

## letters

### Fired SUB GM responds

To the Editor,

From 1 February 1988 to 18 September 1995, I had the privilege to be the General Manager of the Dalhousie Student Union. When I first came to the DSU, there were a number of challenges. I met with the Executive and they spoke of the following: successive financial losses; a \$75,000 Provincial Tax Audit; low staff morale; poor financial records; a Cashbook which had been force balanced over three audits; almost no internal controls and no Accounts Receivable sub-ledgers; and, a SUB which hadn't seen a coat of paint, never mind a major renovation, in about 12 years.

For every year between 1988 and 1995, the DSU has made a profit. At the same time, full and part time staff morale improved. At least \$2.5 Million in renovations and repairs were accomplished in the SUB, all paid for by 1995. Included was a new Grawood, Games Room, Copy Centre, Tech Department, a new floor in the McInnes Room, a new Food Court, all general space was painted, an enhanced entertainment program, the successful appeal of about \$65,000 of the \$75,000 tax audit, and I could go on. At the same time, we were able to convince the university to fix the air ventilation system and to replace all the windows in the Food Court and McInnes Room.

While all of this was going on, the Executive of the DSU were respected local, provincial and national leaders of the Canadian student movement. They argued forcefully and with success on issues which affected university funding, quality education and quality of life at Dalhousie and universities in general.

On 18 September 1995, I was wrongfully dismissed from the DSU. For the past few months, my solicitor has attempted, unsuccessfully, to negotiate a settlement with the DSU. By the time you read this, I will have begun a new job as the Executive Director of another Canadian Student Union. My intention is to drop any lawsuit for wrongful dismissal. I do this because I am moving out of province to take this new job and also because the students at Dalhousie would have to pay the financial cost of any lawsuit. There are, however, issues relative to a couple of individuals which I will not be dropping. While I have been both personally and financially affected by the treatment I have received recently, I do not want to leave the DSU any worse off than I fear it may already be. I am also very concerned about what has happened in Bar Services and to Debbie Brown. I know Debbie will be vindicated and I wish her and all the remaining staff good luck.

In closing, some unsolicited advice. Get involved with Your Student Union. Ask questions. Every person who pays any Student Union fee is a member. The DSU is the oldest organization of its kind and it faces a future of many changes. To all the Students and staff in the Dalhousie community I have had the pleasure to work for and with, thank you for seven-and-a-half great years and Good Luck!

Sincerely,

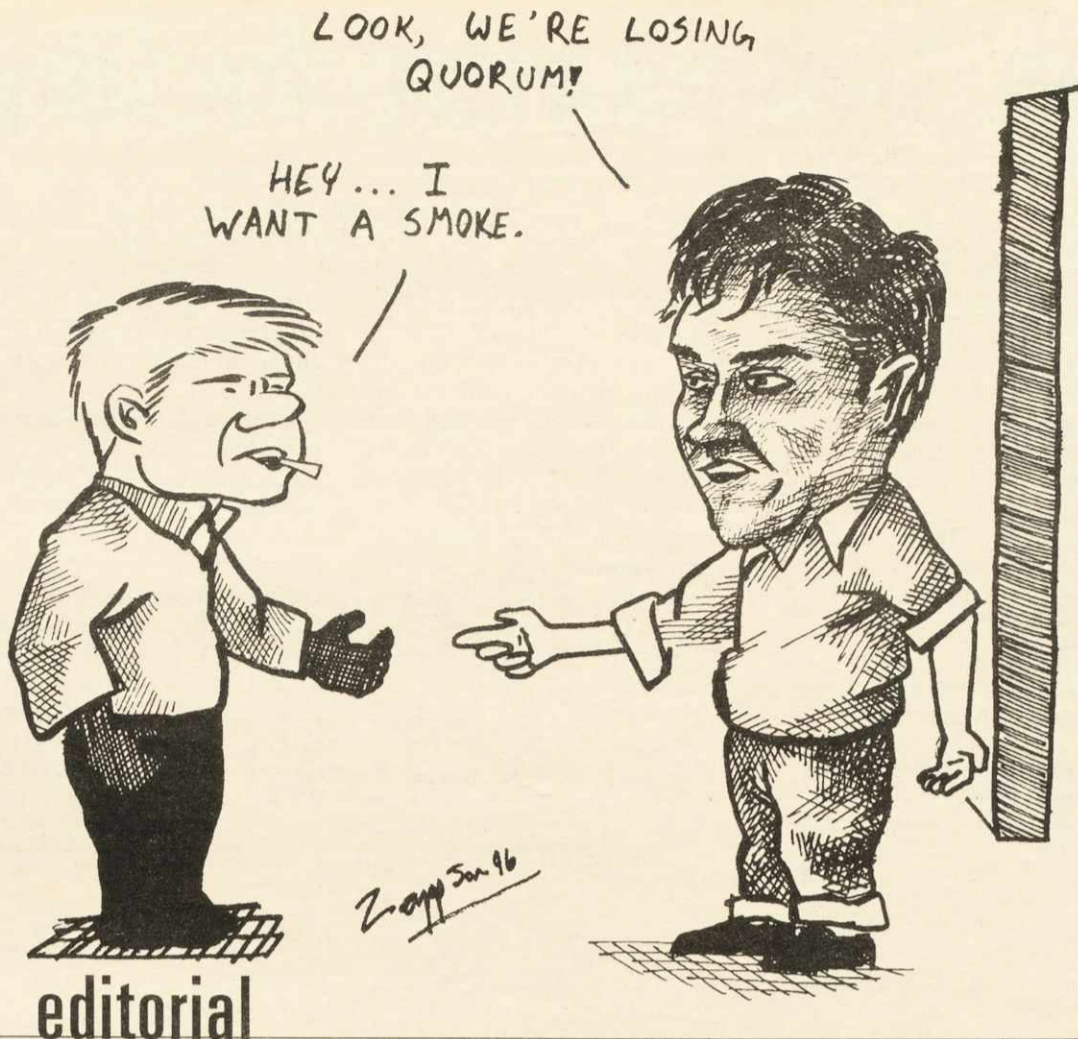
Steve Gaetz

### Senate cuts Frosh Week

To the editor:

Re: "Senate cuts frosh week," Jan. 25, 1996.

I have been involved with both the on and off campus Orientation Week. In 1992, I was an on campus frosh, and it is one of the most memorable experiences I've had at Dal. In '93, as VP of a residence house, I worked with other frosh leaders to promote the same sort of fun-filled experience for that year's frosh. During Frosh



editorial

## The ticking clock that is Bouchard

It's amazing how some things feel like such a long time coming. Lucien Bouchard was sworn in as Québec's new premier this past Monday, and although he has occupied this position in the Québec government for only four days now, it feels like this spot has been waiting just for him.

What is ironic, however, is that talk of separation within Québec itself has, in recent political days, become quite pronounced. It comes just at the time when the province accepts a new premier to take the lead, a sovereigntist lead at that. What a poetically just challenge Premier Bouchard must face in his first days in office — divisive forces within his own province which he proclaims to be unique, distinct, yet *whole*. Québec citizens who talk of refusing to secede from Canada may rupture the idealistic image he has of "la belle province." It is amazing to think that a province could divide within itself. How brilliant.

Premier Bouchard says the economy is his biggest concern, his

top priority. The method to his madness is likely to be different from his predecessor, M. Parizeau, who seemed to place on the backburner any semblance of attention over education, deficit elimination, all the normal agenda topics a conscientious politician would cover. What will be interesting to see is how Premier Bouchard's economic adjustments will affect the non-francophone communities in the province. Anglophone and allophone communities, which are most predominant in the wild mosaic of Montréal and its surrounding area, contribute significantly to the livelihood of the province. When the Premier declares that his first job is to bring Québec's finances into a healthier state, does he intend to include in his work towards a financially stronger Québec, that segment of Québec society he will later alienate in his efforts to make Québec sovereign? Where do non-francophones fit into this man's vision for Québec?

With all due respect, one can

applaud his style of leadership. He has manners, and a thoughtfulness and persistence that have become apparent in all forms of media, TV and print, english and french. He was even congratulated by Jacques Chirac, a well-known supporter of Québec sovereignty, even when it is politically taboo for a French leader to vocalize his or her sentiments about sensitive issues surrounding Québec. Bouchard is obviously an appealing leader on his own merit, besides just being the replacement for Parizeau, whose staunch politics offended a large portion of Québec society. Bouchard's pre-referendum popularity and indeed, his post-referendum appeal, will be tested out in the first months of his term. His credibility will be the first thing to go if he blows his calm, sensible disposition.

It may also be his first victory depending on how committed he is to strengthening the economy with all Québécois in mind.

KRISTIN MCNEILL

Week, first-year students learn their way around Halifax and Dalhousie, long-lasting friendships are formed, and new students begin to adjust to their new environment.

Cutting Frosh Week is a bad idea. First of all, from being on the Orientation Committee, I happen to know that Frosh Week is not a huge financial loser. Many of the "costly" events — such as the Big Ticket Concert — actually make money.

Secondly, I was on the 1995 Orientation Committee as the Shinerama Chair. Over the entire summer with the Shinerama Blitz Crew, a lot of hard work was done to ensure a successful Shinerama Day. We raised \$17,000 for Cystic Fibrosis of Canada. This was the direct result of the first-year students who shined, washed, and sang the entire Thursday of Frosh Week. That's the same Shinerama Thursday that has been for 20 years, and the same Thursday that the Senate wishes to start classes on in September, 1996.

An out-of-touch Senate stated that Frosh Week was "a time for students to play around." Thanks for your input...if \$17,000 for a very worthy cause was raised by students by "playing around," then so be it.

Dalhousie students suffer from this moronic cut by losing three or four days of what can be a very important week in their student career; children stricken with CF may suffer much more. Dal has remained among the top ten schools for fundraising for the past fifteen years. Every cent brings us closer to a cure.

Shinerama is a Frosh Week tradition. I implore those Senators who will be meeting on Feb. 5 to vote to give it back to the students. And if not for the students of Dal, then for the children with CF who count on Dal students to raise research dollars for them.

Bridgette McCaig  
bmccaig@is.dal.ca

To the Editor:

I wish to express my sincerest sympathy to all Dalhousie students in light of your university Senate's decision to shorten frosh week. All too often the administration of academic institutions overlook the value of their social events and programs, forgetting that there is much more to learning at a university than classes and textbooks. Referring to frosh week as "a time for the students to play around" is nothing short of ignorance on the part of any senator.

Dalhousie will be joining Saint Mary's as another university who has had its frosh week seriously altered by Senate. My advice to the DSU is to make the best of a bad situation. Schedule frosh week activities around class times; hold your concerts at night, and utilize the weekend as effectively as you can.

The condensing of frosh week to be a growing trend in Canadian universities. It is a shame that such a valuable service to first year students can be dismissed as "play-time" by some narrow minded administrators. I wish next year's Orientation Coordinator the best of luck with the organization and planning of Dalhousie frosh week. Always remain optimistic and do the best job with what you have to work with.

Sincerely,

Fraser Gould  
Vice President Student  
Affairs  
Saint Mary's University  
Students Association

To the editor:

I would like to thank Mr. Daniel Clark and the rest of the Gazette crew for the cover story in last week's Gazette (January 25, 1996): "Senate Cuts Frosh Week."

Since your article ran, I have received many questions about Senate and about the recent changes to academic dates which were passed at the January 8 meeting of Senate. The interest which students have demonstrated in their university governance has considerably increased since you ran your article on Senate.

For the past few years, I have observed the quality of the Gazette's stories and its journalistic integrity im-

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