

Smith bows out - The field's open

By STEPHEN KIMBER

Ending several weeks of speculation as to his future in campus politics, A. Randall Smith has announced that he will not seek re-election as President of the Dalhousie Student Union. Smith announced his decision to the Gazette on Monday.

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Text of the President's statement read:
"In order to clarify the situation for those so interested, I am not a candidate for re-election as President.

"To those associated with the Student Union this year, you have every reason to be proud of your contribution. I want to thank those in student government for their assistance and support to myself and Pam.

During the past three years as Treasurer, Member-at-Large, and President I have had a deep interest in student affairs. I have gained an insight to student problems and potential. In my judgement it would be inconsistent for me to remain neutral during the coming campaign. Accordingly, I shall be active."

Smith's announcement opens wide the field for potential candidates and it is expected that several will enter the fray within the next week for the February 19 election; Bruce Gillis, Lester Barkhouse, Peter Cook, and Law Student Eric Buttons have been mentioned as possible contenders for Smith's crown.

The announcement, however, did not preclude the possibility that Smith would support a particular candidate and he is sure to attempt to provide some policy direction for the new Council in his year-end State of the Union message which will be presented at a joint meeting of the old and new Council following the election. The President has indicated that the address will contain numerous specific recommendations concerning Council operations and those of various campus organizations. The State of the Union message as envisaged by Smith will be a departure from the usual annual report given by the President at the Student Government Dinner to be held this year, February 28.

Had Smith sought and won re-election, he would have only been the second student union president in Canada to win a second term. The other was Steve Langdon of the University of Toronto who was elected to two successive terms in 1967-68 and 1968-69.



"I will neither seek nor accept --"

Three young lads looking for a job

By SANDY LYTH

Elections for all positions on Student Council will be held Wednesday, February 19. Every candidate will raise issues and identify with a slogan but perhaps the most closely watched campaigns will be for President and Vice President.

The Gazette has interviewed several people who seemed to be likely candidates for these two positions to find out if they intend to run and what they think will be the main issues in the election.

There have been rumors that A. Randall Smith will run for re-election, but when pressed, he would only say, "No comment. Absolutely no comment." and "History will be kind to me." It was later learned that Smith will definitely not seek re-election.

J.P. Goldring, a senior Gazette staffer was heckled about possible plans to run, but he treated the matter as a tremendous joke and said really very little. He has since said that he will not run.

Lester Barkhouse said he "doesn't expect to run" but he has "not completely discounted the possibility." Neither has he said an unequivocal no to running for Vice President with someone else. However, as head of the Men's Residence Council, he feels there is important work to be done in the residence

on a personal rather than political basis. "Involvement is the thing. You have to make people want to be involved, you can't force them. The key is smaller groups, like the History Club for instance, where friends get together and do things. Big groups that exist just for the sake of existing get nowhere. The residence is a good place for personal contact with people because the group is already there to work with. Compared to Student Council, it's dead easy."

Barkhouse said he feels the main issue of the election will be continued good relations between the administration and the student body. "Dalhousie doesn't have to blow up." And the Student Council should be trying to move faculty, administration and students together on a basis other than over a desk.

His pet peeve is CUS: "I wish Dal would decide one way or the other." And of Student Council in general, he says it "spends too much time on petty little issues and Roberts Rules of Order."

Bruce Gillis had not officially declared himself as a candidate when the interview was made, but had a few suggestions for Council. "The executive should be more available to the student body. I was on the executive and so this has been partly my doing, but the executive has not been readily accessible to the

students. There are a lot of issues in this election: dissatisfaction with Council in general, Council's wasting time on extraneous issues, telegrams, and so on."

Eric Buttons, a Law student, has "been asked by quite a few people to seriously consider running." He has "a few ideas on central organization of Council," and feels that it should not be run on the basis of reaction to reaction. Mr. Buttons said he has not thought most of his ideas through far enough to make further comment except that he is, again, seriously considering the matter.

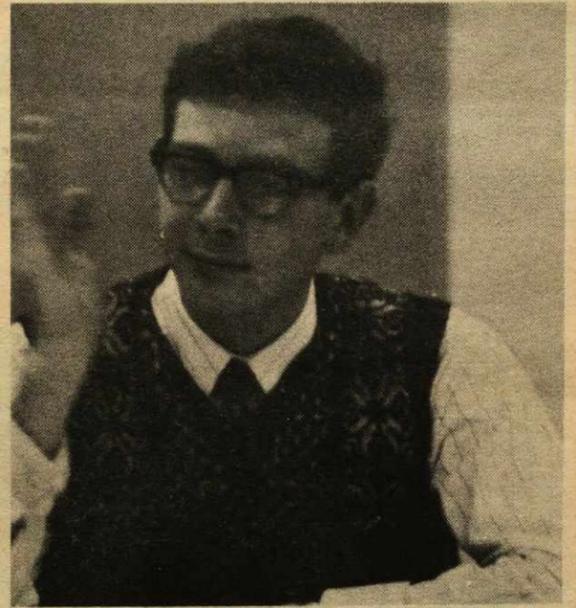
Before Peter Cook decides whether he will run for Vice President, he said he must first "evaluate his work on Student Council and decide whether he wants to be involved with Student Council at all next year." He also must determine how much time Med school courses will leave him for such activities. Rumor linked him with Gillis but when asked if it was true, Cook only said that he had heard that rumor too, and did anyone know where it had started? He stated in reference to the whole situation, "You have to know what you can get away with and what you can't."



Buttons



Barkhouse



Gillis