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The Mourning After

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Now that reaction had died down, or settled in, or what have you, it seems a meaningful appraisal of last week's campus election is in order. The task, like piecing a puzzle together, is difficult, and no claim is laid to having a monopoly on all the pieces!

The "morning after" mood was generally one of gloomy dismay, though understandably in light of the fact that sixty-six per cent of the eighteen hundred and seventy electors did not "get their man" -- to borrow a phrase from a well-loved institution of our country. But this is hardly fair to the victor.

The fact that four candidates chose to run this year was an early indication of the considerable interest which the race was to generate -- as evidenced by the fifty per cent turn-out of voters, almost a twenty per cent increase over last year.

Numbers were not the only factor, however. Platforms differed in significant ways. Eric Button's presence in the campaign, for some Shirreff Hall girls at least, was obviously reminiscent of the Trudeau "kiss me" phenomenon. But all lightness aside, he did tackle the chief, pressing, campus-oriented problems, particularly the communications thing -- both as an answer to problems and as an aid to better public relations and therefore an improved public image for Dalhousie students. Button's position and that of his running mate were a genuine attempt to offer Dal students a viable alternative to the operative features of past Council administrations, though unfortunately they failed, for one reason or another, to give due treatment to the more political problems with which student union leaders must cope. As election results indicated, the Button-Lee support was substantial and certainly a tribute to the sales ability of either one or both of them.

Phil Goldring also chose to raise local problems, taking a stand for "good government" in the best historical tradition of Nova Scotian Conservatism. When debating with other candidates before a group of resident students, he was often as hazy or contradictory on the rebound as when he first presented certain of his views. This was no doubt reflected partly in the election returns which placed him fourth and leading the polls only in Arts. Goldring's participation will probably be most memorable -- at least for this paper -- for his assertion to one dubious student that his association with the "Gazette" had been a technical one. As managing editor, I took care of staff and other things. Yes, it was a purely technical one". You want to believe it.

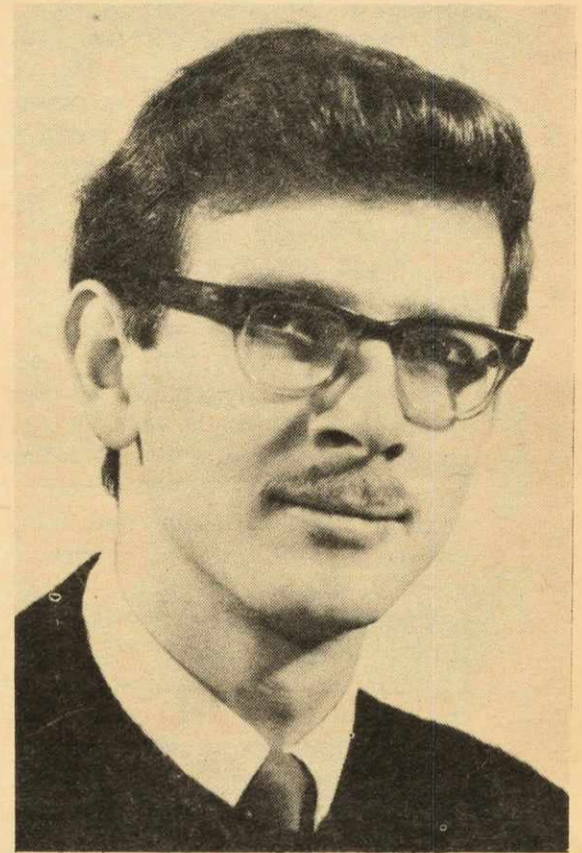
Kim Cameron's platform can be distinguished qual-

itatively from the aforementioned two. He advocated that, should he take office, he would move to alter the present structure of union decision-making so as to make the general body of students the final arbiters should their elected representatives decide on and bind the entire union to a policy that is far from representative. Certainly, a fundamental change was being called for -- from indirect rule to participative democracy. In this context the proposal could be termed radical, as it was, but unfortunately many understood it only in the distorted sense of mob rule. Still, as tallies indicate, over four hundred students opted for this "radical" principle.

Winning candidate Bruce Gillis had a non-platform probably best described in his own, obvious winning cliché: "We want what you want". For campaign style he chose to become an information booth on committee findings and recommendations over the past year also thought it efficacious to throw in a Who's Who list of people in influential positions in and out of the university community whom he felt could be of good use to himself in particular. His promises to try and act upon the various questions, demands, and complaints raised to him must have sounded reassuring enough to draw the six hundred-odd votes which gave Gillis' winning edge. All in all, a facile, fence-sitting approach which managed to attract the conservatives, reactionaries, and the would-be liberals of the campus, a goodly number typically from the professional and health-related schools, where Gillis lead almost every poll. Note, he also said: "What the student wants and what is good for the student are not necessarily the same thing". Now, the trick is to reconcile this with his poster cliché mentioned above, and then you have Bruce Gillis in all his remarkable contradictions -- leader, follower, politician, diplomat, and ruler.

The inactivity among those running for the positions of faculty representatives to the Council was surely regrettable. Without the benefit of any type of meeting or forum initiated by Council, the various societies, or themselves, the student electorate was, as in other years, put into the ridiculous and insulting position of having to pick and choose between pictures, names, and maybe, in some cases, slogans. And this to elect those who will make up the majority of Council membership. As for the slogans, they seemed limited to the meaningless: "the quiet one"; the ambiguous: "apathy led to Sir George Williams"; the distorted: "we want what you want".

With regard to the faculties and the voting for President, the lines were drawn in a predictable way. Cameron and Goldring together took their home territory of Graduate Studies by a clear majority, as

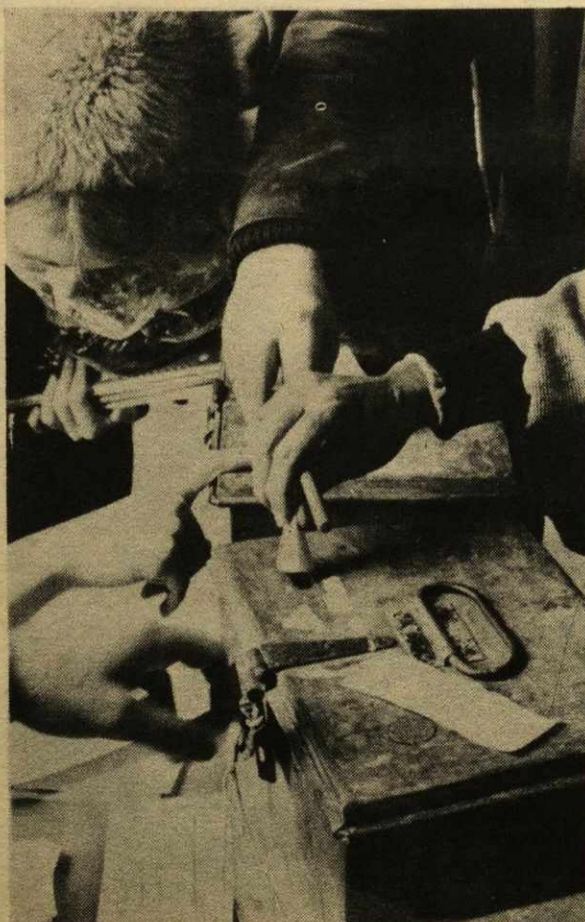


PRESIDENT GILLIS

well as their former undergraduate faculties -- Cameron taking the Sciences and Goldring, the Arts. Buttons and Gillis took their home poll, Law, by an even greater majority. But these patterns are self-evident.

The more important pattern trend of union politics has yet to work itself out. Very significantly, personalities took a backstage role as compared to the wider area now given over to meaningful and not so meaningful discussion. It is the Year of the In. Between, the passing from personality salesmanship and contests to the contest of real issues. For the time being, suffice it to say that the lines began to be pretty clearly drawn at this year's election -- not only in the above distinction but in terms of support coming from conservative, reform-minded liberal, and radical-type groups which represent the thinking segments of the campus population. As election results show, differences in their numbers are minimal, but the consequences of the direction, or lack of it, that any one of the groups would provide in a leadership role are certainly not minimal.

Results



OFFICIAL STUDENT COUNCIL ELECTION RESULTS

President and Vice President

Poll	1*B.L	2C.B	3G.C	4G.U	5SP	Total
Arts & Admin.	80	122	104	136	0	440
Shirreff Hall	45	19	65	25	2	156
Howe Hall	43	44	107	28	6	228
Dunn #1	15	38	22	24	0	99
#2	21	37	26	17	0	101
Chemistry	13	14	24	21	0	72
SUB	34	75	25	55	0	189
Weldon #1	16	0	10	0	0	26
#2	59	7	84	7	0	157
Dentistry	29	2	26	9	1	68
Pharmacy	3	9	19	9	1	41
Tupper #1	57	14	69	26	1	167
#2	33	8	27	16	2	86
Education	5	13	15	9	0	42
Other	?	?	2	5	0	12
Total	455	405	625	385	13	1883

1 Button Lee 2 Cameron Bell 3 Gillis Crowston 4 Goldring Underwood 5 Spoiled

SENATOR

	1*BR	2*DA	3*GO	4*OF	5*RU	6*SP	Total
A. & A.	136	209	162	128	139	0	774
Shirreff	31	58	45	19	71	0	224
Howe Hall	46	53	131	39	118	2	389
Dunn #1	39	36	29	25	32	0	161
#2	37	37	34	24	45	0	177
Chemistry	25	23	29	19	32	2	130
SUB	57	71	41	74	84	0	327
Weldon #1	5	7	6	2	6	3	29
#2	71	38	34	19	74	0	236
Dentistry	24	21	13	8	30	1	97
Pharmacy	12	10	19	3	21	0	65
Tupper #1	4	1	1	3	0	0	9
#2	61	47	46	22	54	3	233
#3	30	20	21	14	30	0	115
Education	20	7	6	5	21	0	59
Total	598	638	613	404	736	11	3000

1* Brownlow 2* Damberg 3* Gooding 4* Offley 5* Ruffman 6* Spoiled

Appointments?

Bruce Gillis, newly elected President of the Student Union has not been inactive since his victory last week.

In preparation for his March 1st takeover, Gillis and Vice-President Derryn Crowston have been involved in a frenetic round of meetings with Randall Smith, John Graham, as well as his own supporters, as he plots his post March 1 course.

The new President has to fill numerous posts within a few weeks of taking over the reins. Included among these are the four Secretariats which were set up at the beginning of this year to lighten the load of administrative detail from the President and Council. They are the Political Affairs Secretary, Internal Affairs Secretary, SUB Affairs Secretary, and Information Services Secretary. As well, he must name two member-at-large to sit on the new Council.

Current speculation is that SUB Affairs will go to Dave Stevenson, who currently works in the Games Room of the SUB and Member-at-large will be Peter Cook, one of this year's Council members and Chairman of Intro-Dal, and Leo Savoie.

Gillis is also expected to break with tradition by naming his Treasurer from among the ranks of his supporters. In the past the Treasurer has not been appointed politically, but has been recommended by the outgoing Treasurer on the basis of competence alone. Lester Barkhouse, President of the Residence Council and a supporter of the Gillis candidacy appears to have the inside track for this job.