

news

Employers meet your Executive employees

by Chantal Saxe

Lale Kesebi and Dennis MacNeil are President and Vice-President of the Student Union. Their job is to make the Student Union Building accessible to as many students as possible, guiding students towards an awareness of services offered through the Union as well as encouraging students to contribute to life at Dalhousie by participating in campus activities.

Lale and Dennis each receive an honouraria of \$15,630 for the year they are in office. The sum is considerably higher than the \$3,375 for a nine month term paid to the VP Academic, VP External, VP Community Affairs, and Communication Chair who make up the other members of the Executive. Lale asserts that "with the obligations they have I don't think that they are deserving of the compliment of the honouraria that the three officers (President, Vice-President, and Treasurer) get," but she adds that with their growing portfolios and time commitments "my first priority would be to see honouraria changes for those positions before... these three."

Unlike some other universities, Dalhousie Student Union Presidential positions are not full-time commitments. According to Constitutional By-Law 3-13, which is expected to be ratified in October, "Each officer must take at least one and a half credits per term but no more than three credits per year." Lale, a third year law student, is unsure of her exact course load but is planning to disperse her final year over a two year span. She says "this term I'm close to being full-time and then the term after I'm not." She says she "won't be anywhere near the twenty-nine credit hours" which is the requirement amount to be considered full-time in third year law school. In any case she claims she will not risk impeachment by taking more than three credits. Dennis, a Science student, is planning to take three courses, one of which is his thesis. While both agree that the combination of classes and politics is going to involve a heavy time commitment, they feel it is the most effective method of keeping a pulse on student life. Lale says "My argument is that you can't represent stu-

dents unless you are a student."

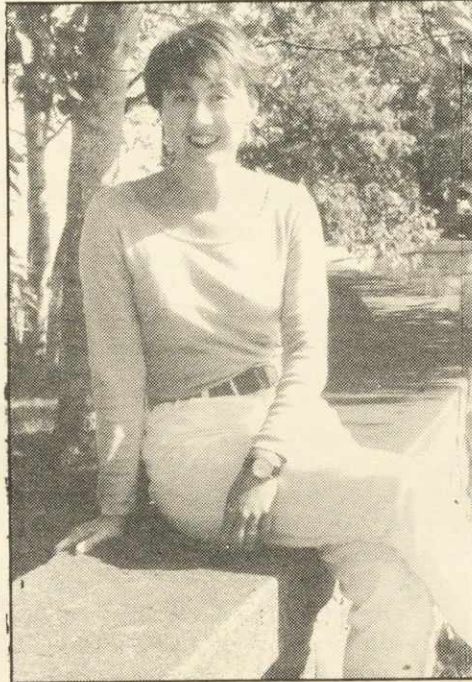
Lale and Dennis are the only elected members of the Student Union. They came into their offices last May and will hold those positions until April of 1993. They ran

around campus this year. Dennis points to the new lockers that have been installed downstairs in the Student Union Building and a program which provides condoms to residence students. Future goals include a

take into their own hands some of the changes they saw as necessary during their undergraduate years. They maintain an open-door policy in order to be accessible to the needs of the students they now represent. While both of them deeply value the

experience they are garnering from their positions, neither is ready for a life of politics. Dennis, a Haligonian, is considering a career in business or medicine, and Lale, who was born and raised in Dartmouth, intends to practice litigation.

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on a platform of "DSU for YOU" and are committed to making the voices of students heard in the boardrooms of University Administration. According to Lale, she is empowered by student support, and her mandate is determined by the will of the student body. She notes, "the issues that we address during the year are only legitimate if you have the majority behind you." She adds however, "at the same time... we have to be trend setters as student leaders. Sometimes you have to sway away from the majority to make sure that issues like homophobia and AIDS education, which tend not to be at the forefront, also get dealt with."

Dennis sees himself as a bridge between students and administration. "If a student is having a problem with the administration... they may not be as willing to listen to them as they are willing to listen to me... It's good to use the position to help other students." Dennis and Lale are focused on enhancing the visibility of the Student Union. Improved communication is essential according to Lale, who feels "that if students are informed they will be involved." Evidence of an active Student Union can already be seen

parenting lounge in the Student Union Building and a plan to redesign course evaluation methods.

While the Student Union has a high degree of success in implementing their agenda, Dennis notes that plans extending outside the jurisdiction of the Student Union Building are often frustrated by a lack of cooperation on the part of University Administration. "When it comes to things like tuition fees I really wish we had more power over there at the Board of Governors... Even with four students reps there we don't seem to get as much representation as I think we deserve."

The roles of Student Union President and Vice-President involve a hectic schedule of administrative meetings, travel, and socializing. Although Lale may never quite reach her goal of meeting every student at Dalhousie, the two make an effort to be active in a variety of areas of campus life. This is accomplished by attending as many social events as possible, visiting residences, and dealing with the administration on issues that affect the student body. Dennis sits on a number of committees, including the Security Parking Committee, Campus Safety, and the University Environment Committee. Lale is a voting member of the Senate and Board of Governors and sits on the Honourary Degree and Academic Administration Committees. They both attended a number of conferences this summer to interact with governing bodies of other universities. Lale took a five day "whirlwind tour" of the student unions of five Canadian universities. As a result of that trip Dalhousie Student Union is implementing new promotional techniques modelled after the University of Alberta and considering a peer counselling centre similar to the University of Calgary's.

Dennis and Lale became involved in student politics out of a desire to



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**STUDENTS:
PROBLEMS
GETTING INTO
CLASSES?**

Information about classes where there are spaces available can be obtained from the departments offering the classes. Contact the instructor. If necessary, ask to be put on a waiting list. Also, fill out the green Class Enrolment Questionnaire (available in the Student Council Office, SUB, the Student Services Office, or the table in the A&A lobby).

Contact the Assistant Dean-Student Affairs in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (494-1440) or in the Faculty of Science (494-2373), Third Floor, A&A building, or the Director of your School if you are in the Faculty of Health Professions or the Faculty of Management, whichever is appropriate.

If you have tried these steps and are not satisfied, or if you are not sure what to do next, or if you have some other registration problem that cannot be resolved by the Registrar's Office, contact the Student Services Office, 494-2404, SUB, Room 410.

As a University, we have a commitment to providing the best service possible to our students. While we cannot guarantee a solution to every student problem or concern, we will do everything we reasonably can.

Please ask!