

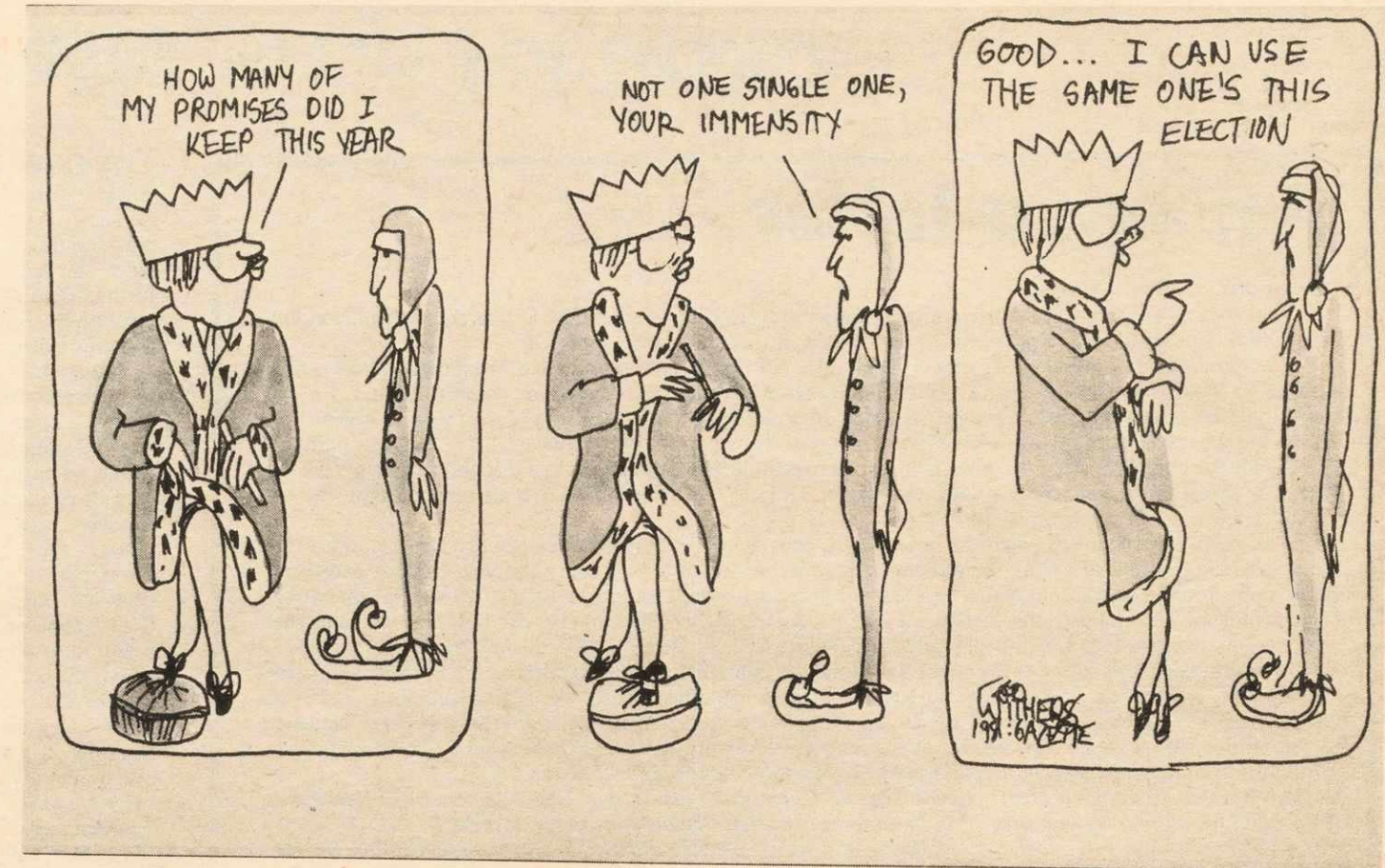
Lots of good ingredients make exciting campaign

This year's student council elections have nearly all the essential ingredients of good political drama: dirt and scandal (no sex, unfortunately), humour, a diverse selection of energetic candidates, greed and lust, and, finally, real issues.

The dirt and scandal was flung out in copious quantities at this week's Howe Hall and SUB election debates. When the air had cleared, practically no candidate (or institution) escaped unscathed. President Owen was put on the ropes for his maneuverings in extending the nomination period for elections. Vice-president candidate Marie Gilkinson was slammed for chairing an entertainment committee which is at least partly responsible for this year's Dalhousie entertainment fiasco. Student councils past and present were roundly condemned for being out of whack with student concerns. Even the *Gazette* came under fire when Howe Hall president Greg Tynski criticized us for rejecting an article about Bronson House stealing Smith House's bathtub. (We actually only demanded that the authors include their real names with the story.)

Humour has been provided by the Logan brothers joke team, gorillas, inadvertently by many of the serious candidates, and, for the sadistic, by some of the savage questioning from the floor at debates. Yes, it does seem like a three-ring circus at times.

As for candidates, we have everything from "Retread Owen" to "Lip Service Lamont" to a "Union Graham" and "Gabby Gilkinson" to a "Come-as-you-may Kelly" and "Dreamer Dunn". Some have experience oozing out their ears; others are soaking wet behind



their ears. Some are brimming with fresh and innovative, if untried, ideas; some lack the imagination to work on an assembly line. Their greed and lust surfaces when they are forced to righteously defend a past mistake or

talk circles around an unanswerable question. These ignominious qualities are also evidenced in some of their campaign tactics: planting innocent

looking questioners and applauders in the crowd; red-baiting; and lobbying on the basis of personalities and not issues. That hungry look in their eyes is of course the truest sign of venality.

Purity of motives aside, candidates are making the effort to address some of the key issues which affect the DSU. These include ever present bread and butter questions like tuition increases and university cut-backs, problems with council communication, lack of student involvement in council affairs, a shoddy entertainment department and discontent with other student union services. So far, however, not one of these crowd pleasers has taken a stand on the CKDU-FM referendum or the Student Health Plan. In what follows the *Gazette* has tried to evaluate each of this year's presidential teams. (We've listed candidates in alphabetic order, not according to rank.)

Greg Graham and Marie Gilkinson.

Graham has devoted a lot of time this year working on internal issues at Dalhousie as well as external issues with the National Union of Students and the Student Unions of Nova Scotia. He is a well-respected candidate with a sound, fair approach to both external and internal affairs. His chief liability appears to be a lack of experience and interest in undergraduate affairs, as he was a rep on council this year from the Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students.

Gilkinson is an articulate, outspoken candidate with a strong sense of justice and injustice. While lacking experience in external affairs (which a vice-president always gets dragged into), she has played major roles in many student union committees this year. A serious weakness in her candidacy, however, is the bankruptcy—both in terms of finances and quality—of Dalhousie entertainment this year, a committee of which she was chairperson.

Dan J. Kelly III and Frank M. Dunn

This team is undoubtedly the most idealistic one, and has the surest sense for the feelings possessed by most students of alienation from student council. They recognize more than anyone the lack of awareness the average student has about council and the lack of participation she or he has in its decision making processes. Their proposal for semi-annual referenda on council business, if feasible, is an excellent one. Both, candidates, however, are deficient in their knowledge of and experience with council affairs. They are, further, big on criticism but a little small on answers. It's easy to shoot from the hip when you have nothing to defend.

John and Jim Logan

See their platform inside this supplement.

Gordon Owen and Lynn Lamont

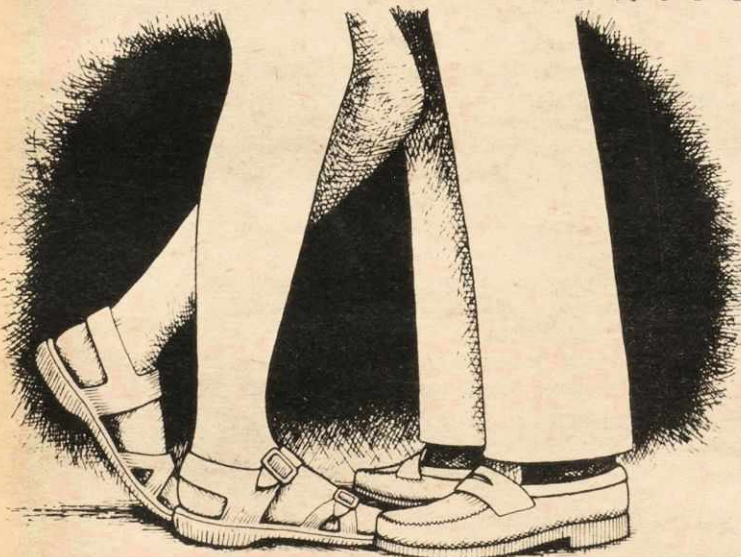
As president of student council this year, Owen has given the Dalhousie Student Union good representation on the National Union of Students and the Student Unions of Nova Scotia. He has worked hard to help establish SUNS in the province as well as integrate it into the national organization. Those who have dealt with him this year are impressed with his fairness and honesty (hard traits for a president to maintain) and his ability to disregard personal interests in his decision making. Some of these qualities have recently come into question, however, following his actions at a General Meeting of the Student Union (see story this issue). As well, he has not effectively improved communication between council and the student body, an important part of last year's platform.

Lynn Lamont, as president of Shirreff Hall this year, has a familiarity with residence issues not possessed by any other candidate. She has a lot of spirit and a commitment to her constituency and societies. On council, however, she has not been able to demonstrate the leadership or effectiveness of Gilkinson. Grad Rep Peter Rans dealt a blow to her credibility as a candidate when he pointed out that, although she has sat on the Senate since November, she has not proposed a single motion therein.

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