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Smith - "effective, not controversial"

(Martin Dalley of the Dal Gazette speaks with Brian Smith, President elect of the Student Union.)

1) Will you be approaching the government for more money for higher education? I will be going after the government for a change in the Canada Student Loan Act to look for a subsidy in order to at least minimize increases that will occur in residence and tuition fees.



BRIAN SMITH

There will also be negotiations regarding student summer employment. I am prepared to negotiate on any level, at least make our feelings known.

2) What offices within the Student Union have to be looked into and why?

I think just about every appointed position within the Union has to be looked into. A lot of the positions are nonfunctional, and those in existance are not being used to full potential, because the description of the job is fuzzy and this must be brought into focus.

Each position must have a frame of reference so that no one is doing someone else's work.

3) With a 34% turnout in the election, and with 11 acclamations, it seems that many swdents are not interested in student government. How are you going to make student government more applicable, and how are you going to involve more students in various activities?

There sure doesn't appear to be much interest as a result of the turnout. An amendment to the Elections Act has to be changed so that no acclamations will be possible. There must be an election. I hope to rejuvinate interest in my job as president, to be able to show people that I am doing something for them. I want to be effective, not controversial. 4) How do you rate Andy

Winstanley's year of office? He has been a very effective president. He has done a lot of long hard work for the good of the Union. He doesn't want the laurals that go along with the job, but deserves them. He has worked very hard in the area of employment, student services, housing, worked hard in negotiations with the administration and is going to Ottawa to discuss student loans. I feel I have learned a lot while

working with him, because he has been effective as a politician and as a businessman.

5) Should Beaver Foods employees be unionized?

It's a question for Beaver Foods employees to decide because they can reap the benefits of unionization, and if they see a true benefit, then definitely they should be unionized. However, if they can attain what they have now through non-union negotiations, if they can attain what they want, then that's the purpose of having a union.

6) In working with Jim Hearn,

have you planned any type of working relationship?

We have not as yet had a chance to sit down and have a good long talk about the direction that he would wish and the direction that I would want. I do not foresee any difficulty in working with Jim. I think we can work together.

We must decide in which direction each of us intends to go.

7) What is your main priority?

The first thing I am going to do is to make myself fully aware of the areas that require work and concentration, and to make myself aware of the problems that face the other students. Over the vast week I have become much more aware of a lot of situations that present problems to other students.

Along this line, I would like to immediately set up a liason between the residences and my office so that they will have a direct contact with the Union.

I want to do the same thing with the different societies, as well as going after a couple of more things for the foreign students. This would include a representative on Council, to obtain MSI for foreign students, and work permits.

New senators speak out

by Dorothy Wigmore

Increasing student awareness and participation in the university is the principle aim of the two new student Senators, Peter Harvison and Andrew Cochrane.

"I think once students become aware of the politics of university, they will become more involved themselves and will take a more active part," said Harvison. "That is our role, to make them aware that they are being played upon, they are being oppressed in a certain degree by those people who are more aware of the situation."

Neither Harvison or Cochrane see themselves as representatives of the whole student body.

"I hardly feel that I am completely representative of the student body as a whole, and I don't even pretend to be, because only ten students had a voice in getting me nominated, and acclaimed," said Harvison. Cochrane agreed completely. The two were among the eleven acclamations in the Student Union elections.

"Andy and I are going to have to be aware of the fact that the whole power structure has to change to what students feel," Harvison explained. "The power structure is no longer adequate. We want to change the system so that the students can become an effective part of that change.

"I, for one, am going to press for greater representation of the students," he added. "Two students to represent 6000 students is just totally ludicrous and the Senate body as a whole has just failed to recognize the fact that students are really concerned with their own affairs.

"Andrew and I are going to press for a smaller Senate, for a more active Senate, and for a greater involvement of our students. I personally am dedicated to pushing for 50% representation of students on the Senate."

When a major issue comes before Senate, and the three senators firmly oppose it and vote against it, say the two students, the Senate has to be impressed that it is not three Senators voting against it, but the effect is that of the whole student body voting against the motion.

They see this as an interim measure until there is an effective change in the Senate. This, they feel, will not come this year, because effective change needs a movement, which is lacking now.

Cochrane and Harvison, with Phone 429-5831 the Student Union president, are the only student representatives on the 183-HALIFAX, N.S. member body. **OFFICIAL STUDENT FLIGHTS** Over 50 Flights to EUROPE From: \$101.00 ONE-WAY \$187.00 ROUND-TRIP WRITE ASSOCIATION OF STUDENT COUNCILS (A.O.S.C.) 44 ST. GEORGE ST., (921-2611)OR **CONTACT YOUR STUDENT COUNCIL**



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