

WORDS FROM THE WISE ...

Council does have a purpose

To the Editor:

In the January 21 edition of the GAZETTE, the paper came out rather strongly against Student Council, calling for the student body to boycott the elections.

While agreeing with most of the stand taken, I have to take exception with one of the statements made in the editorial: "... Student Council is not succeeding in representing or organizing Dal students effectively, (and) an executive board would certainly function more efficiently... the present executive is already unofficially fulfilling such a role".

It is my impression that the basic problem of leadership within Council is a direct result of the executive's inability to present the issues to Council for discussion.

The issue dealt with in this week's editorial, the student caught cheating during the Christmas exams, is a classic example of such lack of leadership. Science Rep Peter Mason and student Senator Harvison had to raise the point before Council, before discussion took place on the matter.

Yet, Jim Hearn, vice-president of Council, was a member of the very Senate Discipline Committee whose recommendations to Senate Council were slighted in the Senate Council's attempts to make an example of the student caught cheating. Why Hearn himself did not bring the matter to the attention of Student Council is something that should be considered when

examining the role of executive as a responsible body.

It would seem, too, that Student Council President Brian Smith was not exactly expecting the matter to be raised before Student Council. He appeared to be caught flat-footed when Mason raised the issue, and was only saved from some embarrassing questions by the arrival of Harvison, who explained the particular facts of the case. It was then, and only then, that Hearn offered any details to the case.

I question whether or not Smith felt it necessary to go before Senate with the unanimous backing of the Student Council. Did he really feel their support was worth confronting Senate with? Such an example of blatantly bypassing the student representatives on such an important issue seems a rather high-handed approach to the issue. It should also be considered when examining the competency of the executive.

While I agree that the majority of student representatives are on council for a free ride, the GAZETTE has done little to make the student body aware of who the idiots on Council are.

Statements such as appeared in the October 22 edition of the GAZETTE, ("Duh, what's a budget?") were not attributed to anyone in particular on council (This gem was uttered by Engineering Rep Gary Smith). This type of reporting does little to make the students aware of who really is irresponsible on Council. The GAZETTE, it would appear, would rather take the word of the executive that Council is irresponsible.

Such performances as Arts Rep Sue Smith's, who abstains from voting on practically every issue, are also not condemned.

There are faults to Council, granted. Unfortunately, it is the only training ground we, the students, have for producing representatives for the Senate, or other positions of responsibility, to bargain with the administration for the rights of the students.

A method of impeaching the morons of Council would do wonders for those Council members who only need slight reminders that their tasks are indeed serious ones. More hard-headed reporting by the GAZETTE would certainly also cut down on the number of

impeachments. A student representative would only have to have his picture smeared over the paper just once to get the message.

There has to be an alternative to the present Council, but the GAZETTE's idea of boycotting elections isn't going to solve the problem. We would still have a Council, and a new group would probably have more idiots on it than this present Council.

The student body MUST vote, but it must also realize that Council does have a purpose, and must therefore make more comprehensive analyses of the candidates.

Ken MacDougall
(Arts I)

EDITOR'S NOTE:

It's nice to see Mr. MacDougall taking a stand on the issue one way or the other, but there are things that he seems to be ignoring which should be brought out.

First of all, the problem with the executive (Hearne, perhaps, excluded) taking so much control is simply the fact that in many cases it wouldn't get done otherwise.

The most important point to



John Doda

the whole thing is that the Council isn't doing its job, has never done its job and will never do its job. Thus the suggestion of an alternative. The GAZETTE feels that voting would not solve the problem; it would only perpetuate it. MacDougall is right though, when he says that a new Council would (and will) probably have more idiots on it than the present one. So where's his reason for voting?

The student body does not have to vote for an organization that could easily be replaced by a more efficient administrative board working in conjunction with representatives of the various faculties and societies on campus. What we should be thinking about is whether we should waste the time filling out a ballot to glorify someone's ego.

**Dalhousie University Senate
Committee on Campus Police**

Investigating the Role, Responsibilities, and Control of a Student "Police" Force.

Public Hearing

Tuesday, Feb. 8th, 1972 — 12:30 p.m.

Triple Room, Dalhousie S.U.B.

Written submissions may be left at Student Union Office, Dalhousie S.U.B.

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