

# fear and loathing; Elections '84

## They Can Run, But They Can't Get Away From The Committee

**The Seriocomic Campaign: Gigeroff and James**

Poor Lex (short for Alex), he had an abused childhood growing up in Yarmouth after moving from Toronto. He apparently never got over either Toronto, or the abused childhood, as he categorizes himself as one of the "lesser lights in the English department." However, this reporter has sources that tell him that Alex is indeed a fourth year honours student. It has also been revealed that he plays the guitar, writes songs and poetry, could be a Rock poet. But alas, Lex did have, as he puts it, "a traumatic 21st birthday."

In order to capture the theatre vote, this cosmic scientist has let it be known that he participated in summer theatre for a few years running. He has also lived in Howe Hall for three years, but not at the present, and calls this a big learning experience. "One has to be on one's toes over there," says Lex, and at the same time one is subjected to the brutal realities of the attrition rate at Dalhousie when some of one's friends of other years do not return to its hallowed halls.

If one thinks of autumn, what delightful imagery is conjured up? School? No! Football, of course. This is a big issue for these two and they would love—and I mean love—to see a varsity football team at Dalhousie. A study must be made of the feasibility of such an enterprise. For this team a football squad at Dal

is a motif, or as Lex says, it is a grail to be chased after with endless benefits to be had during the chase itself.

As for his political knowledge and expertise, forget it, no, that's not quite true, he is well informed and confesses that he is picking up new knowledge at every opportunity. How can one give a quick summary of the mind of Alex Gigeroff? First, he openly dislikes categorizing all you students as just numbers; you are real people to him. And second, he has his own personal identity, obvious to anyone who knows him, that he doesn't care to analyze, but which would be reflected in his style of presidency if elected.

And now sports fans here's Rusty. "A dynamic individual, a brave contender," says Howard Cosell.

Rusty James grew up in Dartmouth and instead of having a neglected childhood, he himself neglected school. For three long years he has worked on a column in the *Gazette* called *Rusty and Dave*, maybe you have heard of it. It is presently suspended from the *Gazette* because of the election.

Dal Athletics has been graced by Rusty's presence this year and this, he says, has helped him to keep his ears to the ground. For him, the position of vice-president intrinsically means communication—getting those various societies on campus to get together and to work together.

The number one goal for this

team is to change the *Gazette* into a true student newspaper. Essentially there is very little news published that is of immediate concern to the students of Dalhousie; too much emphasis is placed on international issues, for example. Rusty would like to sit down and talk, and says he would be open-minded about this issue. The *Gazette* must serve the students, and he feels the same way in regards to CKDU.

Internally, the DSU must work in close conjunction with the societies of Dalhousie. For example the winter carnival should be run in conjunction with other society weeks. The entire campus is not compact enough to have one central winter carnival and there is a disparity amongst the ages and interests of a university with many diverse faculties. Good society coordination is the start of good communication between functionaries of this institution.

Both candidates believe they can create a difference in respect to the serious issues and are emphatic that their interest is in solidarity with those of the students. They say they are not running for popularity as they are popular enough already!

With a team that mixes humour and seriousness it is difficult to tell how responsible they would be in office. Reporters and voters are forced into the position of taking them at their own evaluation or rejecting them. It is clear that Rusty James has far more definite ideas of

what he wants to do as Vice-President than Gigeroff, who although he is familiar with many of the issues like student aid, tuition, academic affairs, is reluctant to specify any particular course of action.

### Perception vs. Reality

MacDonald and Machum: A reasonable approach. But is approach a reasonable issue? This team claims that negotiations with the government have been subverted "because past student negotiators have been perceived as being, radical, irrational, and unrepresentative of student views."

Yet when asked to characterize the leadership styles of past and present DSU presidents, MacDonald declined comment on some and expressed his respect for Tim Hill. If these presidents are not irrational radicals, then who are the irrational radicals from whom MacDonald and Machum would save us?

Well, as it turns out, MacDonald and Machum wish to point out that their campaign literature says student negotiators are only "perceived as being radical, irrational, and unrepresentative." Their campaign literature should not, they say, be interpreted as criticism of past or present DSU executives.

But when asked whether the provincial government was dealing fairly with post-secondary education issues MacDonald responded as follows: "We have to ask ourselves, are we treating

them fairly? Can we expect fair treatment if we aren't fair? If we're uncompromising or unreasonable? Our views and concerns should be presented in a responsible and reasonable manner."

So, on the one hand reality holds no radical or irrational negotiators on the DSU executive. Why, then, do MacDonald and Machum continue to perceive radicals? Perhaps because they aren't too perceptive.

This seems a plausible explanation when you consider the other misperceptions this team holds. The most staggering of these misperceptions concerns the effectiveness of student union lobbying efforts. The team's campaign literature suggests the "stark reality is that constructive negotiation has stopped. Government no longer listens." The stark reality of 1500 summer jobs created in a provincial government employment program as a result of SUNS lobbying last summer stand as evidence to the contrary.

But such radical solutions could be remedied by a reasonable approach to such problems. Noting that the DSU constitutes a large proportion of SUNS' student membership MacDonald notes that his is the leverage that reasonable approaches are made of. "If I was elected president I would be going to SUNS to try to influence them to be more compromising in respect to government. I would recommend that Dal



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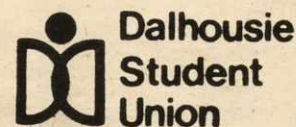
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## VALEDICTORIANS

Applications are now being accepted for Valedictorians for Spring '84 Convocations.

Applications may be picked up at the Student Union Office, Rm 222 SUB.

Completed applications must be received by 5 p.m. on Friday, March 16, 1984 in Rm 222 SUB.

For further information contact Fred Armstrong, President Class of '84, Rm 222 or phone 424-2146 (Home 429-7259).