

# Has anything really changed?

The Student Council elections were held February 16. 28.4% of the student body voted. Brian Smith was returned as President, receiving 56% of the votes cast. That is 15.9% of the student body elected him.

Joan MacKeigan, Smith's running mate, was elected Vice-President. She received 27.7% of the votes cast, which represents 15.5% of the student body.

Senators elected — Peter Mason and Eric Swetsky.  
Arts reps elected — Peter Dwyer, Debbie Henderson, Ken MacDougall and Scott Proudfoot.

Science reps — Mike Evans, Timothy Matthews, and Ed Miller.  
Graduate studies — Sharon Mossman and Bob Mohn.

Howe Hall — Art Turner.

Law — Robert Hyslop.

Engineering — Tom Tanner.

Medicine — Wayne Sarty.

Health Professions — Pierre Gagné.

Commerce — tie between Barbara Sullivan and Barry Ward.

Pharmacy — tie between Janice Irwin and Lynn Sharp.

School of Nursing — by acclamation Christine Novelli.

And to top things off, there may be another election in Arts and Science faculties because, if you can possibly believe it, the candidates were not elected democratically!

The election is over and another council sits in the chambers. But has anything really changed? Perhaps the new people are more responsible than the old, more concerned, more active. But can they really do anything more than the old?

The GAZETTE does not think so. When we originally urged people not to vote in this election we didn't do it just for the hell of it. In an issue as basic and as important as the structure of student government a stand — and a strong one — must be made.

We are against the present government structure not only at Dalhousie but in Halifax, in Nova Scotia, in Canada, in North America as a whole. There is every reason to be against it — it is destroying the world. There is no reason

to support it.

Claims that it represents the majority and carries out their wishes are most certainly not based in reality. Claims that it has given North Americans the best living in the world are true only on a superficial and selfish level. We have material wealth — some of us anyway — but at what price? Most of the world starves because of us. This continent will literally be uninhabitable in a quarter century unless something is done.

It is obvious to the GAZETTE and to anyone who stops and takes a long hard look at the situation that the system of government — and that means the system of life — must change in North America, in Canada, in NS, in Halifax, and at Dalhousie. It is equally obvious

that the change must not come from "above" or "within" as many of the new Council members sincerely believe. The change must grow naturally out of the student body as a whole.

This is what we hoped to promote when we urged a non-vote election. We offered suggestions as to alternatives — committees carrying out the wishes of students, etc. — but our wish was not merely that students, faced with the obscene incompetence of the last council, would seize upon and immediately implement one of these.

If enough people had not voted it would have been apparent to the student body that the student council was no longer relevant to reality and every student would have been forced to think about alternatives. Possibly chaos and

disasterous stop-gap measures would have resulted. However, it is more probable that a brand new form of student government — sane, sensible, responsible, reliable — would have grown out of the frustration.

It didn't happen, though. Enough people voted to keep this Council going. But the GAZETTE will not accept this as inevitable and live with it. Certainly some progressive moves will be made by this Council but things are still falling apart instead of together.

The GAZETTE opposed this Council — this structure — before the election. The GAZETTE opposes it now. The GAZETTE will continue to oppose it until it is replaced by a structure growing out of and controlled by the student body at Dalhousie.

## Rise in tuition fees? Don't pay

One of the biggest farce issues to come before the students in recent weeks has been the threat of a tuition increase.

The original rumour of a \$90.00 proposed increase was vehemently shot down by Dr. Henry Hicks, president of Dalhousie.

Now, with the Nova Scotia government announcing the level of support for this university at 5.6% above last year's level, which will mean that the university will be entitled to \$16,976,000.00, Hicks and the University Administration are faced with paring \$4.5 million from its proposed 1972-73 budget.

Now, in its February 18th edition, the UNIVERSITY NEWS is belabouring the fact that construction may be curtailed at Dalhousie due to low grants.

Hicks was quoted as saying that "such a low increase may mean an indefinite postponement of our plans to construct more urgently needed facilities, such as the Physical Education and Athletics Centre, the Physical Sciences Centre and the new dental school". He further stated that "as for the recent speculation that tuition will be increased.... that no consideration at all has been given to this question, although now that we have been told of the level of financial support we can expect from the government, there is no doubt that during our forthcoming budget-paring sessions, the whole question of revenues, including fees, will be considered."

It would seem that Dr. Hicks has forgotten the lecture in Economics he gave the GAZETTE reporter, when he painstakingly told how the lowly student could differentiate between operational grants (the grant just disclosed by the Nova Scotian government), which covers the operating expenses of the university (salaries, maintenance, upkeep, etc., excluding interest on monies owed, etc.) and capital expenditure (construction) grants, which the UNIVERSITY NEWS and Hicks seem to be inferring was the type of grant just offered to the university, or at least was included in this type of grant.

There are two points to be made from the NEWS printing this nauseating drivvle. First, there was absolutely no mention made as to whether or not the quality of education (?) would suffer at this university, which should go a long way towards pointing out just exactly where the university's priorities lie (but we knew all along that buildings were more important than students, didn't we?).

The second point is a little subtler. By getting the student to identify with the loss of his or her new classrooms or athletic facilities, (or with his or her pocketbook) the student may become sufficiently angered to apply pressure on the Nova Scotian government to increase the size of the grant.

This is precisely what was suggested to Hicks by the GAZETTE, three weeks ago, and his reply was "we

have yet to stoop to such Machiavellian methods".

Unless the tone of the administration propaganda rag is completely misunderstood, Hicks just stooped.

The point to be made by the GAZETTE is that the student not fall for the ploy. Hicks must be made to clean up his administrative jungle. The administration has been allowed to perpetuate expense after expense at the cost of the quality of education to this university, and must now be prepared to either clean up or get the hell out.

Last year there was no money for the hiring of new professors, despite an increase in enrollment of 15%. Yet, Hick's magic moneybag came up with enough money to build a faculty club.

The UNIVERSITY NEWS is an administrative paper put out by Hicks to show just what it is he's doing for the university. It is budgeted for \$28,000 per year, and this money, the equivalent of tuition for 40 students, or the salary of one good professor, is paid by the university.

These are just two of the areas that Hicks should be forced to clean up.

There are too many students on this campus that just cannot afford to pay any more for their education. The students should be prepared to either boycott the paying of any increase in fees next year, or just not bother returning. Pressure must be exerted on administration to clean up house. The student has been neglected by this university for too long.

### The Dalhousie Gazette

CANADA'S OLDEST  
COLLEGE NEWSPAPER

The Dalhousie GAZETTE, a member of Canadian University Press, is the weekly publication of the Dalhousie Student Union. The views expressed in the paper are not necessarily those of the Student Union or the university administration.

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