encourage student participation and also the major body providing opportunities for this participation, I have found that the Student Council is not too successful in reaching students and motivating them to get involved. Nevertheless, I feel that since the council has the valuable asset of a strong economic base, and since its sphere of influence and control in the University machinery is limited, it should be much more effective in areas under its direct control.

After giving my ideas much thought and discussing "student politics" with various people involved with the council, I decided to run for the

position of Arts Rep. Some of the things I would like to accomplish are:

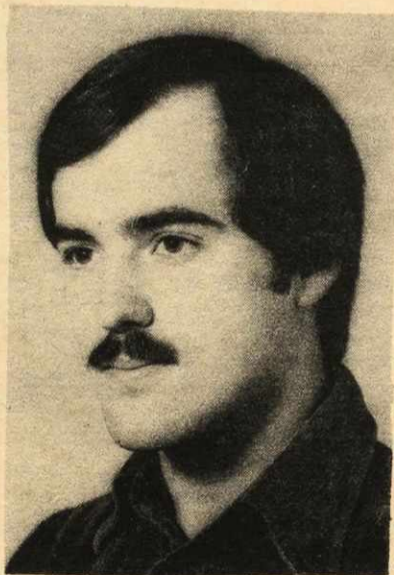
(1) Better integration of foreign students into the council's wide social framework.

(2) Greater diversity in our social events in order to widen the scope of students to whom we appeal.

(3) Encourage "lesser" student organizations, especially those who provide a service to all students, to become more open and flexible in their policies; so as to appeal to more students and to encourage those with new ideas.

So here I am—David "Herbie" Woods, 19 years of age, black, ex-president of Dartmouth Senior High School, ardent poet, Political Science major, 6 foot 2, Dartmouth resident, great admirer of Jesus, Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Law School aspirant, 5 year veteran of Student Councils (grade 8-grade 12), ex-High School student representative on the Dartmouth City School Board, disco-fanatic, and not so cute—seeking your support to become a member of your council. Those of you who know me—please give this support; those of you who do not—please get to know me and make a judgement; those of you who can't—please give me the benefit of the doubt. Remember, I am willing and would genuinely like to do something for you all—if you let me.

Yours truly  
**Dave Woods**



**John Hawkins**

One of my main objectives as Arts Rep. would be to increase participation and school spirit in the department. I feel that with the right leadership and programs, Arts students at Dalhousie could be brought together, get to know each other and get a more meaningful experience out of university life than at present. By gaining a community feeling, perhaps Arts students won't be so subject to disrespect from other faculties.

With approximately 1100 students currently taking a B.A. program at Dal, the job of creating unity among them

is going to require a great deal of work and creative thinking. Some of my ideas as to how this could be accomplished include increased financial support for Arts in inter-faculty sports teams and fund raising activities for the Arts Society, such as parties, discos and formal dances.

With respect to Student Council policy, I feel that there is too much hassle involved in getting into the SUB and Grawood Lounge in the evenings for guests and Dal students alike. I would attempt to get council to relax the "red tape" in this respect.

I feel that the A.F.S. is finished and did nothing for students but waste their valuable dollars. We have a very capable Council President and Executive who are ready, able and willing to fight cutbacks and tuition increases as the need arises.

For some time, the Dal Gazette has had to work with old and barely functioning equipment. New equipment would not only make for a better paper, but would also help to provide a needed offset publishing service to the University. I would support a grant to update the Gazette's equipment.

There are many problems to be worked out here at Dal as there are in most places in the world and no one can wave a magic wand and solve them automatically. However, with the co-operation of the students and the Students' Council, I pledge to do all possible to help the students in Arts as well as the University in general.

**Umesh Jain**

How much are you concerned about Dalhousie student affairs? Judging from the poll that I, Umesh Jain, conducted on Monday 16 / 78, I found that the bleak performance of science students cannot be entirely attributed to apathy, as is the general conception, but to an overwhelming lack of information!

Seventy-five (75) people were interviewed in the main foyer of the LSC Building (all of whom were science students) and any statistician will tell you that this sample is a fairly good representation of the views of science people.

One can easily verify from the results listed that there is definitely a serious problem concerning the amount of relevant information being absorbed. For instance, only 8 / 75 people knew there was an election; 2 / 75 people had even heard of the AFS referendum but couldn't elaborate on the issues; 31 / 75 people knew the names of the president and vice-president of the Student Council (which doesn't say much about the popularity of the present science reps.); and only 58 / 75 people had actually went to the SUB once-a-day. Since the SUB houses the main source of information across campus, there are some people who are totally unaware of the week's activ-



**Umesh Jain**

ities. If this sample had been conducted in the Biology 1000 Student Center (rather biasly), the data would certainly look appalling.

There, obviously, has to be an entire review of present sources of communication available to the LSC coupled with a cleanup and organization of certain bulletin boards. Even T.V. monitors (like the SUB's), at today's costs, should be installed and in terms of unifying the students or making them aware of activities, the expense is well worth it.

Although other candidates have stressed a platform of "getting things done", joining societies, clubs, and organizations for the sake of reference and not participation will not solve the urgent problems that exist in this University. As a first year student, I have something that seems void in my competition, namely, insight and an objective awareness into the concerns of science 'people' in Dalhousie University. As a candidate for the resolution of this issue and others, such as an extension of the study period at the end of the term, come support me by your votes on October 25 / 1978. Now you haven't got an excuse of not knowing the date of the election when I come by again!

Hello! My name is Rodney Brittain, and I want to help you.

Who am I? I'm a third year biology student. You might know me as a member of the DABS executive; or, you may know me as one of the people on the Dalhousie Science Society (DSS) Council. No doubt more people remember me from Orientation, as I organized the Science Society's part in it this year. A lot more probably recognize me as a resident of Howe Hall. And, of course, a few will recognize me as one of the people who has to run from the Tupper building to the Life Sciences Center in the morning to be in class on time.

How can I help you? By being your representative on the Student Council, I can speak up for you and vote on

council matters that affect you. By working on a committee that reports to the Student Council, I can give you input into decisions that will decide, among other things, how your money is spent.

The student council, however, isn't the only body spending your money. The Dalhousie Science Society Council needs to be well informed about what the rest of the university is doing so it can spend your money wisely. I could help here by being a source of information on what's going on in the SUB at DSS meetings. The science clubs (DABS, DAPS, Dal UPS, Dal CIC, Dawson Geology Club, the Math club and the Biochemistry club) also need information about what other groups are doing on campus to help them plan events. A good flow of information between the three levels of student organization is in your best interests, and by being active at all three levels, I can help this happen.



**Rodney Brittain**

I believe in helping out those who need help. I helped new science students to get to know Dalhousie better in Orientation, and organized a way for those returning science students who wanted to get involved to participate (the Buddy System). I'm helping to keep DABS afloat. Just recently I worked at the registration desk at the Physics conference one night so that the physics students would all be free to go to the Guptill lecture, and I've been helping the Biochemistry club get organized.

So, fellow science students, if you elect me to represent you on the Student Council, I'll help make your stay at Dalhousie more interesting and enjoyable.

**VOTE**  
**October**  
**25**