

*Continued from previous page...*

completed this task.

Finally, I have taken part in a remarkable student movement at Dalhousie. The Dalhousie Student Union has developed an impressive membership of scholars, politicians, community activists, athletes, and artists. The students have helped throughout this period of fiscal austerity by rallying behind Dalhousie University. They have withstood tuition increases in order to provide enough resources to operate Dalhousie. They have financially supported two Capital Campaigns, an Athletics Fee, and Student Assistance Fund. They have donated money to hundreds of charities and provided superb representation for Dalhousie at national and regional political, social, and sporting events. Recently, they have become major political action and media lobbyists for post-secondary education.

All of these efforts are signs of strength and character within the Dalhousie community. We have all donated considerable time, money, and passion to maintain this Institution. Unfortunately, we forgot about our tradition of mutual sacrifice and co-operation during the most recent faculty strike. It cannot be allowed to happen again because we missed the opportunity to collectively advocate during the last provincial election. We also lost an opportunity to show our worthiness for more financial support from the public sector. Instead, we opted to play a point and blame game about who is ruining the University. Dalhousie is not the only school at fault here. The other universities sat back and watched as well. I recall huge outcries at Saint Mary's and Acadia when both institutions were threatened by a strike. Once each school found a settlement both went home and forgot to advocate for more funding from the govern-

ment.

The Dalhousie community and its counterparts must wake up and fight for a quality public education system. Although we must accept this mission under the guise of fiscal responsibility at Province House, we have to communicate the benefits of education and research to the public. Public liberal education is the key to a healthy society and should be the top priority of every civilization. It provides us insight about the multitude of issues facing humanity and the knowledge to initiate responsible social reform at government. Fortunately, there will be another Provincial Election very soon in Nova Scotia. Let's prepare together this time and advocate the positive social and economic role of the university education system for Nova Scotia. We have the people, resources, and reason to do this.

I hope the Dalhousie community leadership will sit down this year and have a cup of coffee. I hope they will agree to share institutional power and make responsible decisions that will not bankrupt the university. I hope they will remember that they have an obligation to publicly defend this institution and its mission. I hope they will make a point to educate the public about such issues as Canadian Constitution Building, Cancer Research, Mining Environmental Protection, Natural Gas Engineering and Economics, Native Treaty Rights, Aquaculture and Fishery Stock Replenishment, Efficient Hospital Administration, Women's Health, etc, etc, etc. I hope they will lead a movement to demonstrate Dalhousie University is not about power and pay raises. We all know it's something far bigger than that. Does the public?

DAVID A. COX



# Disabilities at Dalhousie

*Cont. from page 11*

Traves and former DSU president Chris Adams, a blissful environment awaits visible minorities at this campus. Such statements by able-bodied white males are misleading and certainly do not reflect the experience of persons with disabilities at Dal. It seems evident that PWD are not considered a minority group at this campus; they are definitely not granted the same respect that is extended to other groups, otherwise they would have an advisor from their own ranks. My advice to prospective students with disabilities is to bypass this scene entirely; instead look at St. Mary's, a university that has made proactive strides in integrating students with disabilities.

Anyone who is sensitive to minority group issues may notice that persons with disabilities are under-represented in the student body of this campus. It is my belief that this under-representation is not due to some fluke or accident. This discussion has examined only one element of a broader context that, when evaluated in totality, can deter persons with disabilities from attending Dalhousie. A just-published university survey by Maclean's magazine provides interesting comments concerning the integration of visible minorities at this university. According to Dal president Tom

MARY MACDONALD

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