



Newly elected DSU president Alex Gigeroff and vice-president Rusty James were initiated into public office having survived their first interview with the press. They announced their plans

to put the "student" back into "student politics" but made one important concession—they'll leave the bunny suit at home when meeting with the Board of Governors.

© 1984 Steele/Dal Photo by Samantha Brennan

Shaking the mystique of student politics

Despite their initial reputation as joke candidates in the Dalhousie Student Union elections, newly elected presidential and vice-presidential team Alex Gigeroff and Rusty James are talking less about bunny suits and more about preventing tuition fee increases.

Gigeroff speaks in glowing terms of this year's student council. He says that he's impressed with "how smoothly it ran" and the quality of people involved.

What he's not impressed with is the aura of mystique that he claims surrounds student union executives.

"For a time I became increasingly disassociated with student union activities, not because of what they were doing but because of that aura that is magically created around student politicians," said Gigeroff.

Gigeroff and James both say that it's time for a new approach - one that combines increased communication with a sense of humour.

"I'm not adverse to putting on a bunny suit every now and again if that's what it takes to get people involved," said Gigeroff.

They say it is this approach that made their campaign a success. Gigeroff is proud to tell you that they spent less than any other team on their campaign and he jokes that they worked with a goldfish for a campaign manager.

As part of his strategy to de-emphasize the politics in student politics, Gigeroff hopes to spend more time than past presidents actually talking to students. Unlike 83/84 student union president Tim Hill, who juggled full-time academic work with student politics, Gigeroff says he intends to take only one course.

He also plans to sit on fewer committees than his predecessor. "That's fine for Hill," said Gigeroff, "he's doing it because he's a doer and he wants to get things done." Gigeroff wants to delegate committee work throughout council.

Gigeroff sees his primary responsibility as student union president as fighting increasing tuition fees.

Describing the student union debate about tuition fees as a "sort of running gag" with the administration, Gigeroff explains that he doesn't think students can be called upon to finance Dalhousie's deficit.

"It's not that students aren't good intentioned," said Gigeroff, "it's just that we don't have the money."

Gigeroff sees the issue of academic planning as one that should concern students and he wants to see council play an active role in the discussions.

"The planning of education somehow gets lost when you get a bunch of accountants adding up their dollar sheets," he said.

It is with regard to these issues that Gigeroff and James plan to leave the comic approach behind. They maintain that despite their reputation as joke candidates, they will adopt a candid attitude in dealing with the Board of Governors.

"I like to see myself as a man of many faces. People often mistake this as schizophrenia but it's not. It's more a kind of social Darwinism where you adapt to the environment you're in," said Gigeroff.

They also plan to leave the bunny suits at home for board meetings.

"If you're talking to 500 screaming frosh then a bunny suit is not out of order, but if you're faced with fifty to seventy Board of Governors members then a bunny suit may not be as appropriate as a well-researched document and a sound philosophical argument. They'd listen to that a lot more than the sound of a million screaming goldfish," Gigeroff said.

Gigeroff and James say that they want to concentrate their energies on student issues and leave international concerns alone, preferring "practical issues" over "symbolic protest".

"Although I won't dictate to council what issues they deal with, I'm personally not sure that council is the best forum for international issues. I don't plan to deal with international media-created issues like the peace initiative or the situation in El Salvador, Grenada or Lebanon," said Gigeroff.

James agrees, saying, "Students won't remember whether we took a strong stand on El Salvador - instead they'll remember how much tuition went up that year."

Among the most practical of issues that Gigeroff and James will be called upon to address is that of summer unemployment of students.

James says the best thing he can do to help this is to put pressure on the administration to hire as many students on-campus as possible. Gigeroff plans to be involved with another Student Unions of Nova Scotia lobby in an attempt to increase provincial funds for summer employment.

MSVU joins CFS in latest referendum

OTTAWA (CUP)—Decisive referenda victories gave the Canadian Federation of Students two new members last week, but the federation barely missed quorum at another campus.

Students at the Emily Carr College of Art and Design in Vancouver and Mount Saint Vincent

university in Halifax overwhelmingly agreed to join the federation, while a favourable referendum at Fanshaw College in London fell 135 votes short of quorum.

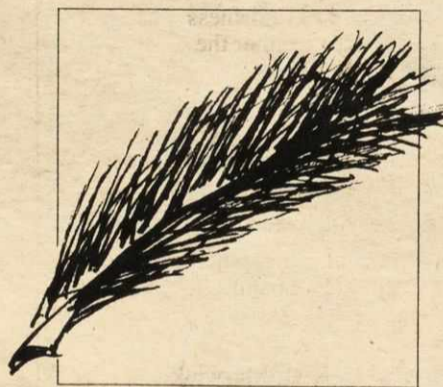
Emily Carr students March 14 gave CFS the most decisive referendum victory in the federation's two-year history; 171 to 14 in favour of joining. Thirty-six per cent of the 550 students voted.

Mount Saint Vincent students cast ballots in the March 14 referendum.

At Fanshaw College, students voted 596 to 447 in favour of joining CFS, but the March 14 referendum fell 135 votes short of the 20 per cent quorum regulation.

Full membership in CFS is obtained by campus referenda, and several more such votes are scheduled for this month.

Writers' Federation announces contest



be pleased to know that the United Empire Loyalist Bicentennial Association is again sponsoring a historical fiction category, in an attempt to record some of our rich regional history before it is lost forever. The Antigonish Review is sponsoring the short adult fiction class, and is also considering publication of the winning entries.

First place finishers in the book length categories will receive \$250.00, with winners in the short manuscript categories receiving \$100.00 to \$150.00. Runner up prizes will also be awarded.

An interesting addition to the competition this year is the Intensive Writing Workshop. This one day seminar will be offered free of charge to all winners and "honourable mentions," and will include manuscript evaluation and market advice.

The deadline for submissions is May 31, 1984.

For more information, please call 423-8116.

The competition is administered by the Writers' Federation of Nova Scotia, with the support of the Provincial Department of Culture, Recreation and Fitness.

The Writers' Federation of Nova Scotia is very pleased to announce its Tenth Annual Writing Competition. It's an exciting opportunity for aspiring novelists, poets and journalists, "... a competition for anyone who has ever dreamed of becoming a writer," according to Jenni Lunn, Competition Chairperson. "Just grab a pen and start writing," she says, "It's as easy as that. And with nine categories to choose from, there should be one to suit every talent." To make things even more appealing, over fifteen hundred dollars in prize money could be awarded.

Entries can be directed to each of the following categories: novel and non-fiction book, short adult fiction and magazine article, poetry book, short adult fiction and magazine article, poetry book and adult poetry, as well as writing for children, book-length and short manuscript. In addition, local history buffs will



Susan McIntyre, Dalhousie Student Union V.P. and Atul Sharma, V.P. External wait with anticipation for the meeting that almost didn't happen. The March 18 student council meeting was the victim of year end apathy and examination blues when low attendance nearly caused the meeting to be called off for lack of quorum.