

Andy Winstanley:

State of the Union Message

It's that time of year again when the President of the Dalhousie Students' Union must give an account of the state of the Union. And that is just what Andy Winstanley, President of the Dalhousie Students' Union has done. The state of the Union message was taken in an interview with Martin Dalley of the Gazette.

by martin dalley

The parking situation at Dalhousie has gone as far as it can go. Staff parking lots have been abolished, and a system of parking fees, graduated according to distance, has been created. "Nothing further can be done, without parking structures, but with the university grants committee refusing to supply 90% funding a 1.6 million dollar parking structure would cost the university the equivalent of their share of the Sir Charles Tupper.

"But the situation isn't hopeless," Winstanley says. "What must be done is that Halifax City Council must be persuaded to require Dalhousie under by-law to have the academic buildings contained adequate parking. Then the university can ask for Provincial grant money for parking structures."

The most rewarding development in housing has been the establishment of a Co-ed residence run by the Students' Union and governed by the residence on Paradise Lands. "This will have sociological implications for existing and new residences in the fact that it's Co-ed," Winstanley said.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

● Although the Students' Union had received the transit grant, two new residences in the form of Quinpool and Ardmore Halls were established. The university has been given proposals for new residences on Paradise Lands and the conversion of Fenwick Towers, "but the university is dragging its feet because it does not want to finance a new residence. The fight continues," says Winstanley.

● Under communications, an obvious change has been made within the Publicity Office. It is now a staff operation. "It had to be done because the job was becoming too big," Winstanley continued. Dal Radio has been expanded into Mount Saint Vincent and will be going to Nova Scotia Tech and Kings.

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operations gained an office manager and this will undoubtedly expand next year.

● Dalhousie Photo Department will be professionalized and will assume responsibility for all graduate pictures.

● Under entertainment, a programming committee was established with a separate budget, and given the task of developing a diverse but intensified entertainment program.

● The program this year has consisted of a Beethoven festival, Leonard Cohen concert, a guru hypnotist, proposed Abbi Hoffman visit and (now on Feb. 13) Bernadette Devlin.

● Establishment of the first regional office of Association of Students' Councils (A.O.S.C.),

government decision that affects the students as consumers of post-secondary education. In the process we defeated the most powerful man in the Smith cabinet," Winstanley said.

A new Provincial Loan scheme, which raised the total student aid per year per student to \$2,000, has been established.

FEDERAL SCHEMES

"Federally, I have lobbied since last summer for a federal meeting of Student Council presidents (from across Canada) to discuss student aid, housing and student summer employment. I will be journeying to Ottawa this month along with the presidents of U of T, U of Saskatchewan and UBC," Winstanley said. All four presidents are confident that

MacEachern have agreed to meet with us. Only Mr. Benson is holding out," says Winstanley.

PROPOSALS

By the end of Feb. it is hoped that the University Book Store operations will be taken over by the Students' Union. It is now being proposed that all student services be fused together which would present an integrated budget which could be fought, "at the same level as academic expansion rather than just picking up the crumbs from the table," Winstanley said.

"I am attempting to start the ball rolling now, but the job won't end on March 1, like I will, and the new president is coming in green," he said. Winstanley is now attempting to put responsibility for university tuition fees on the provincial government, so that university and the government don't use the students as pawns, and their dispute over grants. "This way the university's case for increasing fees and the Students' Union case for holding the line can both be presented," Winstanley said.

It is also hoped that attempts to convince the provincial government that any cutbacks in university government cannot be made without an overall policy: and that most importantly, "students must have a say in this policy."

Winstanley recommended that Dalhousie needs long range residence planning. Three proposals in this regard should be considered:

- 1) A combination of residence complex and urban renewal scheme in the Water Street area of Halifax.
- 2) Further consideration of the transit network to housing in Dartmouth and outlying areas.
- 3) Development of a residential complex on the 14.5 acres of land owned by the United Church at Pine Hill, or in the alternative, on Dalhousie's "quarry" property lands on the other side of the Arm.

Preparation of the students' case for cutting back university expenditures. Some hints in this regard: a tri-semester with university buildings utilized all year long and for longer hours in the day. "This will mean staff increase, but it will guarantee the expansion of classes, particularly in the professional schools, and render the bottleneck plant expansion unnecessary," Winstanley said.



S.C. President Andy Winstanley

which means that Dalhousie now has a full fledged travel service, and in the future, charter flights will originate in Halifax.

JUSTIFICATION FOR EXISTENCE

In March of last year, a hundred dollar tuition increase and a fifty dollar residence increase were fought into the ground. Subsequent to this, the fight to keep Beaver Foods was altered in the \$30 residence fee increase, and established the same precedent in the board of Governors as the George Report crisis established incentive. Government relations is the most important new area for the Students' Union President. "I fought in the provincial election to prove a principle, that is, that students must have a say in the allocation of university expenditure by the Provincial government, or basically any

their student employment proposal will be accepted. In a few years it will enable Dalhousie Students' Union to assume responsibility for the hiring in the summer of up to 3,000 students. These students will be performing jobs in the areas of pollution, conservation, reforestation and urban renewal.

Under student aid, they will be discussing the new "Educational Opportunity Bank" proposal which will establish a new student loan scheme to give students unlimited funds for educational purposes: repayment by a surcharge on income tax up to twenty years after graduation. "There are concise problems in this scheme," Winstanley said.

Part of the student housing discussion will be concerned with getting tax exemption for marriage quarters. "Messieurs Andras, Pelletier and

