

# THE GAZETTE

DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY

## Frat fracas at election forum

By ERIN GOODMAN

Candidates for the upcoming Student Union elections faced an unexpectedly large crowd, and some unwelcome controversy, at Tuesday night's open forum held at Sherriff Hall.

The presidential teams of Dean Dolan and Joe Morrison, Robert Power and Jonathan Tarlton, and Caroline Zayid and Ian McCarthy were given an early opportunity to defend their positions on two issues that will likely cause controversy next year. The ideological split of the teams became apparent as they stated their differences on the subject of allowing fraternities a seat on council. A motion to allow the Greek Council (formerly the Intra Fraternity Council), representation on the student council was ruled unconstitutional last month on the grounds that the organization practises sexual discrimination.

Candidate Dean Dolan expressed displeasure with the council's handling of the matter this year, but could offer no insights on planned future actions to deal with the issue. He said, "I'd have to hear their proposal, and then decide on it."

Robert Power stated his apprehension concerning Greek Council representation in the DSU, saying "I'm not going to support them avidly."

He later attempted to clarify the position offered but the opposing team of Dolan and Morrison, explaining, "Joe came out very explicitly with saying he wants a seat on council for the IFC." Morrison concede, "I'm not going to sit on the fence. . . I think there's a role for them (fraternities) on council."

Presidential candidate Caroline Zayid says she is not in favour of giving fraternities a seat on council, and "I'm not trying to avoid the issue. I'm just not sure if anyone cares."

Female residents responded enthusiastically to the three students vying for 2 seats on the Board of Governors. Mike Dunn, president of the controversial Greek council, presented concerns echoed by many of the candidates.

"There's the problem of spirit and the problem of communication between the Dalhousie Administration and the student," said the Board of Governors candidate.

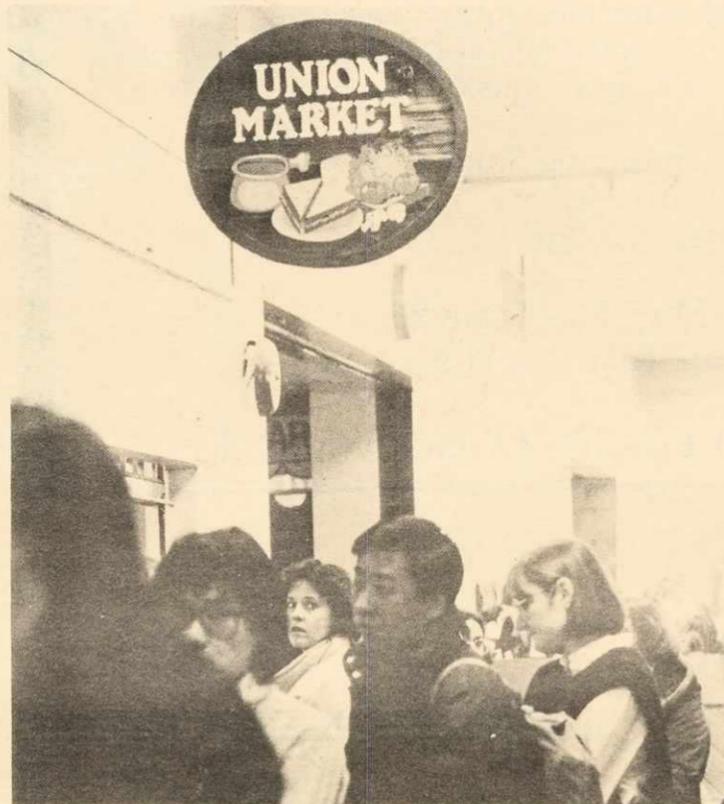
Sherry Golding, current President of Sherriff Hall, agreed with his concerns, as she appealed to a supportive crowd in her bid for the Board. She was followed by opponent Douglas Ogden, who declared his intention of proposing an addition to the library as he handled the microphone with Jimmy Swaggart professionalism.

The emphasis on open communication and promoting Dalhousie spirit was raised when candidates were questioned on the proposal concerning the renovation of the Grawood lounge next year. The renovations which would cost an estimated \$700,000, have received almost unanimous approval from the student council.

Candidates were cautious in offering justification for such an expenditure in the face of recent cuts in student services. Aspiring Vice-President Jonathan Tarlton explains, "Anything that has so far been proposed is merely a suggestion." To go forward with the project, he says, would require positive student input.

Joe Morrison described the Grawood as an "important tool" for council to use in promoting campus spirit.

Interested students can present concerns at tonight's open forum from 7 to 8:30 pm in the Grawood, or on Friday the 13th in the Tupper Cafeteria from 12 to 1:30 pm. And leave the mud at home.



Dal students line-up under what is not yet a sign of the times. Photo by Mark Piesanen

## Beaver union dammed?

By TOBY SANGER

Lawyers for Beaver Foods are threatening legal action against a union trying to organize their employees, but union officials say it is yet another example of the company intimidating the union and Beaver staff.

The *Gazette* obtained a copy of the letter sent by lawyers for the Ontario-based catering service to Paul Burgwin, an organizer for the Hotel-Restaurant and Bartenders Union, charging that Burgwin tried to organize Beaver staff during working hours on Beaver Foods property.

Burgwin denies the charge and says he talked to Beaver employees in the SUB cafeteria during their lunch hour and

breaks. "The cafeteria itself is open to the public — it's not the property of Beaver.

"Wherever we go, we bump into the same thing — employers are intimidating their employees," he adds.

Beaver Foods regional manager Simon Stern told the *Gazette* "the decision to get a lawyer to send the letter came from senior management" and not from him. Stern says the employees have little need for a union because of recent changes in the way the company deals with staff complaints.

The catering company is getting support in its effort to keep a union off campus from student union manager Andrew Beckett.

Beckett says, "it was a very underhanded manner which the person used to talk to Beaver's employees. I think they caught the employees off-guard . . . it put the employees in a compromising position.

"I think (Beaver) is a responsible employer. Otherwise we would have a problem," says Beckett.

Beaver Foods employees last tried to unionize in 1981, when a majority of the staff in the SUB Gardens operation signed union cards. Burgwin says the subsequent ratification vote was lost because the company threatened employees, telling them they would take away free meal privileges and that their dues would be going to the United States. "Beaver Foods has a history of anti-union activity," he says.

Beaver staff employees were reluctant to talk to the *Gazette* about unionization, and contacted management when they were asked.

Starting wages for Beaver's 150 full-time employees at Dalhousie are \$4.63 per hour. Henry Martell, secretary-treasurer of the union, says it is difficult to organize service industry workers because they are generally the poorest paid. "The sad thing is that a lot are women or single mothers who need their jobs in order to survive."

Beckett is concerned that if the employees unionize, the cost of food service might go up, "but that's secondary to if the employees are not being well treated."

Martell thinks it's unlikely food prices would go up if the employees were unionized because Beaver Foods is "making a very good profit and they don't want those profits encroached upon."

Burgwin says they are just trying to give the employees an opportunity to decide whether they want a union or not.

"The employees should have a pretty good idea of Beaver Foods' position. I think they should also have a chance to see what a union has to offer."



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**See Inside**

Pundits from all four corners of the campus agree: after a week of intense campaigning, the balloon question has clearly emerged as the paramount issue in the DSU presidential campaign. Promoters of the venture claim they rented the prop at a market value of five dollars, thereby keeping within campaign spending limits — an inflated premise only lawyers could perpetrate and liberal-spirited campaign officials swallow without indigestion.

The boys in the basket say the gimmick is buoying their election votes — critics charge it reflects their flimsy platform: full of hot air and supported by tenuous alliances.