

Tactless trimming

Student Council tried hard to be decisive and incisive in their deliberations over the budget Sunday night and had considerably more success than in previous years. At the start of the meeting council faced a proposed \$3600 budgetary deficit for 1976-7; after three hours members emerged with an unallocated budgetary surplus of \$12,655. Student Union Treasurer Mark Crossman had prepared a list of potential budgetary reductions totaling \$9000, but these became unnecessary in the face of determined budget-cutter Mike Sherar.

The surplus allows the new council some needed flexibility in anticipation of changing priorities and student needs. Without overstating the case, readers should realize that these budgetary decisions can easily become simple guidelines in the face of a new council which may have drastically different priorities.

Council made some disappointing decisions at the Sunday night meeting. Principal among them was withdrawal of funds from the course evaluation guide.

Course evaluation is providing an academic service to the student community (and incidentally to teaching faculty), and it is in the difficult position of having to be done well in order to be of any use at all. As with anything, doing it well takes resources, both people and money, and attempts were being made to gather the financial support from the university to make it a sophisticated and reliable package in a readable format.

The council vote to shift the whole burden and the initiative for course evaluation onto the administration may well sabotage these negotiations.

It is one thing to say the university should fund something, it is another to throw away your negotiating base and undermine the credibility of your proposal.

The decision was at best, naive and in haste, at worst foolish and Council still has the opportunity, now that it is facing a surplus budget to overturn the decision and allocate some funding to work on a course evaluation guide.

It should be obvious to the average student that if the administration is providing all the funding, initiative and energy for creation and publication of course evaluation criterion then it will be designed so as to serve their interests not ours. Questions of teaching effectiveness will be designed not with improvements in mind, but with an eye to tenure applications, and the treatment of said professor at "tenure time".

Course evaluation is not the ultimate solution; but it is an opportunity for concerned students and concerned faculty to evaluate Dalhousie's ability to deliver education to the student community. It should not fall victim to the whims of overpowered fiscal restraint.

Remember the guy who said that it was the "best of times, and the worst of time." Well he's dead now.

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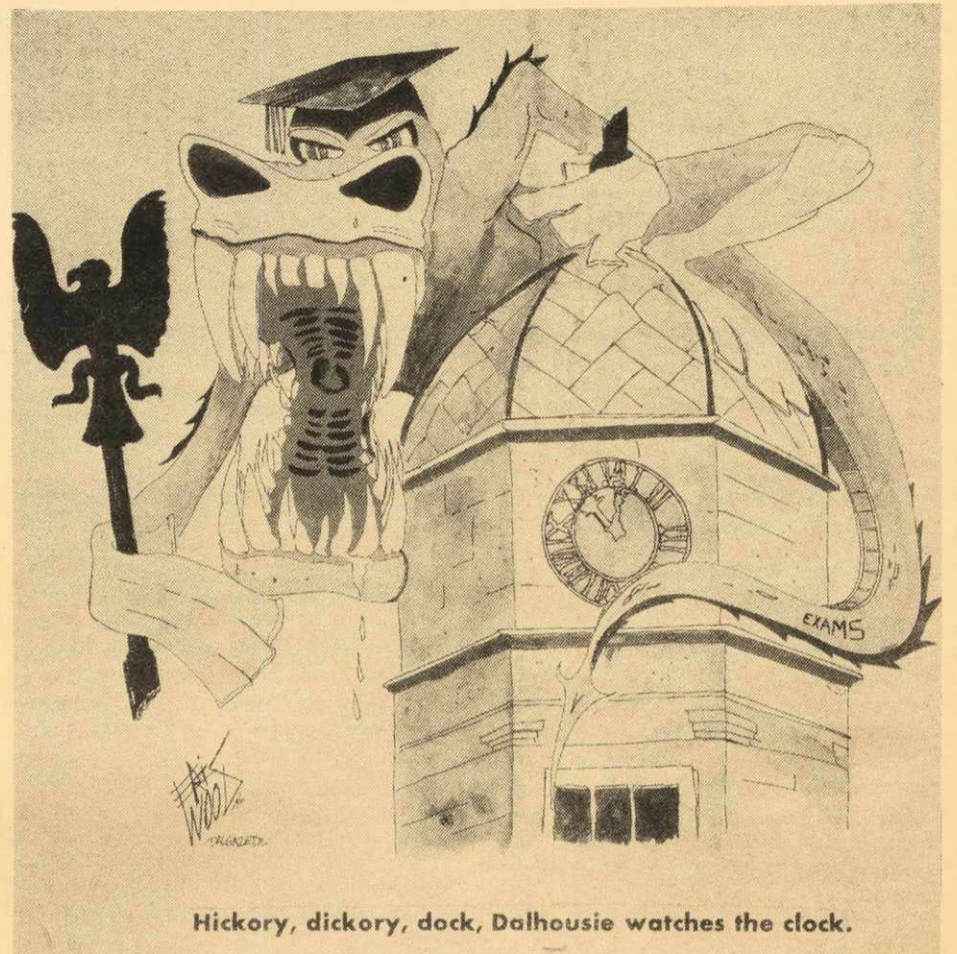
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Preventative Medicine

Initiative is a rare and precious commodity in the world of student affairs, so it is with some regret that we view the passing of the Committee on Jobs, Loans, Bursaries, and Tuition (JBLT).

The government was threatening severe cutbacks in Student Aid. A group of students, feeling that their student leaders were not in the forefront of the battle, gathered together to parry the thrust of the government's budget cut. These students were volunteering their time and energies in the hopes that they could negotiate a equitable deal for the general student body.

But this part of the student body was afflicted with a cancerous growth, a growth that from its birth stunted and deformed the body. When the body refused to die, and fought back against the cancer, feebly seeking to purge itself of its parasitical element-gone-wild; the cancer, foolishly thinking it could live without the body brazenly asked the body to leave.

The cancer and the body, both seemed to be going in the same direction, but one was doing so only at the peril of the other. The body could function best only if it cut the cancer off, but the cancer was part of it, and it did not want to do so.

The cancer was, and still is the "Communist Party of Canada (Marxist-Leninist)", and the body it destroyed was the Jobs, Bursaries, Loans, and Tuition Committee (See story page 3).

Hindsight is never as good as foresight, but it seems that some students, who trusted that the "CPCML" wanted to help other students, not garner some cheap publicity for their movement were betrayed.

If one casts aside the phrases "dictatorship of the proletariat" and "anti-imperialist" and looks at the substance of the "CPC ML" and its Dalhousie branch, inaptly christened "the Dalhousie Student Movement" one sees instead a group of elitist manipulators pretending to be something they are not.

Proletarians they are not, representatives of the students they are not, socialists they are not; they are instead a cancerous growth on the student body, not to be cut out, but to be watched in order to prevent the worst in them from coming out.

The Gazette is joining the preventative political health care movement by providing you with a warning to handle this toxigen carefully.

Letters

Paul Zed genuine

To the Gazette:
I would like to take issue with sundry remarks made by Paul Zed in an editorial which appeared in the April 1, 1976 edition of the Gazette. It is ironic that Mr. Zed's comments were printed in that is, as there is an old aphorism 'out of the mouths of babes and (in this case) FOOLS!'

Mr. Zed alludes to himself as being 'an active resident of Howe Hall'. I would like to outline one aspect of Mr. Zed's wide-ranging activities. In October 1975, Paul (or Mr. Howe Hall, as he is affection-

ately referred to), was elected Howe Hall food rep. In keeping with a long standing Zed tradition, Paul, to no ones avail, rarely honored the plebians with his revered counsel at frequent food meetings with Beaver.

Mr. Zed, having just been elected as student Senate Rep. is evidently quite anxious to build a reputation for Himself; however, his efforts could be better spent elsewhere, i.e. trying to reinstate double rooms in Henderson House rather than the triples which were implemented by tight-fisted bureaucrats in the administration, attempting to elicit more money from already heavily burdened students.

Mr. Del Atwood
Box 452, Howe Hall
continued on page 5

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