

Young Liberals say party an agent of social change

OTTAWA (CUP)—Despite the devastating losses suffered by the Liberal party in the Sept. 4 federal election, the president of the Young Liberals remains an eternal optimist.

Richard Mahoney, a 25-year-old law student from the University of Ottawa, was elected to replace former president Bruce Ogilvie, who was killed in a recent car accident.

"Sept. 4 was a disaster politically, but it helped lay the groundwork for re-building," says Mahoney. "We feel there is a void to be filled and work to be done and there's no better time to join the party."

Mahoney's priorities are aggressive recruitment and re-examining why people join the party.

"The Liberals are only successful when they're an agent of social change," he said.

Though Mahoney worked on John Roberts' campaign, he praises John Turner, and especially his commitment to youth.

"Turner realized we needed a massive insertion of young blood to make this a modern political party."

Mahoney says he is looking towards the future, a time when he thinks the party will strengthen itself.

"In a perverse way, the election was a relief. We couldn't go on the way we were in our shell of a government," he said. "This is the most exciting thing to happen to the party since the 1960s."

The Young Liberals receive \$60,000 annually from the Liberal Party, and remain a relatively autonomous body from the main party machinery. □

Too many academic offences, not enough knowledge of rules

By GILLIAN ALLEN

Too many students are committing academic offences because they don't know the rules.

Academic offences range from copying papers, to handing in the same paper twice for credit, to using someone else's work without noting its source (plagiarism) to sending in someone else to write an exam for you.

The university calendar defines an academic offence as such things as "falsification of records or documents in order to gain admission or credit, cheating or assisting others to cheat in examinations or tests, and plagiarism." An accusation that a student has committed an academic offense is a very serious charge and the penalties for students who are caught breaching the regulations can be severe. If the reported breach is considered very serious, the student may be temporarily suspended until the matter is dealt with.

If you are unsure about whether something might be considered an academic offence ask your professor before you do it. She or he will be glad you asked and it could save you a lot of grief later. What happens when a professor thinks someone in the class has cheated?

If a professor suspects that one of her or his students has breached the academic discipline regulation, she or he notifies the Secretary of Senate of the suspected offence and asks that the Senate Discipline Committee be convened to hear the case. The committee is composed of five members—Prof. John Yogis, Chair, Professors J. Misick and M. Ozier, and two student Senators, Sarah Birkett and Bob Morrison.

When Professor Yogis is notified that a case has been reported to the Secretary of Senate and he has received the documentation, he in turn notifies the student that an accusation has been made and arranges a meeting time convenient to all parties involved. The student has the right to appear in person before the committee and in fact is encouraged to appear in person to answer the charges. The student also has the right to have someone appear with them—a lawyer or a friend, etc. The student has the

right to hear the case presented against her or him and the right to answer all charges presented. After the committee has heard both sides of the case, it deliberates in private and makes a decision.

So what's the big deal? The most that will happen is I'll fail the course.

Wrong. The Senate Discipline Committee has a great deal of discretion in the manner in which it will deal with academic offences. The calendar says the committee may "impose penalties including the withholding of academic credit or suspension or dismissal of the student from the University." If a student is found guilty of cheating, the minimum penalty is a failure of the course with a notation on the transcript that the failure was a result of the academic discipline regulation. If you apply for a job and your prospective employer requests a copy of your official transcript, that employer will see you have been caught cheating.

A security check will show that you were once caught cheating. If you apply to a graduate programme, your transcript will show you committed an academic offence. The offence stays on your record forever.

The committee may also impose tougher sanctions. It could fail the student for a term or for a year. Again, the official transcript would show that the failure resulted from a breach of academic discipline. The committee may also suspend or expel the student. If the student is failed in a course or courses or suspended or expelled, no refund of fees will be made to the student.

Remember, in other circumstances, what you might consider minor cheating might be considered as an offence under the Criminal Code. Save yourself a lot of trouble. Getting caught just isn't worth it. □

Gillian Allen is the vice-president academic of the Dalhousie Student Union.

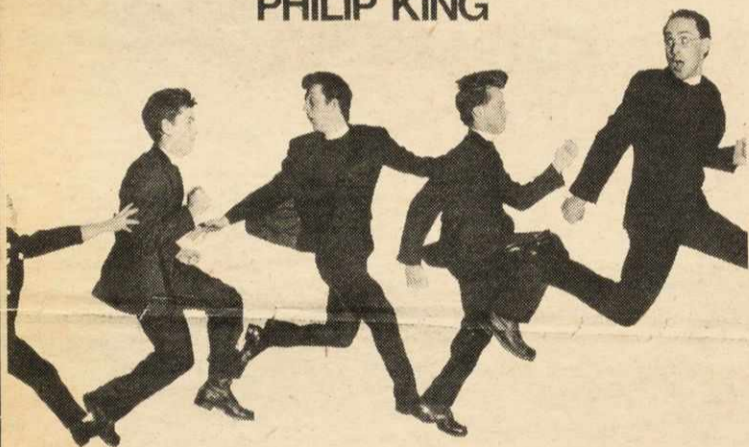
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