

## Fascism is easier, and cleans up with a good purge

Do you ever get that feeling that you just don't care? Yeah, me too... especially when it comes to elections — particularly DSU elections.

I tried to care, really I did. I attended a forum, I tried to convince myself my vote mattered, and even that it was more important this year, because it will be my last as a Dalhousie student. Didn't work.

I don't know, looking around at the election posters I see the same experience and the same goals and ideas as every other year. Communication, or the lack there of, has been the rallying cry for countless generations of presidential wannabes. Be active for a few years, slap concern for better communication on a poster and call me a candidate! It doesn't take that much. Most people bring the same experience, many involved with the same people, and so you elect a very closed group of

people. All the unique, funky personalities who sit in on DSU meetings? They don't have a vote.

Democracy involves the voting of a public or constituent body in favour of an issue or person (my apologies for summarising several political science courses). The motivation to vote has for some time been "Exercise Your Right to Vote!" Obviously no one pointed out you don't have the right to expect anything in return for said vote.

There is no point in voting in a DSU election because its the same people talking about the same issues year after year, which must prove our leaders to be either incompetent or just incapable of getting anything done. Or maybe they're as apathetic as we are. In the grand scheme of things, your vote for "your DSU" matters less than the 365 days they are actively sitting on the dung heap of student

politics.

So anyway, a fascist dictatorship seems the best solution. Some have explained to me that's what it is now — well, probably pretty close. The DSU keeps hidden behind its wooden doors, it plugs student concerns to local media, it performs bizarre chanting rituals with fire and David Bowie A-Tracks in biweekly meetings (OK, I made that one up, but it could happen). Point is, life would go on without our votes. The president and his lackey would still earn their \$18,500-a-piece, whether they did anything or not. The council would sit around and quietly earn their honorariums as they smile and nod to the gurus at the head table. They would still come out to events and wave half-waves to the cheering throngs.

With fascism, there's no hassle, no spills, and it's easy to clean up with a good purge.

Democracy is time consuming, expensive, tedious, and distracting. Hell, I have better things to do than worry who will improve communication, Yahoo A or Yahoo B. I want an omnipresent leader who can announce, "My people, I am happy to announce that we have got nothing done for the 243rd month in a row. PS Your taxes are due. That is all." Mmmm, fascist-dictatorship-flavoured-university. Oh please, don't tell me you wouldn't rather have a Pepsi-owned, gun-wielding, pot-induced-comatosed, clothes s t a i n i n g , wham-bam-thank-you-ma'am protectorate taking all your money while you slave over a calculus text or Nietzsche philosophy. I know I'd sleep better at night.

Well I say OK. Give them broad sweeping powers to make decisions (which they have). Let them train their ranks of engineered

successors (please see *Brave New World*). Let them collect money and do nothing. The whole system could continue on for years without any input from students and it would work, probably better, as some have pointed out.

Communism has elections except there is only one candidate running (sound familiar?). Fascism was elected (repeatedly). Democracy is the dully-blunted butter knife that seems practical to any task but rarely lives up to the challenge. What we need is a duct-tape government (or student union) which sticks to the masses and binds them together, in any situation. I'm for duct tape fascism at its finest.

Remember, a vote for the DSU is a vote for democracy. A vote for duct-tape is a vote for fascism that works.

TRISTAN STEWART-ROBERTSON

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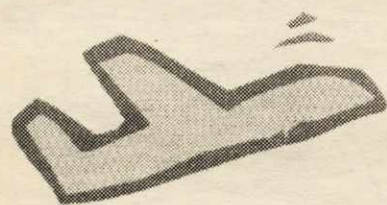
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