

Editorial

Council Restructuring

The student body should be pleased to know that its union has undergone a vast and total restructuring.

No longer, apparently, is the student council to waste time in bureaucratic functions. Rather, the administration has been turned over to the administrator hired two years ago, and to the appointed heads of secretariats of Internal Affairs, Political Affairs, Information Services, and SUB Activities.

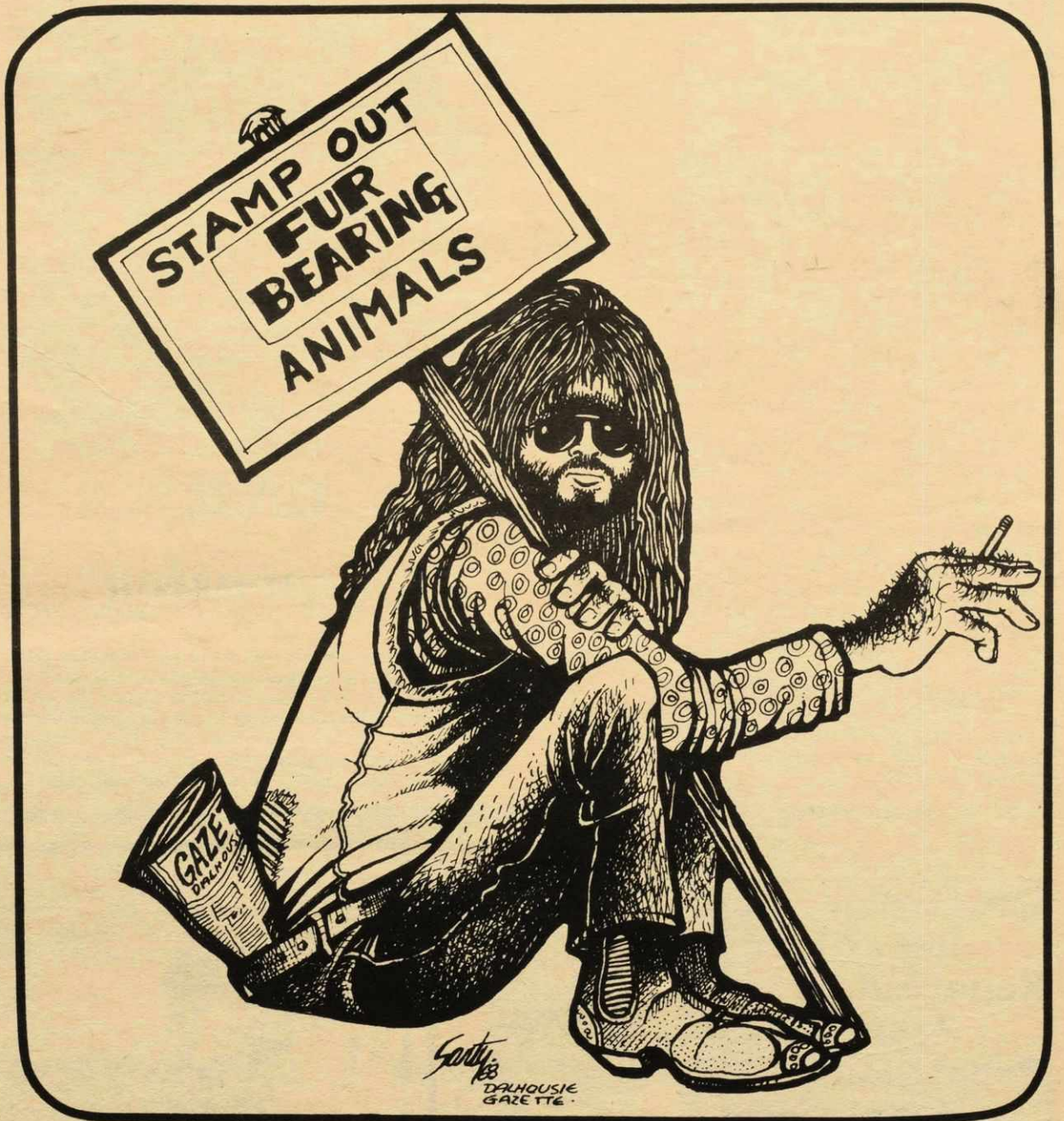
The council, then, is to become a deliberative body which will decide policy for the expanded executive to implement. In effect, the executive will resemble the Canadian cabinet, and the council will be roughly parallel to parliament. This may be a good thing; it could quite easily be a dangerous one. Much has been said and written about the declining functions of parliament with the growth of cabinet influence; for council, doing business without an organized parliamentary opposition, the tendency to become a rubber stamp for executive decisions will be even stronger.

As long as Council members continue to be conscientious and involved in all that transpires, restructuring can mean revitalization; but if regular council members follow old patterns and become less involved instead of more so in the life of the union, then we will be saddled with all the disadvantages of having a

small, unelected body doing all the work and making all the important decisions.

The student union must be a participatory union — if the restructuring clears the decks for more contact between the students and their representatives, and more student involvement in decision-making,

then it is worthwhile. But it may lead non-executive council members to decrease their participation in union activities, and to make attendance at meetings their only function. In this case they will be wasting their own time even in attending meetings, and restructuring will be a disaster.



The Library

"Learning comes out of books - if you can find them"

To the editor:

The most important institution on this campus is the LIBRARY.

Most of what anybody learns comes out of books, if you can get them.

I can't. Do others experience this to a greater or lesser degree? If so, it is possible to improve the situation, if you are interested.

First, the LOAN rules and regulations work against what both student and library are concerned with - circulating a book. Students are caught in a pressure mold, struggling to meet deadlines. Time being, apparently, such a precious commodity, why is the loan period a casual month? This enables eight people to read the book in one year. If, for example, it were a week loan, (as it is in several other Ca-

nadian universities) the availability quadruples. Books don't take very long to read or use as references if they are actually being used, either in the library or outside.

As another example, if the book is for outside reading for a course, and if the class is typically large, and if the book hasn't been put on reserve (this happens - this is the professor's sometimes neglected responsibility) then the book becomes virtually unavailable for those who wish to be interested, once the copy is initially borrowed.

Secondly, the faculty loan period is for one year. Both students and professors are trying to educate themselves; why should the library give special privileges to the faculty?

Third, the periodical loan is for one week. It

takes very little time to make use of a periodical, again, if it is available. Other libraries, both university and city, do not let periodicals out of the building.

To cope with the established loan system, the "recall" system exists. It works, depending upon the co-operation between the library and borrower, and the book is returned to the library after a delay of from several days to a maximum of two weeks. This is unsatisfactory, if time is crucial. This recall system reflects the library's attempt to cope with an inadequate loan system. What seems more constructive is to change the system itself.

The PEOPLE who are the library communicate strongly to anybody who asks, that their chief concern is with satisfying students, that none of the established rules are inflexible, and they are willing to do what works for the most people. The only way they know if they are succeeding is by RESPONSE. SO if the library doesn't work particularly well for you, say something - to the staff or even the head librarian. His office is in the law building. He is available, interested, and says he is willing to consider CHANGE. Out of the union of noise and mess will come new library. It's rules must be as contemporary and as useful as the building itself.

Murray Metherall

The Dalhousie Gazette

CANADA'S OLDEST COLLEGE NEWSPAPER

Published by the Dalhousie Students' Union
Halifax, Nova Scotia, 429-1144. Printed by
The Dartmouth Free Press, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia

Authorized as Second Class Mail by the Post Office
Dept. Ottawa, and for payment of postage in Cash.

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