

VOTE VOTE VOTE

Lewis Jacobson, VP Community Affairs

1. I think that the premise of this position is to hold charity events for the community, on behalf of the Dalhousie students. I would say it entails close ties with the community and the people in the community. I think that this position can be used to help cure the apathy that is now on campus. I would like to see this position a little bit from what it is currently. I would like to bring the community affairs portfolio to more of the students, through events such as a winter carnival or a Mardi Gras

festival, something of that sort, which would bring more students from all of the campus.

2. This year I sat on the Board of Governors as a student representative. I think I have made many contacts with the Halifax community and the Dalhousie community, through that position. I think I can bring experience to council which I think is important. I can bring experience from various charity works that I have participated in. I'll bring

enthusiasm and know-how.

3. The major obstacle would be the apathy on campus. I think that I would have to work to get the campus involved, get more support from the societies as a whole and I would like to see the campus come together a little more. Get the spirit level of this campus up and have the city rally behind them.

4. I would I be Snuffleupagus because he's a big awkward creature, who everybody loves.

Justin Levy, VP Community Affairs

1. I see the position entailing awareness, Dalhousie student awareness. As well as an obligation to fundraise and provide community service.

2. First of all, what I would bring is my experience. I have worked for a few years with the Children's Wish Foundation in Toronto. I've also done work with the Heart and Stroke Foundation, canvassing. As well I've worked with the Sick Children Hospital for a summer in the cancer ward.

What I hope to do is get the

students much more involved. I see there is a real lack of involvement with the students this year. We have over 10 000 students, only of which a very small percentage does any volunteering. I know there's a lot of students who want to volunteer but don't have any direction. So what I intend to do is place direction and organization right in front of them so they know what to do and where go if they want to.

3. The major obstacle I think is really organization. I think the Com-

munity Affairs department has had trouble getting students out, and because of that the school on the whole really doesn't expect that volunteer work is sort of an essential part of being here. And that really, the organization, getting students together, and having them work together as a team, I think is going to be the largest obstacle.

4. Snuffleupagus. Because jeez I don't know... a tricky one. Probably because he's such a good friend with Big Bird I guess.

Monday, March 28 and Tuesday, March 29, students will once again have an opportunity to stuff ballot boxes. In preparation for the election, the Gazette interviewed the two candidates for the DSU Vice-President Community Affairs, as well as a representative from both the yes and no sides of the CFS membership question.

(Note: DSU = Dalhousie Student Union and CFS = Canadian Federation of Students)

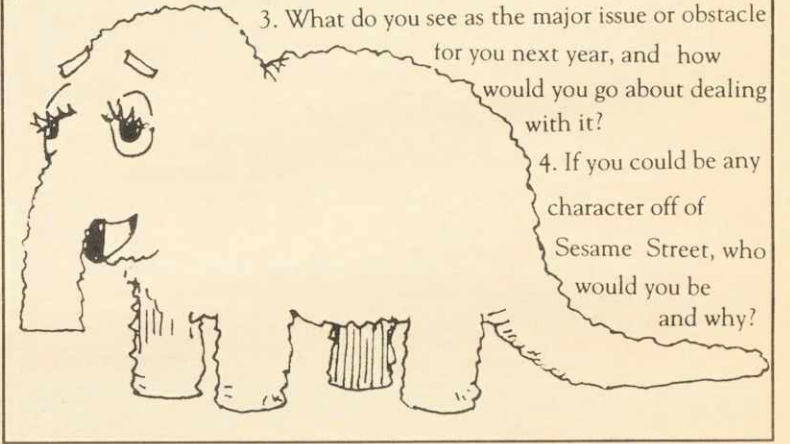
Questions for Vice-President Community Affairs candidates

1. What does your position entail? What do you see as the function of this position?

2. What are you specifically going to do for students through this position? What will you bring to this position?

3. What do you see as the major issue or obstacle for you next year, and how would you go about dealing with it?

4. If you could be any character off of Sesame Street, who would you be and why?



Chris Whynacht, CFS – No No No No No No

1. I guess it's not CFS and what they've done, but more CFS and what they haven't done. Last year CFS took \$4 per student or \$36 000 in total from the Dalhousie campus to spend on student lobbying issues nationally. But they didn't spend a lot of money on that. They're currently running massive deficits, over \$200 000 a year. Between 1991 and 92, their deficit raised by \$50 000, so they went in debt another \$50 000, yet the amount they paid in salaries to their workers, went up by \$125 000.

They spent money on protesting CBC budget cuts, on Canadian foreign policy, but they didn't spend a lot of money on student issues. A lot of people are worried that if CFS goes, that Travel Cuts will go, but that doesn't happen either because Travel Cuts was here long before CFS was, and is going to be here a lot longer than CFS.

I guess another problem I have with CFS is the way they do what-

ever lobbying they do. In the past when the Tories were in power, they lobbied the NDP and the Liberals. It made no sense to me because you always seem to lobby the group that's in power. Now with the liberals in power, I'm going to wonder if they're going to lobby the NDP and the Tories, or the Bloc. Are they actually going to lobby the Liberals? You have to lobby the government that's in power to get your point across, and they weren't doing that.

And now they're asking for more money. They want us to pay \$53 000 next year instead of \$36 000. That's an extra \$17 000 dollars from the Dalhousie campus. An increase of 46%, and I just don't think that's right.

2. I think I'll answer the second part first. It matters to me because I don't like to see my money that I have to work for to go towards nothing. I know it's only \$4 per student, or trying to make it \$6 per student. I

earned that money working, so I could come to school here and I don't want to see that money go towards nothing. And I think most students really don't know what CFS is, and that's a problem in itself.

So does this referendum question really matter to them? Maybe not, because they don't know what CFS is. And if they don't know what CFS is, CFS certainly isn't doing their job, and isn't deserving of the \$36 000 we gave them last year and certainly isn't deserving of the \$53 000 that they want from us next year. And then in 1995 they're going to increase our rates every year. So we're going to pay more each year, and yet students still don't know what CFS is, or what they stand for. I just don't think that's right.

3. I think that they should keep in mind that they're voting for an increase or not. They should keep in mind that CFS is going to get \$36 000 from us next year whether we

like it or not. The question is do we want to give them an extra \$17 000. If we don't, vote no. If we do I guess we vote yes.

But CFS hasn't done anything for Dal students. Most Dal students don't know what CFS is. And that doesn't seem to be an organization that's worthy of an extra \$17 000, let alone the original 36.

I think that Dal students have to pay attention to the organization that they're looking at here. CFS, the Canadian Federation of Students hasn't done a lot for Dalhousie students. Hasn't done enough that Dalhousie students recognize them or know who they are. And so why should they get anymore money?

4. CFS would be Snuffleupagus because nobody's seen it. And I would probably be... I don't know... I haven't seen Sesame Street forever. Maybe Kermit the frog. I think I'll be Kermit. Kermit's as good as anybody I guess.

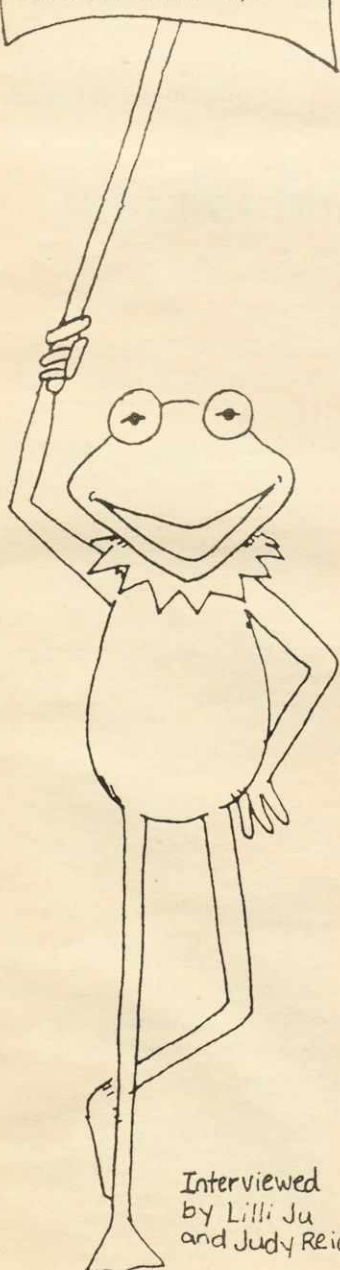
Questions for CFS referendum

1. What is it about CFS that has made you decide to run a campaign in this referendum?

2. Do you really think students care about this referendum question? Why does it matter to you?

3. What are the key issues or points that you think students should keep in mind when deciding how to vote?

4. If you could be any character on Sesame Street, who would you be and why?



Robin Mackinnon, CFS – Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes

1. The same things that make me feel really good about being a member personally. I'm a member through the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design. For me it's a simple matter of logic. No matter how people differ on what the precise issues are, people all seem to agree that students get the short end of the stick when it comes to tuition increases and their dealings with government.

So it pretty much comes down to if you want the strongest voice in the strongest medium possible to communicate. It doesn't serve anyone's purposes to break down and pull away.

I intend to go to meetings and demand that people pay more attention about what's going on in the province of Nova Scotia. And to demand accountability. If you sit around and you figure that someone is not doing what they should be or they've neglected in some manner to represent you, then you have every right to go to them and say "Hey look."

Tell your VP external what to do,

they'll tell me what to do. And I in turn tell other people what to do. The best way to make sure the Federation serves you is to take on the responsibility and obligations that are part of being a member.

There is also the undeniable benefits to be associated with CFS services; the Student Work Abroad Program, Travel Cuts is a big member, the ISIC card you get for free when you're a federation member; cheaper flights to get home and see your family, the list goes on and on.

Hopefully I will be effective in getting the information out to people if they're not aware. Maybe that's something that needs to be taken issue with, when people on this campus aren't aware of what their \$4 and hopefully their \$6 is going to pay for.

2. Do I think that students care? Gee I don't know. DSU and campus politics here is all new to me. I come from a very small school. I hope they do and if they don't already, I hope I

can encourage them to consider the question and take an interest and vote because I think it's very critical. I hope at the end of it all, they decide that they do care.

It means a lot to me because I'm a member of a small school. NSCAD doesn't make the papers much, our tuition increases don't make much big news the way they do at Dal. But the more people that stand with us, and say people have a right to certain things, and something's wrong and something's got to be fixed, and here are some ideas.

We're attempting to contribute to solutions and more successful alternatives for the governance of post secondary education. Making sure that it's really accessible to all of the people that want to discover their own potential. That's why it's important to me, because we're small fish in big ponds.

3. This is a lot to do with the fee increases. Is it worth another \$2 to continue being a member? Obviously

I'm suggesting that it is. I'm absolutely certain that it is. Two bucks, it's a couple of muffins.

When you consider that the organization has been around since 1981, has never raised its fees in all that time, this is just the cost of doing business. It costs money to keep this organization on the ground. That's all the two bucks is for. So we go from \$4 to \$6. It's a bargain, at any price, to have the number of people that I know are working, dedicated and driven to making this the best effort that it can be.

It's a chain of accountability, and students here have every right to and have an obligation to make sure that their representatives are accountable, just as we are exercising our right to make sure that the government is accountable.

4. I think I'd be Kermit the frog because I always liked that song, *It's Not Easy Being Green*, which seems to kind of sum up my student politic career, probably my whole life.