

Color them yellow

On Wednesday noon the DAL student body once again displayed their true colour: yellow.

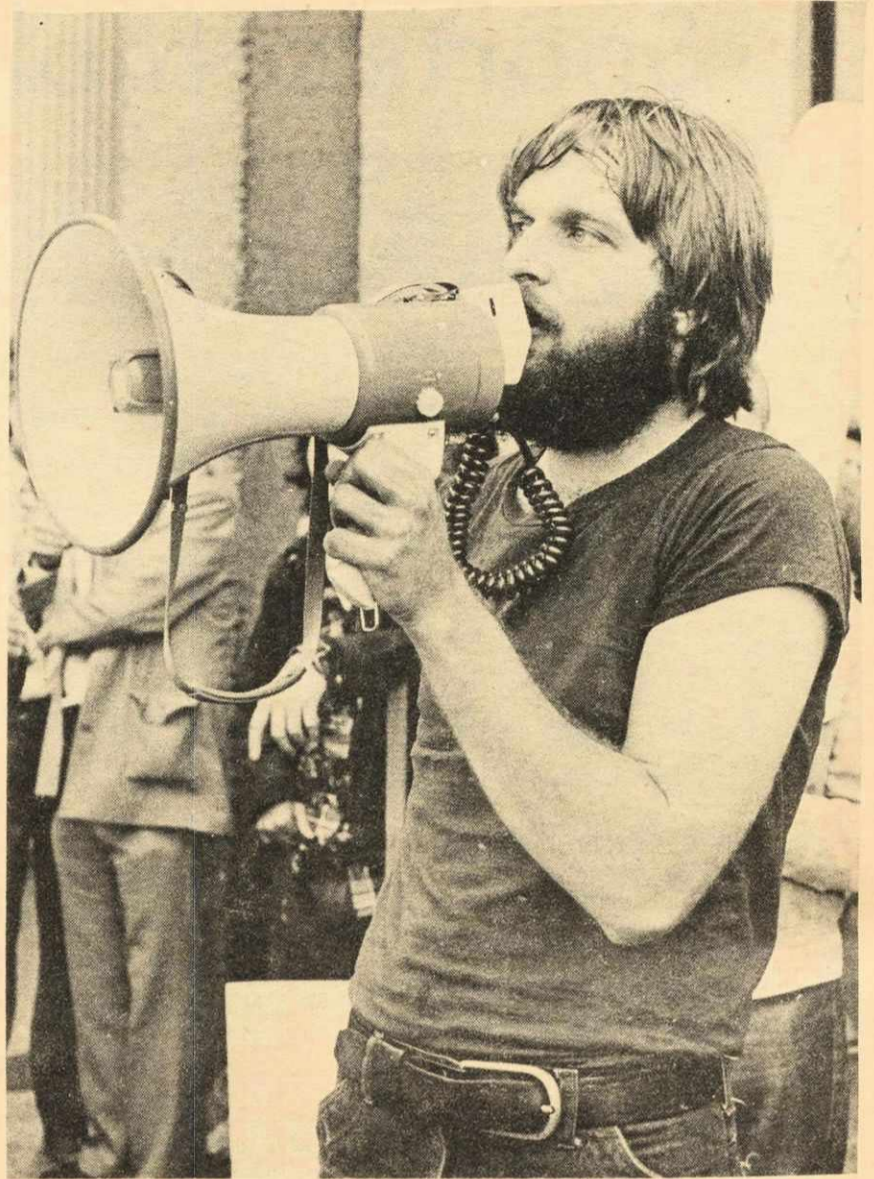
The demonstration organized by the Metro Coalition in Support of the Unemployed, of which the National Union of Students is a member, was a success not because of DAL students but despite of them. Granted that a handful of DAL students and faculty did display their concern and support for the massive numbers of unemployed in Nova Scotia and across the country, the vast majority of students and faculty at DAL couldn't give a damn.

DAL students have repeatedly proven themselves apathetic, self-centered, conceited, unimaginative, insensitive, smug and most of all ignorant. The students at DAL seem to persist in closing their eyes to issues that directly affect them. They are so dull-witted they do not realize their position in society is inescapably pluralistic and not individualistic. DAL students have the social consciousness comparable to an amoeba or, at best, a lemming. Their inability to see themselves in context with the rest of the world, or country, or province, or even university community is nothing more than ignorance.

The people who do try to organize anything on this campus—whether it be an Arts Society, a Shinerama, or a Student Union election—know the apathy and glazed-eyed stupidity of, not the people they work with, but of the people they work for.

It takes a lot of faith.

Michael E. Brown



Letters

Sampson serving students?

To the Gazette:

This letter is in response to the front-page story and the editorial regarding the Atlantic Federation of Students (AFS) in last week's issue. There are a number of points which need to be clarified. Bob Sampson is quoted as saying that AFS "has had problems all summer and is presently on shaky ground." This statement is worth closer inspection.

Sampson seems to be suggesting that nothing has been done over the summer. In fact, much was accomplished. AFS monitored negotiations for the extra 6% grant in financing (something many people see as a direct result of the rally in March) and in many cases had information before the administrations did. Students in St. John's, Sydney and Halifax were active in forming Coalitions against unemployment. The Halifax Coalition is sponsoring the demonstration here Wednesday. Summer is traditionally a slow time for student organizations. Council members and the majority of students are just not around. Communication is difficult and people have to do local rather than coordinated work.

As far as AFS financing is concerned, the statements are now available. Everyone was aware, including Sampson, that money would only last until the end of July and that continued work would depend on the quick receipt of money from the member institutions. Sampson's move to withhold funds is a direct denial of this and is certainly not doing anything to "get the organization back together." Communications have now ground to a halt as there is not even enough money to mail a letter, let alone print a pamphlet.

I think Sampson's role in AFS has to be examined. It began last spring, during the special funding

drive to get AFS going. Bob spoke against a grant from the Dal Student Council at that time, despite the fact that other institutions had already offered funds. His attempts to obstruct have continued since his election as president of the student union.

The unemployment rally held Wednesday is a good example. Janet Cameron, a member of the AFS-Nus Committee which Bob has refused to join, asked him to call a general meeting of the students here last week. This required a motion from an executive committee meeting as it was not brought up at Council. The executive meeting had not been held by Tuesday afternoon, a day before the march. Students at Dal proved last March that, when informed, they are ready and willing to participate. The problem now is that they aren't being informed. Students from the other universities in town have had to put up the money for the poster and leaflet, as well as manage the distribution.

Sampson's problem is his obsession with working at the top. He spent much of the summer trying to organize a "president's meeting" which, one could only assume, would work outside AFS. He fails to understand that AFS is an organization of students. As long as he ignores this, and continues his backroom politics, student involvement on this campus will be hindered.

Finally, the conceit and egotism displayed in his remark that he is "the only one in AFS who will challenge Don Soucy" is an insult to student leaders across the region who have taken part in the continuing dialogue about the needs and goals of the organization. Bob Sampson is doing a disservice to Dalhousie students.

Lou Anne Meloche

the dalhousie
gazette

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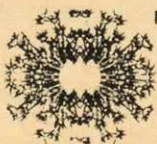
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