

Response to editorial

To the Editor:

This letter is in response to the editorial of September 29, 1983 entitled "I Have a Question". In this article, Catherine Ricketts dealt with the elections of students to various DSU committees. We feel comments are necessary since this article contained misleading information.

Firstly, the various committees referred to were actually positions on faculty of Arts & Science committees which can only be represented by Arts & Science students. Miss Ricketts failed to mention any background information as to why Reza Rezvi presented the list of names of nominees. The Dalhousie Science Society would like to bring to her attention the business brought forward in a council meeting of Sept. 16, which was attended by various persons from the faculty of Arts & Science Societies. At this time it was requested that an effort be made by the Arts & Science Societies to solicit the names of those interested in serving on these committees. Consequently, the Science Society presented a slate of nominees at the Council Meeting of Sept. 24, 1983.

It should be noted that Arts presently does not have a representative on council, therefore the Science Society was the only group capable of submitting a list of nominees. However, Tim Hill did present names of Arts students for these committees. Therefore, it is unfair for the Gazette to accuse the Science Society of "Patronage and Subterfuge."

Donna Hammill
President, DSS

Timely advice

To the Editor:

"Beter late than never." Although my experience over the years has confirmed this addage, recently I found the exception to the rule. As a Dal alumna and associate member of the Dal Newman Society, I was asked to attend the September 25th Student Council meeting to defend the Newman Conference '84 budget. I, like many students, graduated from Dalhousie without ever having attended a Council meeting. Upon perusing the meeting's agenda, I found that the Newman Society's grant proposal was item 7.a.(i) on the twelve item agenda. The meeting started at 1:00 p.m. I, in my ignorance, believed that arriving at 2:00 p.m. would allow sufficient time to fulfill my duties as Newman Society representative. I did arrive at 2:00 p.m. but, unfortunately, I was five minutes too late. I questioned a Council member, Chris Woods, who informed me that the

grant had been approved. She was very helpful and also indicated that the extensive preparation of the grant proposal had been much-appreciated by Council. This did not surprise me because, earlier in the week, Grants Committee Chairman Karl Nightingale requested that he be allowed to use said budget as a prototype for all other societies to emulate. I was pleased and, although I was late and unable to defend the proposal, Council had approved it on its own merit. My tardiness, however, has indicated to some that the Newman Society just had not bothered to send a representative. This is most unfortunate and inaccurate. Students who are familiar with Council proceedings, in particular with swift execution of lengthy agendas, would be well-advised to learn from my experience. Better late than never may hold under some circumstances, but not at Council meetings.

Sincerely,
Joan Kean
Dal alumna, Class of '82
Budget Committee
Newman Conference '84

Editor's note:

I was aware of the Newman Society's well-presented grant proposal. I was not aware the nominations to committees were restricted to Arts and Science students.

However, these points raised in the letters from Jean Kean and Donna Hammill serve only to cloud the issue.

If the Student Union (including student council) is to be an exercise in participatory democracy, nominees to committees and recipients of grants must be prepared to go to council meetings relevant to them.

And councillors must be prepared to question the proceedings when this is not the case. 'Yes-men' are more dangerous than critics.

Vant's view questioned

To the Editor:

I am writing to comment upon the remarks of Maud Vant, as reported in the article, "Maud Vant calls for Nuclear Free Zone," contained in the Sept. 22 issue of the Gazette.

In the first place, Ms. Vant's view of the world is oversimplified, to say the least. In this view world tension boils down to the Soviets being under a "seige," i.e. we're guilty of arousing their paranoia and their actions are just a legitimate reaction to "...the pressure she [Vant] feels the 'American Empire' is placing on them..."

The article mentions that Vant, "...used a world map to show the almost complete (except for Iran and Afghanistan) border of hostile states surrounding the U.S.S.R." Consulting such a map shows that things aren't all bad for the Kremlin bosses.

Look along the western border. There's Finland, which poses no more of a military threat to the Soviets than Mexico does to the U.S. Then there's a nice cushion of Warsaw Pact states like Poland and Hungary providing a buffer between the U.S.S.R. and western Europe. In the far east, China poses a threat, but that country could hardly be considered part of an "American Empire."

Ms. Vant's reaction to the question of human rights violation in Eastern Europe is an interesting indicator of her thinking. She says of her trip to Czechoslovakia: "I said before I went, if I saw anything negative, I'd not repeat it. I'd only mention the positive."

The Gazette editorial for the same issue says in part: "...this grand Western society of ours isn't going to proceed one step further until we react with abhorrence at ALL murders, ALL wars, and ALL injustices without first cynically looking to see where we stand in the picture."

Maud Vant obviously hasn't gotten this message, and until she does we should look upon her message with more skepticism than respect.

Sincerely,
Paul Charlton

Criticize Gallup?

To the Editor:

A September Galup poll commissioned by the Ecology Action Centre showed that 61% of Nova Scotians are opposed to the use of herbicides 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T in forestry. Only 16% favoured their use.

Recently, various sources, including a spokesperson for the department of the environment, have been quoted as questioning the validity of this poll.

Not only is this attitude insulting to a well-respected company such as Gallup, but also denigrates the intelligence of Nova Scotians.

Environment Minister Greg Kerr has attempted to downplay the province-wide opposition to spraying by indicating that the government and the forest industry must do a better "selling job" on herbicides.

The Dal-King's Young New Democrats encourage you to write to your MLA and state your position against herbicide use and for responsible forest management.

Yours sincerely,
Dale Steele
Chairperson, Dal King's YND

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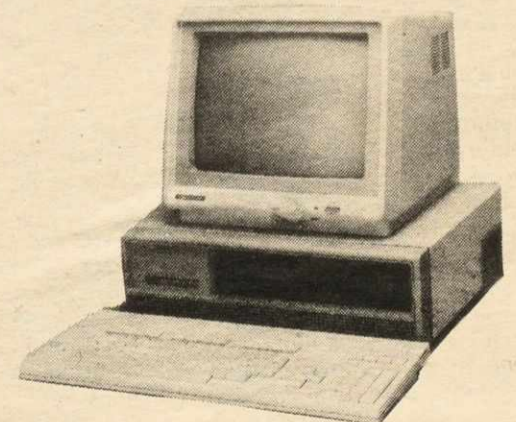
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