

Editorial

We've been getting a lot of comments about our last issue. Especially the "Fear and loathing" section.

When we picked the title, we thought that we would just have a bit of fun with the election. We didn't know that the title would be a prediction of the campaign. Honest, we didn't.

When we started our traditional formal interviews, we hadn't thought much about any of the candidates. What information and insight we gained came from the candidates themselves. We listened, nodded our heads in the right places, and gradually became afraid. We heard candidates who knew what was happening, candidates who knew nothing at all (first prize goes to the anonymous Senate candidate who didn't know where Senate meetings were held), and various combinations thereof.

We also heard things that made our skins crawl. One of the teams running for President/VP was actually talking about a policy that would mean, in our opinion, holding the rest of the universities in the province to ransom. We heard this team talking about destroying the past negotiating work between the university(ies) and the provincial government, a relationship that had taken years to make, and is still unfinished.

Loathing: how can you respect a team that says to you, sure we realize that you're short-handed, shows up on your layout night, and starts informing about what can and cannot go into the paper you're working on.

It has been said that people get the government they deserve.

We hope that things haven't sunk so low as to make the stuff of nightmares a reality.

-commentary

by Greg Watson

"The reasonable man adapts himself to the world: the unreasonable man persists in trying to adapt the world to himself."

—G.B. Shaw

The asylum has no gates.

What else is there to say about presidential candidate who builds himself up as reasonable and responsible and then gets up frothing at the mouth to cuss out a whole roomful of med students? Taking exception to the editorial position expressed in last week's issue of this rag, our self-styled "reasonable" stood up and bellowed (and I quote), "The Gazette is so biased the cartoons make us look like idiotic freaks but Geoff Martin comes off looking like Barry Fucking Manilow!" Sure, he can

be reasonable. This wasn't the first time our boy said something he'd regret later. On the same occasion, he

charged there were "undesirable elements" in the Student's Union of Nova Scotia (SUNS), then at a later forum took back his words, claiming the statement was the result of bad advice. The Tuesday forum in the Garden Cafeteria was the scene, actually, for a spate of retractions. Again claiming to have taken bad advice, the candidate apologized for comments he had made attacking past members of the Dalhousie Student's Union in general, and Peter Rans in particular. Having done so, he went on to make unsubstantiated remarks trumpeting the success of a certain entertainment event and, on being told this supposed success had actually put the DSU in the hole to the tune of some five thousand dollars, claimed he only made the statement in the first place as a result of a typing

A typing error, f'Chrissake!

Our hero seems to have established a pattern of saving things

in the heat of the moment and being sorry after. There is, of course, a reason. His inflammatory remarks are in the nature of a preemptive strike: he is extremely defensive of his politics and believes in striking before the enemy can attack. The enemy is anyone who might disagree with him, and he sees enemies everywhere. This persecution complex is fueled by his delusions regarding the past members of the DSU council. There is no incumbent president running against him but such a bunch of irresponsible unrepresentative radicals just can't be trusted, so-go for the throat. Seeing the past council through the filter (Tory blue?) of his own prejudices, he has gone out of his way to create the kind of confrontational situation he has publicly deplored. Thanks largely to his own efforts, his enemies are no longer imagined, but real.

Of course, you can't be paranoid if you have real enemies.

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Commentary should not exceed 700 words, letters should not exceed 300 words. No unsigned material will be accepted, but anonymity may be granted on request.

Advertising co. deadline is noon Friday before publication.

The Gazette offices are located on the 3rd Floor SUB. Come up and have a coffee and tell us what's going on.

The views expressed in the Gazette are not necessarily those of the Student Union, the editor or the collective staff.

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