

# Ombungle

It is somewhat unthinkable to think of our elected and appointed officials as people whose accuracy must be called into question but certain actions in the past week cause concern.

The Ombudsman's "Extra-Ordinary report" to the student council over the appointment of the student union treasurer brings serious actions into question. In filing his report Ombudsman Nick Pittas neglected to review the complaint of "previously displayed bias" of a member of the Recruitment Committee to one of the applicants for the position of treasurer. His refusal to investigate the matter makes one question the validity of his report. Wasn't he asked to investigate the matter, to review the facts on hand and report his findings? It seems not.

In reviewing the second complaint, that of relevant material being withheld from Council on the part of the Chairperson of the Recruitment Committee, Pittas refused to make concrete judgement. "On the basis of the recollections of those ten Councillors and observers I interviewed, who attended the March 14 meeting, the most that I would venture to speculate is that at least two questions put to the Chairman were neither not fully answered or not answered at all." Was his task to speculate on or investigate and make judgement on the allegations?

The actions of Vice President Graham Wells concerning the appointment flow with that of Pittas. Wells' reply to the question of "Who did John Murphy recommend?"—saying—"I saw the question implying significance in weight of John's recommendation" leaves much unanswered. It brings to mind his comprehension of the English language. The question was quite direct, precise. When subsequently asked why he didn't reply to the exact same question directed at him soon after the first Wells' sudden loss of memory is weary. Has our Vice President a defective memory or has he withheld the truth from council?

As the summer months approach perhaps our elected officials will learn from this incident and grasp a few basic skills of council.

# Vote

During the past five years Canada's economic situation has deteriorated to levels not seen since the Great Depression. On May 22, the people of Canada have an opportunity—indeed, the responsibility—to decide which leadership is necessary to bring us out of this economic morass.

Unemployment, inflation, and what many people perceive as arbitrary actions by the federal government—these are not just issues facing students; they are issues facing all Canadians. But as students, as a significant portion of the Canadian electorate, we have a responsibility to express our concerns, and to do what we can to assure good government for the next four years.

As students, we can't stay quiet. We shouldn't stay quiet. At political meetings, whenever a candidate speaks trying to win votes, ask the fundamental questions: what do you propose to do about unemployment, particularly among women, young people, and people with little education? What do you propose to do about inflation? What about underdevelopment in Atlantic Canada?

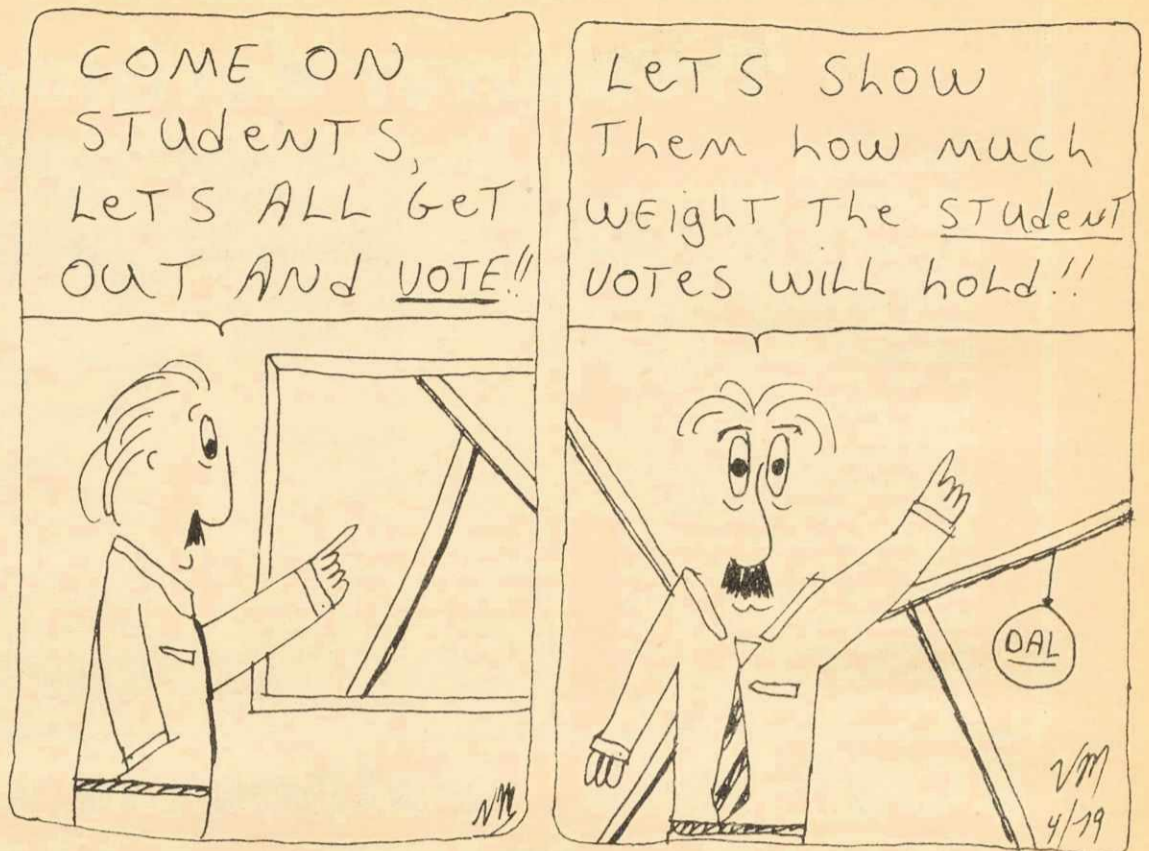
There are no easy answers to these questions. But we need answers, and any government we elect should be prepared to give them.

Students can't express these concerns at the ballot box unless they're on the voters list. If you plan to be with your parents on May 22, ask them to put you on the voters list. If you'll be in Halifax, make sure you're on the voters' list here. Advance voting and proxy voting are available in some circumstances, and you should consider these options.

We have concerns, both as students and as Canadians. We have both a right and a responsibility to deal with these concerns.

Canada needs a competent, coherent, purposeful government for the next four years.

On May 22, vote.



## Letters

### Gazette

#### 'opportunist'

To the Gazette:

This letter is concerned with the confusion which appeared in the *Gazette* (29 March) under the headline "Media distorts". It is always a treat to see such a bald self-exposure.

The major point of your article was that the bourgeois media trivialize and distort the demands raised by Nova Scotia students in their struggle for a better future. This is certainly not a new discovery, the newspapers, television and radio stations are owned and financed by monopoly capitalists, who are connected by a thousand threads to government and who use their media and their government to promote the interests of their class. How could they do anything else but ignore, bias and distort the character of any trend which opposes the smooth implementation of their program? (I wonder why you conscientiously avoid mentioning this situation.) While appearing to oppose this kind of distortion, you perpetrate an act of distortion, bias and political opportunism yourselves.

Instead of using your article to condemn and expose the nature of political distortion of the "news" in the bourgeois media, you use the article to slander and attempt to discredit the Marxist-Leninist and progressive students at Dal by your attack on the Dalhousie Student Movement, who advance the tactical slogan Make the Rich Pay!, referred to in the article. Firstly, the number of people during the March 21 demonstration who were carrying Make the Rich Pay! slogans was considerably higher than the figure presented in the article. Secondly, in the context of an article "opposing" media distortion, you shamelessly assert that DSM, a unit of the student wing of the

Communist Party of Canada (Marxist-Leninist), is "an ultra-leftist group that has no credibility in the student community". There are two possible ways to interpret your decision to characterize DSM as "ultra-leftist". One is that you are ignorant of the actual political significance of this term, but rather equate "left" and "bad", in your minds CPC(M-L) is very bad and therefore ultra-left. So as not to prick your bourgeois sensibilities, I will not accuse you of ignorance, but instead, of deliberate malice. An organization which is ultra-leftist, or "left-wing" communist or "left opportunist" is one which refuses "on principle" to carry out its political work in the already existing bourgeois institutions, such

as the elections to the parliament, workers' unions, trade councils, universities, etc., or which refuses to work out compromises and arrangements with the various strata of proletarians and semi-proletarians under circumstances where such work would advance the working class toward the revolutionary position. Your article presents no evidence that this is an accurate characterization of DSM or CPC(M-L). Your article is slanderous. In fact, CPC (M-L) has conducted communist activity and education while running candidates in the last two federal elections, within reactionary trade unions, educational institutions and provided propaganda and agitation to prepare the sub-

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## the Dalhousie Gazette

The Dalhousie Gazette, Canada's oldest college newspaper, is the weekly publication of the Dalhousie Student Union members, and is a founding member of Canadian University Press.

The views expressed in The Dalhousie Gazette are not necessarily those of the Dalhousie Student Union, the editor or the collective staff. We reserve the right to edit material for space or legal reasons, or if it is considered offensive to our readers.

The deadline for articles and letters-to-the-editor is noon on Monday, no unsigned material will be accepted but anonymity may be granted on request. Letters should not exceed 500 words and must be typed on a 64-character line and double spaced.

Advertising must be submitted by noon on the Friday preceding publication. National Advertising is handled through Youthstream, 307 Davenport Road, Toronto, Ontario (416) 925-6359.

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