

Heffernan and Rideout

Gazette: What do you consider the major issues of this campaign?

Heffernan: From our point of view and more so the students' point of view, academic reform at least more input into the academic side of the university, the A.F.S./N.U.S. referendum, student aid, tuition fee increases and lower campus. re Carleton House.

Gazette: What are your positions on those issues?

Heffernan: I think the students should have a better say over the quality of education we have at Dalhousie University.

I think through the Senate we can do this. We are going to increase our membership with the reform and it's going to decrease the size so that we're working with a smaller number of people and I think that if we are organized when we approach them, we will be able to really get our point across better than we have. The A.F.S./N.U.S. referendum, we took as one solid issue. We felt that they were something that could not be separated. We're positive on both organizations because we hope to set up a network where we're constantly in touch with the students, and what they think is important, and how we should attack these issues. We'll put proposals to them, we haven't got a lot of specifics right now.

Student aid. It's been a motherhood issue, a type of thing everybody's concerned with because it directly affects the majority of students.

We're going to be on top of the issue. We have to have input and it only comes from other students. Two people, or Council itself sometimes, can't have all the answers. They've got to find the answers and that's what we're really keen on.

Rideout: We're going to put stronger pressure on. If we can get more of the Alumnae involved, and if we're organized when we go to it, we want to at least try everything; increases in power rates, and things like that, that are really affecting the students' quality of life here. We really want those things indexed.

Heffernan: Tuition fee increases. We will fight tuition fees on as practical, and as factual a level as we can. But we also have to be a little pragmatic and a little realistic. Everything is going up and the government is putting the squeeze on; we're being caught in by the government and the right kind of pressures haven't been applied, from our point of view or from other people's point of view. The university, like any other body, is not fighting for our sake, they're fighting for their own sake. They have their own interests first. Well we've got to develop our interests and we've got to stand for our issues and make them known.

The final issue, lower campus Carleton House, has been in the air forever.

It's close to being done. Let's finish the job and get it out of the way.

Rideout: We could break this down farther. Our philosophy is an overall approach to student affairs. The A.F.S. issue - we're strongly in favour of, and we're going to use it. We're really going to ensure that they earn their money, and there are a number of issues that we want A.F.S. to look at that are within our main five--student aid, unemployment and these sorts of things. We have an overall concept with



Robert Rideout and Jim Heffernan

regards to the internal and external relations. We're going to organize a new department made up of the President and Vice-President for external affairs. Membership would be open; we want to get the Alumni on it if we can. We're going to request that the clubs and societies give us a report at the end of the year, a consensus on the opinions of the students towards the University and towards their life here. And we're hoping that from this we can gain a general consensus. The main problem has been implementation. We've had a lot of good ideas on things but we haven't been able to implement them, so we're going to try to organize a more coherent and cohesive approach to Senate affairs, and to the administrative affairs. We're going to be organized when we go to the Senate, or the Board of Governors. We're going to push for the Senate reform and we're going to try to get a lot of our ideas implemented as fully as possible. We feel by opening up these channels, by getting the consensus from the students and then trying to stream down things (the Senate, the administration, the Council) we can accomplish this.

organization is going to be the only way to really solve the problem.

We are going to be organized- there are going to be Senate and Board meetings of the students every month. We're going to have strategy. I know when I was on the Senate there was no organization, everyone just went to the meetings. We're going to go to the meetings prepared. We're going to be asking a lot of the people who are on our team this year because we're really going to tackle a lot of things.

Gazette: Could you outline your past experience?

Rideout:

Previous to being at Dal, I've been at Mount A. and I was involved in athletics, football that sort of thing and was a house counsellor representative.

I took a year off school and I travelled and worked around the world and then I came back to Dalhousie.

I became a member of the Senate and I'm a member of the Dalhousie Graduate Society this year and just involved in a lot of things.

Heffernan:

My background extends back to Mount Allison University which I attended before coming to Dal last year. I was involved as a representative on Council, involved as secretary of the Students Union at Mount A. Then I was President of Mount A. for one year. Following that term I took about a year off, and then came back to Dal where I'm in Commerce

and up till now my real input around Dalhousie has been listening and taking part in discussion in the area of housing and things like that. I think the important thing to note about all this is that I've had contact with the University administration, I know something about how their attitude works and how they work. I've been involved in board meetings and I've been involved in Senate work. I think those things are all basically the same anywhere except in the size.

Gazette: Based on your record what makes you think you are capable of the job?

Rideout:

Well in my case, I've just been around for three years and I've been involved.

I've done a lot of thinking about things I've come in contact with while here-- the administration, my courses etc. and I've got some impressions from these and have found that some things weren't good. I'm graduating from Dalhousie University and the quality of the education here is going to reflect on my background. I felt if I could do anything, I should try to improve the quality of the education in some way.

One thing we both realize is that things aren't going to come easy. It's going to be a lot of work, but I'm willing and Jimmy is too to put that time in.

Heffernan:

In looking back over how I've been involved, I think I've got enough experience to realize the limitations of where I'm going to be and what I'm going to be trying to do. That knowledge alone helps me.

If we set the right base we're going to be able to grow from it and I think that's what's important now. Over the last two to three years it's been a very ideal attitude.

I can see myself being able to do things and that is the real reason I want to get involved at this level. I think I can step in there and do something and I think the "do" is very important here. I think it's time something specifically got done. We know which areas we want to attack, the specifics, I think, can be found quickly.

To sum it up would be to say that there are a large number of issues that various factions are interested in and we're not shut off to those issues, we just feel that certain things are going to be more emphasized throughout the campaign and we felt those were the ones to mention now. There's one thing that might be important to note is that we're open to anything

that can be a viable solution. We don't want to be the answer. We want to be the source to which the answer can be delivered to other people. We think we can carry things through if we're given certain guidances. We're going to try and guide ourselves as much as we see it, but we're not going to be all by ourselves, we hope it's a total effort by the student body.

Gazette: How much time will you have to offer to the job next year?

Heffernan:

I have lots. I'm at the point where I can carry a minimum load and be a full time student and do the job. I don't think of it as a 9-5 er. I think of it as seven days a week. Whenever you can be available you should be available, but like any human being, I'm going to need some time to myself.

Rideout: We're both going to do a lot of work this summer, a lot of the ground work so that in September when things come we're going to be able to react. In offering ourselves for this position we have to offer ourselves to the students.

I don't think it's a sacrifice, it's educative.

Gazette: How do you perceive the role of President/Vice-President?

Heffernan:

We've talked about that as a team. First of all we had to clarify the team idea of it. Each of us has interests. My interests are a bit in the internal in trying to make the student government function. I've learned from past experiences that the President has got to be in touch with everything and the Vice-President does too.

Information funnels to one person at the top of any hierarchy and powers should be delegated so that nobody's carrying too much of a workload. I don't see any real definitive limitations to what a President or Vice-President should do. They should be wide open and be restricted by what council and the students feel.

Rideout:

I'm interested in external affairs and administration. We're going to organize a new external affairs department with the President and Vice-President. I realize all the implications of the Vice-President's job.

One thing you'll see happen if we get elected is the functional activities--things that could be put on other people's shoulders and taken away from the Vice-President. Why is it necessary for the Vice-President to sit on a committee which doesn't need his input to carry out its functions? What we're looking at is efficiency- we're going to get things done and the only way to do that is to put your inputs in the right places. There's a lot of time in committee meetings and if they're not functional why waste the time?

We would like to have a really strong chairperson on council.

Gazette: What made you decide to run?

When we talked, we found our interests in different areas so we thought we had a fairly wide range of interests. Our idea was in policy not if we appealed to certain people. We went on ideas and issues. We should all participate, try to voice our views.

Gazette: Thank you.