

# Who's who and what they do in the DSU

BY GAZETTE STAFF

Quick...name the Vice President (VP) External in the Dalhousie Student Union (DSU).

Stumped?

How about the DSU's VP Academic?

Drawing a blank?

If so, you have something in common with many of your student peers. All too often, students claim that they don't have any idea who their elected representatives are or what they do. Or, if they can

put a name to the face, they haven't an inkling on how to approach an executive member with a problem, suggestion, criticism, or idea.

The Gazette spoke to the DSU President, Treasurer, and all five Vice Presidents so they could explain in their own words what they're doing. Read what they say and remember, they're here for you. Use them.

**Questions posed:**

1. What is your name, position,

and job description?

2. What did you do over the summer in your executive capacity?

3. What are you doing now and what will you be doing for the DSU for the remainder of your term?

**David Cox, DSU President**

1. I am the chief executive officer of the union. I oversee the general management of the union and I am responsible for everyone doing their job. I am the spokesperson for the union and I also sit on the Board of Governors and the Senate.

I make sure that constitution policies and regulations are upheld and oversee the general government of the union in making sure that the union actually operates.

2. For David's response to this question, refer to the box entitled "Cox talks" on page 13.

3. I would like to initiate the council reform policy, and hope to get feedback from students about whether or not council is too big, who the student reps should be, and so on.

We are hoping to review and update all of our services. Finan-

cially, we are hoping to become more efficient, that is, to offer the same services, improved but cheaper.

We are also looking towards result-oriented lobbying and in getting the best for our students. If you don't behave professionally, you don't get the respect [of the students].

We campaigned on a platform of "Active, Effective, Resourceful". People elected us on our campaign promises and we will give 110% to make sure that we adhere to them.

**Lilli Ju, DSU Executive Vice President**

1. I am responsible for the SUB and the people who work there, and Societies. I represent students on many committees, such as parking and security, environmental health and safety, athletics, and the Accessibility Fund Board.

2. In a nutshell, we prepare for the upcoming year by, for example, setting meetings and pre-planning Graduation Week. It's been crazy as there is no way you can not prepare for the upcoming year.

I went to two conferences: the Canadian Organisation of Campus Activities (COCA) and the Student Leaders Conference.

At COCA, representatives from universities from all over Canada get together and see bands and other entertainers (such as comedians), to try to see the current trends of, for example, up and coming bands.

The Student Leaders Conference, which was held in Edmonton, involves getting together with other student union presidents and vice presidents for skills development and the discussion of issues.

We also looked at how to improve Pharos by consulting with other universities.

3. Most are in the works now, but include: better contact with societies, partially through hosting societies' round tables, homecoming weekend, Graduation Week, a weekly article in the Gazette in the form of an advertisement to promote better communication [between the DSU executive and the union], accessibility awareness days, and SUB open house days where any student can come to the SUB and get a tour from a DSU executive person.

**Bret Leech, DSU Treasurer**

1. Part of my job is to make sure what comes in from student fees goes back out again. Along with many others, I try to provide students with the best services at the lowest cost.

2. As treasurer, I do a lot of internal things that you don't notice.

We did a new contract with Beaver Foods. I was involved with the contract negotiations and openings of Robin's Donuts and Pizza Hut in the SUB. I facilitate political promises like the renovations to the Grawood, the student summer survey, and the creation of more meeting rooms in the SUB. I'm looking for new systems that will make us more accountable.

3. My overall goal is to reduce the amount of money that students pay for their DSU fees.

Right now, we're looking at different ways to facilitate further fee


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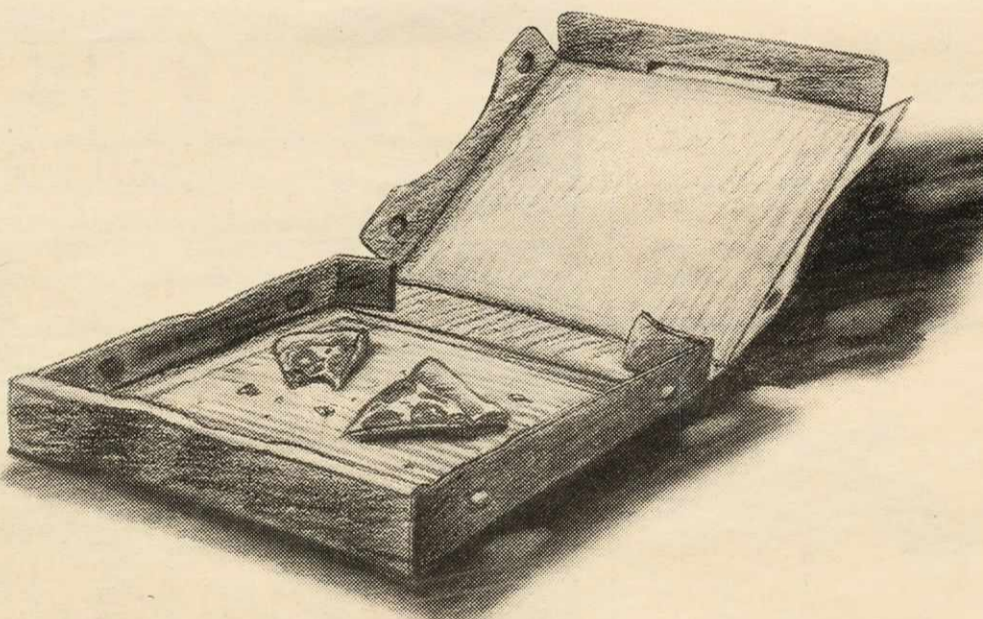
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