

# Sampson and Mancini



**Robert Sampson**

**Gazette:** What do you consider to be the major issues of this campaign?

**Sampson:** Well, the major issues of the campaign we see as twofold: there are issues regarding the students themselves, which can be considered on any campus, and then there are issues related specifically with Dalhousie, the University and the Student Union.

To elaborate on the last part, the issues right here, are numerous, but the major issues we feel are first of all a restructuring of the departmental grading systems.

Another thing is the restructuring of Council itself and some of the positions such as having a representative for Phys Ed because of the fact that Phys Ed is a growing faculty and the sports complex is a major issue for the Dalhousie university administration. We have to have an input in that too because it's for the student.

**Mancini:**

then there's the whole realm of issues that are important to each student in the entire Maritimes, and these issues everybody knows: they're student aid and tuition, and what's going to be done with them. That would be Robert's job as President, and I would assist him in that, more or less.

**Gazette:** What are your positions on these issues?

**Sampson:**

The main issue is the increase. That's my job, what am I going to do? Well, in that case, one of the things involved with this campaign is the AFS NUS referendums. I think everybody should take a stand on those issues, and both Peter and I agree that we believe in any organization that is going to help the students. Whether it's going to help five students, the whole campus or 500 students, has a bearing, but the fact is we can't play the majority. There are minorities of students, both at Dalhousie and other campuses that have benefited from such organizations. So we support a national union of students wholeheartedly. It's unrealistic for the president of Dalhousie to fly up to Ottawa and lobby

**Mancini:**

Getting back to the government. Tuition, student aid, hinge on government results. I think most people see an election coming very soon. If we could take tuition and student aid and move it out of the realm of just the campus, if we can make these issues for the whole community, and make the government, the opposition and the New Democratic Party or whatever parties are running, if we could make them take a public stand on it, well they're just going to have to listen. If we can speak with more than just 8,000 students, if we could speak with the community of Halifax, we're going to carry a lot more weight.

This gets back to the idea of unity among universities with the provinces. AFS is designed to facilitate some kind of communication between all the universities. One thing Robert and I would like to do is to have meetings, with the presidents of St. F.X., St. Mary's, and the Mount. And all the other universities and institutions.

**Sampson:**

As far as AFS goes, since last summer it's presently being restructured. And this restructure is by no means complete, and Dalhousie plays an important role in it, and what we have to do is give it a chance.

Can Dalhousie alone constructively approach the government and will they listen to Dalhousie? Right now, we're faced with a possible tuition increase and we only have three solutions: either have an increase; not have the tuition increase but a cutback in services; or, operate the university at a deficit.

Also the lower campus Carleton House - we're both more in favour of it, and there's a couple of things right now, tentative agreements possibly, there's one where they have an option to move into a house, and also the Forrest Building - we feel this would be the best lot because the whole issue of the Carleton campus has been repetitiously coming up over the years, and the problem was with the geographical location and the Forrest Building we feel is more than adequate.

**Mancini:** That's right. As I see it, one of the big problems here on this campus is that we're divided, we're divided every way you turn, we're divided between residence students and off-campus students, we're divided between the lower campus and the upper campus. And sometimes we tend to lose sight of that. I think people on lower campus pay fifty dollar student fees, and they don't get very much for it. Perhaps even other things like getting a speaker down there to speak on health issues or something that will relate to them, because we tend to spend all our money bringing in, people like John Dean for the Political Science and for the Arts people, which is great, but they tend to be neglected. And a big issue, I think, for the Dalhousie students is the division there. We've got to start to pay more attention to the lower campus. They're important people and they're paying their money.

**Sampson:**

One of the things Peter and I have proposed is a committee on entertainment, and that you require council to have one member under nineteen, so there's plenty of arguments pro and con in that sense, but if someone under nineteen knows the arguments, they can relate better to the people their age than somebody that's 21.

**Gazette:** Outline your past experience. Based on your record, what makes you think you are capable of the job?

**Mancini:**

My past experience? Well I've been on Senate for a year, I've been on senate council, and while I've seen the administration side of that, I've also been on the orientation committee in the residences. I've been on the entertainment constitution committees, and the two have let me work with people and I think it's great if you can get the right kind of people behind you.

Robert and I know each other from the Senate, we know how we stand on administrative issues and I think we can work together that way. The Vice-Presidency is an interesting

position.

But the reason I'd like to be Vice-President is because I'm people-orientated. I've been here for three years and I know a tremendous amount of people. Part of the problem is I think in the past, people didn't know who the executive was, they tended to be somebody in law school or somebody in their second year of an MBA, and by that time, you tend to be out of touch. I know a great deal of people in this university and I think they'll approach me.

**Sampson:**

As far as my experience, I sat two years on Senate and Student Council. This and last year I served on both, and on numerous committees, like the Board of Campus Security and Management for the University, the Ombudsman for the committee and the Senate Discipline Committee.

Another thing is the fact that I'm an RA, which is a new term, a don, over in Howe Hall, this year, and I'm in Henderson House, which is probably well known because it's strictly first year. That gave me numerous aspects of experience.

**Gazette:** How much time will you have to offer the job next year as far as courses go? Are you going to have ample time?

**Sampson:** In my position I will have more than ample time.

This year I am in commerce and next year I have only one course left. This year is all courses, no electives, and I will take two summer courses when I am in Halifax working at the union.

**Mancini:** I am waiting to hear from law school and if that doesn't come through I may very well be doing an honors program. I don't think the law school will be a defect if I get in. The past vice-president is a med student the vice-president before that I believe was a law student.

This year I am taking some very difficult courses. I am managing to keep an adequate average, B+ average, but I am also on senate and senate council and I have experience for you. I think I can handle both positions and do a more than adequate job at both.

**Gazette:** How do you perceive the role of President/Vice-President?

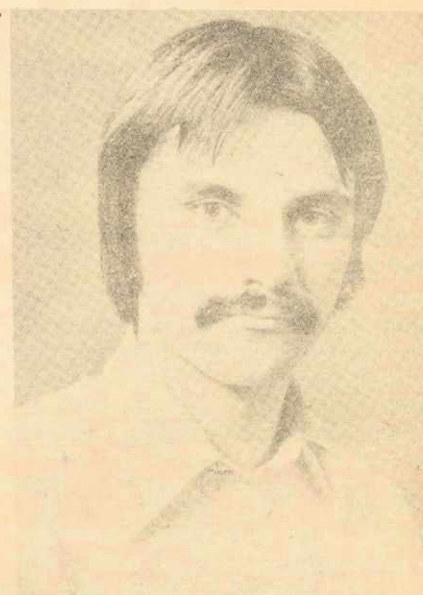
**Mancini:** OK, I guess I'll start with Vice-Presidency. Robert and I have agreed that the position of President and Vice-President go together. While there is a constitutional separation, and the vice-president is to deal with SUB operations, to deal with recruitment committee and to see the general organization within the SUB and the president seems to be more external, I think I should take on a greater role in dealing with the government and the university administration. The Vice-Presidency deals with people, and that's what I like.

In addition to that, there's room for tremendous initiative there.

**Sampson:** the position is of President -- You become more or less a liaison between the administration and the students, and the object of the thing is to have somebody there that can speak for the students and be able to present themselves well and be able to know what they're talking about.

You can't just be involved with the administration, you've got to be involved with students because I'm like the middle-man. A student will come to me before I go to the administration type thing, and I have to be able to relate to both and not just seclude myself in an administration role.

That's more or less the role I'm in



**Peter Mancini**

For the last two years, I've sat on the Senate, which more or less puts me a lot closer to the administration, although I participated with student council, so I have a good perspective of the whole operation.

**Gazette:** What made you decide to run?

**Sampson:**

I was one of those individuals who always had to have my hand in a little bit more than just the average student.

I've been constantly involved. I said earlier and even up til today I'm still involved. I'm still on the Senate and the Council and it's a very big part and I feel that I would like to maintain that but also as my record goes over the years.

I take on a little bit more each year and I feel I'm learning and I'm able to handle a little bit more. I feel if I have the potential to do something and I don't try to do it then I'm degrading myself. If I'm able to do it and I have the desire to do it then all I can do is give it my best shot. And as far as this election goes I myself and I'm sure Peter feels the same way that we both have the desire and we feel that we can both help people by doing it, so we're doing it and we'll give it our best try. We can only hope that people will believe in us and support us.

**Mancini:** The position a vice-president intrigues? It's when you're working with people. It's a very open office in that you can make it what you want.

Robert and I have known each other for two years now. We tend to stand on a lot of the same issues together. Between the two of us we have a lot of new ideas, like re-structuring council, the under-nineteen year old representative and I think that together we can implement them.

**Sampson:** I might just add a point. Peter and I get along well and that's a big part to have a president and vice-president work together

The fact is, Peter and I, where we're positioned in school right now and our ages we're in the middle and the way you can turn both ways. There's no ceiling right above us or a floor right below, we're in the middle. We feel that's very ideal. The fact is that what problems I'm not involved in with graduates Peter will. The problem he might fail to see with the undergrads I will. So we feel the combination of the two of us, and where we are at, more or less, at our university level is a good time for us to get in. We feel we can be more constructive this year than any other time.

I think that between the two of us we can see these two sides and I think that we have different perspectives on a lot of things. I think that it can make us a more effective team.

**Gazette:** Thank you