

# THE GAZETTE

Volume 118, Number 23

Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia

March 13, 1986

## Two candidates bumped off election card

By MARY ELLEN JONES

TWO CANDIDATES IN THE presidential/vice presidential election have been disqualified by the DSU election committee but Jamie MacMullin and Sandra Bell have vowed to fight the decision right up to election day.

The election committee disqualified MacMullin, who is running for 1986-87 DSU president and Bell, running for vice-president, because it said some of their campaign workers were in a conflict of interest and it "raised serious doubts about

whether the campaign was being conducted above reproach," said Maurice Chaisson, the election's returning officer.

Chaisson says the election is a farce. "(It) is slowly turning into a circus," he said.

MacMullin and Bell say they have done nothing wrong.

"We feel the (committee's) allegations are not true and that's why we have taken it this far," said MacMullin.

Both sides in the dispute brought their lawyers to the closed meeting on Monday that heard the allegations.

The election committee said MacMullin's team had campaign workers that were closely connected to this year's DSU, that they started campaigning before nominations closed and that they used an orientation meeting for campaign purposes.

The only allegation that stood was the first.

"We felt we didn't have conclusive evidence to force their resignation," said Chaisson, "so we offered them a compromise."

The committee wanted MacMullin and Bell to announce at the next election forum that

Lori Maclean, DSU science rep, Craig Cummings, orientation chair, and Pamela MacMullin, incoming DSU nursing rep had resigned from their campaign team, and to circulate a press release announcing the resignations.

But MacMullin and Bell did not make the announcement at the forum. They said they were not bound by the committee's request because it was given to them verbally, while all the other compromises were presented to them in writing.

The team's lawyer, Tim Hill,

former DSU president, said his clients felt it was wrong for the committee to name Maclean and Cummings. "The elections committee says that because you are an elected member of council you shouldn't participate in the election. The opposite should be true. People who are elected have the experience," said Hill.

MacMullin and Bell are appealing the election committee's decision this week. "We believe we have been running a clean and honest election, and we will continue to do our best to run a clean election," said MacMullin.

## D.A.G.S. wants out

By TOBY SANGER

RELATIONS BETWEEN THE Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students and the Student Union have become increasingly strained since DAGS presented a preliminary proposal for autonomy.

At Sunday's council meeting, the first she has attended this term, DAGS rep Linda Richards called for steps leading to legal autonomy, a graduate seat on Senate and authority for DAGS to collect student services fees from graduate students.

Richards also asked for prompt removal of the DSU representative from the DAGS board of management. The current DSU rep., Student Union president Catherine Blewett, says, "It's a legitimate suggestion... but we have to have a DSU rep there in order to fulfill our contract."

Blewett says autonomy can be a good thing, "but I'm not convinced DAGS will be able to translate autonomy into effective representation."

DAGS president Sandra Mooibroek says she believes graduate students will support the proposals. "In the whole history of DAGS they've always gone for more autonomy. We're not guessing too much to say it would be supported."

She says DAGS reps have missed many council meetings because "90 per cent of what is discussed is irrelevant to DAGS members. The graduate students' voice is drowned within DSU meetings."

"They aren't even there to open their mouths," says DSU treasurer Neil Ferguson. "They can hardly claim that their voices are drowned."

DSU general manager Andrew Beckett says, "It's fair to criticize the system if you've tried to use it and failed but they've never come to us and tried to make use of the resources the DSU has."

Under their plan, DAGS would collect the approximately

\$118,000 in student services fees from graduate students and pay back the DSU users' fees for selected services. After compulsory fees are deducted, this would leave DAGS with \$47,300, \$21,400 more than they receive under their present contract with the DSU.

DAGS would have to seek an amendment to provincial law and to Dalhousie's charter to enable them to collect graduate students' fees, says Ferguson. Currently, the DSU is the only organization legally entitled to collect these fees.

Ferguson says DSU executives are not opposed to autonomy for groups within the student union. "They are propagating this idea that we are adversaries on the question of autonomy. That is not true."

"They haven't presented us with a well-thought-out proposal," says Ferguson. "DAGS has done nothing to show that they've acted responsibly on this."

Mooibroek says the proposal was not detailed. "We'd rather discuss the issues with them and work out the figures in a spirit of cooperation."

Ferguson says the spirit of cooperation is "beside the point. They haven't even informed their membership. It's hard to have a spirit of negotiation if they haven't told their membership what they want to negotiate. This just shows their irresponsibility."

"I'm not against the discussion," says Beckett. "I think the discussion is healthy. I'd be more than happy to sit down and run through the finances."

Blewett says the proposed move would be divisive and would lessen the credibility of organized students on campus, but Mooibroek calls the process of acquiring autonomy cohesive.

"We see it more as strengthening... as a growth in the student movement at Dalhousie. I would see the student voice as increased rather than decreased through autonomy," says Mooibroek.



While Maurice Chaisson, chief returning officer, chairs a Board of Governors and Senate election forum in Sherriff Hall, one candidate warns the masses "you need student representatives with experience to acutate a continuum." Photo by Todd K. Miller, Dal Photo.

## \$900,000 work study is "ridiculous"

**VANCOUVER (CUP)** — The Canadian Union of Public Employees is fighting back against time management recommendations for three Canadian universities by a California efficiency company.

In a 53-page report released last month, CUPE researcher Donald Gutstein charges Beverly Hills-based Ritchie and Associates with disrupting efficiency instead of enhancing it, while devastating worker morale.

Gutstein says Ritchie studied the Universities of British Columbia and Victoria for the B.C. provincial government "because post-secondary education is not a priority for the Bennett government. The devastation on campuses is part of a plan devised by (former) universities minister Pat McGeer to make universities smaller and academically tougher in the future."

The firm approached several universities after securing the

UBC contract, but was turned down by all except UVic and Dalhousie in Halifax.

The CUPE report details examples of filthy buildings that were well-cleaned before the study, erratic campus mail service, payroll foulups, and general chaos in departments in which the firm has implemented productivity schedules.

"The employer loses because the hundreds of thousands of dollars of taxpayers' money that could be put to use are wasted," said CUPE national president Jeff Rose at a news conference when the report was released.

The report also points to problems with the firm's background knowledge about the universities.

"The librarians in particular are deeply concerned that the Ritchie consultants on campus have never studied a library before and yet claim that after a short review they will be able to offer good advice to professionals with

many years' experience," Gutstein says.

Rose says CUPE will fight back, but quietly. In April an arbitration board will hear a grievance launched by employees at the UVic bookstore, but Rose says, "we are not going to do anything that is destructive or unconstructive."

"We have no tools other than public opinion. Persuasion is what it is all about," he says.

CUPE represents 150 employees at Dalhousie where Ritchie and Associates are in the middle of a \$900,000 management study.

Ray Hill, Halifax representative for CUPE, thinks the management study "is the most ridiculous thing that Dalhousie has done."

CUPE will be releasing a statement on the Ritchie study at Dalhousie "in due time," says Hill.