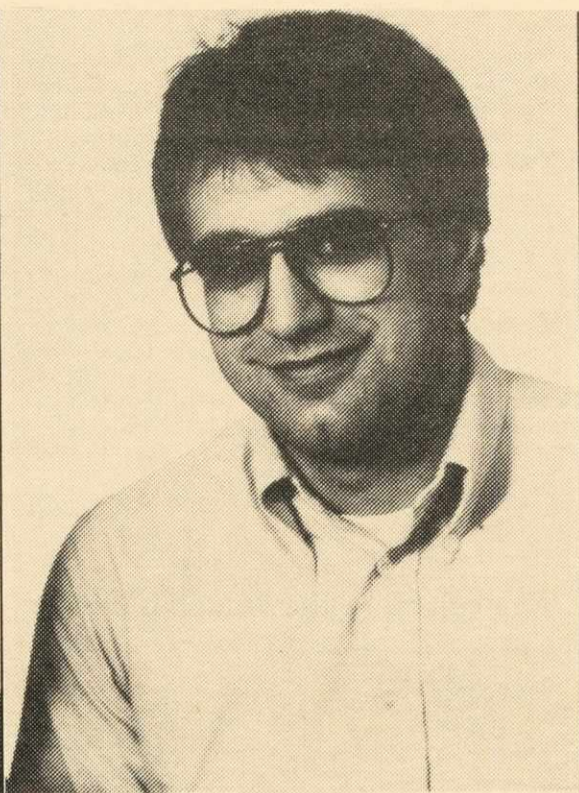




Catherine Blewett



Tony Loparco

CATHERINE BLEWETT President

1. The main concern I think is the Royal Commission report on education.

My main worry is that the Assistant to the education minister, Peter Butler, says it will be like the Bovey Commission, which is recommending 50% tuition fee increases and cuts. Next year the student union and SUNS should lobby the provincial governments. We could be like Ontario or BC if we don't protest.

Internally, I would like to see an emphasis on housing. Better access and organisation of the housing office is important.

One of my biggest concerns is student input into organisations such as CFS, SUNS and internal issues such as the Board of Governors. We are very opposed in particular to Board secrecy, which prevents student accessibility.

2. After the referendum, the DSU have got some say in the allocation of funds in the university—funds which the students provided through the referendum. We need input to decide where the money should go. Some departments are going to be cut back in April by the university. I think we could direct the money towards those departments hardest hit, and lobby for it.

3. There is no accountability when education funds are transferred from federal to local government. The local government does not give all income earmarked for education to education. Underfunding is the problem. We believe there is a government strategy to amalgamate universities which would increase government power over university programmes.

4. I was appointed the member-at-large on council. I've been Chair of the Communications Committee, on the grants committee, external affairs executive, and deputy chair of SUNS.

5. The calibre of the president is important to make a council

active. I see the role of the president as being an incentive to get the executive to work. A president should have a definite strategy and take into consideration the co-ordination of education, housing and food supply. If we have a dynamite housing policy, but if students can't afford to go to university it's a waste of time. So co-ordination of all areas is important to improve the quality of student life.

6. I was a delegate to the CFS conference in November. I see the value in lobbying. What I see as the value of a national student organisation is its ability to get media attention. It's necessary because recent publicity has meant that student interests will be represented at the federal government's economic summit next March. If we weren't included in that we could forget about summer jobs, and student initiated programmes. Now we will be involved in future economic summits and students' needs will be taken into account by the government.

The problem with CFS is poor organisation, especially the split between student services and its other interests. We should use CFS to Dal's advantage. We will try to get the student saver card to get discounts on more useful and essential things. But, these complaints do not justify withdrawal from CFS. There are services such as SWAP and Travel CUTS...it's there to be built upon.

7. SUNS role is to co-ordinate the Atlantic region's universities. The organization is going to be looking at and commenting on the Royal Commission report. SUNS for example will be lobbying to try to influence the media reaction to the report. It provides some services too, such as bulk buying. It has had some of the internal problems that have afflicted CFS, but SUNS has overcome them. It is a very successful lobbyist, and the media has a high regard for what SUNS does.

8. I am opposed to the idea of differential fees being increased. It was \$75 when Tim Hill was president, and now it's expected to jump to \$375. The point is it is an arbitrary figure, imposed by the university. People who are not affected by the increases generally don't care about them, so what I intend to do is make more people know about them. The university argues on economic grounds that foreign students should pay this fee, but they are paying for the services just like Canadian students. Some programmes at Dal are only in existence because of foreign students. The economic argument just does not hold water. If elected, I will lobby against it through DSU, SUNS, and CFS.

9. CFS deals with the international and national issues since it is a national organisation. I just don't think people make the connection between students and boycotts. Students should be concerned with this issue. It is necessary to have awareness programmes to make the boycotts have meaning. We can use the community affairs office especially to publicize any protests.

10. Yes. There are Board committees which we need more students to sit on. We need the participation of faculty, students and Board. But particularly that of students because they need to be in on the decision making process. We want the doors of Board secrecy opened, and the opportunity to speak at meetings rather than just being present. We would like to see the VP external on some Board committees where the DSU is currently unrepresented. We will push for this.

11. No. The figures the government considers adequate for student living expense is insufficient. My concern is how they arrive at the figures, because they are inaccurate. But the amount of student aid is not my only concern—the administration of the student aid programme is a problem too.

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QUESTIONS

President:

1. What are the problem areas for students that the 1985-86 council should respond to?
2. What alternative solutions do you have to avert these problems that students face?
3. What factors have contributed to the current crises in post-secondary education?
4. Were you involved in last year's student council?
5. What role does the president play in improving student life?
6. What do you think of CFS? Do you see any areas that need improvement in this organization? How necessary is a national student organization?
7. What is SUNS role?
8. What is your position on the recently proposed differential fee increase?
9. What do you identify as a student issue? Do you make a distinction between international and national issues? (Example: Should council have an account in a bank that has investments in South Africa?)
10. Do you think students should be more involved in the university's financial planning and decision making? If so, how would you go about making this a reality?
11. Do you think the student aid program is adequate?
12. What do you think about *Gazette* autonomy?(financial and legal independence from council)

TONY LOPARCO President

1. Housing is probably a major issue. We've come up with a couple of programs that we think are going to help students. First, I'd like to state that we looked at the chances of putting together a co-op housing system, but the Dalhousie Student Union is not in a financial position to risk this type of scheme. Housing assessment in particular is so expensive that to try to get involved would cost anywhere in the neighbourhood of \$250,000—500,000 and it would only benefit between 15—35 people. However, one alternative is a Student Home Locators service. St. Mary's, TUNS and Dal housing office will canvas the entire South End and outskirts, and this neighbourhood—for every single available room so students aren't guessing where they have to look for places—they'll know there's a house or a room available. We also have a program we're calling *Alumni Temporary Housing Programme* where we're going (possibly with the help of the Alumni office) to set up a service where we contact alumni throughout the summer and ask if they'll be willing to put a student up for a one or two week period at the beginning of the semester while they're looking for a more permanent location.

Academic evaluation seems to be what students are looking at. People want to know whether the professors that they want to take a specific course with will be here. We want to (update) the evaluation procedure—with the handbook coming out at this time—I don't know if you're aware of it—has problems with financing. We want to implement a programme called HATS (Handbook for Academic Troubles).

It's happening right now but we want to put more money into it. HATS is a pet scheme of mine, because I'm on the Student Advocacy Service, and what we do is we try to resolve problems of students. Some are not allowed to

graduate because of the fact that they didn't know what requirements had to be met.

We're looking at the student contribution to the Fund Drive. We're going to set up a committee to deal with the distribution of that money. We'd like to see it get used for improved library facilities, a little maintenance of the university, the SUB.

We're also looking at the concerns of underfunding. We'll be continuing to support SUNS and their role of lobbying the provincial government (and hopefully pressuring the University administration) to come up with a more effective bursary and loan distribution system. I mean people at this time right now even haven't received their bursaries, haven't received their loans.

2. My thing that we're looking into right now is part-time students. They're a large part of the student body and they pay fees and they feel left out. I'd like to see a prominent role for them including a part-time student centre and also alternative entertainment—I mean they're an older group and they feel the Super Subs aren't for them. Also they should be represented on the Council because they represent over 10 per cent of the Dal population which is equal to the number of foreign students.

3. There are a lot of factors. There's a Royal Commission going to discuss the increased role of post-secondary education. Administrative handling of money may be another thing that we have to take a closer look at. There are probably answers to that after the Royal Commission comes out. We can get a group together to respond to that. Federal funding to the provinces could also be increased.

The increased enrolment—they say that will peak in 1986-87—has meant more strain on the