

# you lost your chance

The monster that controls the Dalhousie student body has shown his power again. The monster's name is - you guessed it - apathy! The turnout for the Student Union Fee Referendum might have convinced some of us that we really are wrong when we scream and yell through the media (what media we have) that no one at Dal gives a damn about anyone or anything other than themselves. It did not do that however, and now nothing will convince us (short of 300 eager reporters joining the Gazette staff next week) that the majority of students are anything but selfish complainers. The voter turnout has proved beyond a shadow of a doubt that the majority prefers being controlled by a minority of activists on Campus despite the constant criticisms one overhears in the cafeteria and Grawood. If only 30% of the members of our Union can be bothered to vote then apparently only that many students care to have a say in how the Union functions. Let's have no more nonsense about this being a democracy if 70% cannot summon up the energy required to mark an "X" in the appropriate place on a designated ballot.

There are certain segments of this campus that have felt increasingly alienated from the Union in the past few years. The Lower Campus, the Law School and the Graduate student are among those that come immediately to mind. There has simply not been enough money to go around and unfortunately many of their very legitimate demands have been ignored. With a larger budget to work with the Students' Union should become a viable institution in their lives. It is the responsibility of all future Council members and Union Executives to make sure that the needs of all factions of the campus are met. If that means that the Lower Campus must have their own mini-SUB then so be it. They've been ignored for long enough because of the general cash shortage.

For obvious reasons the GAZETTE has supported the case for Proposal "C". We need some of that extra money to upgrade the quality of "Canada's Oldest College Newspaper". In other words the GAZETTE not only needs staff, we need funds to make sure that what staff we have can effectively cover the news stories relevant to the student body of this University. Most university newspapers have some kind of an Editorial Board who members

receive a slight remuneration for their services and time. One of the reasons the GAZETTE lacks such a board is simply because the Council has not been able to provide the necessary cash. It's too bad that we can't get the necessary people without the promise of financial remuneration but that's the way it is. (Of course if only half of those who sit around the SUB criticizing the paper would spend some time working to improve it then we probably wouldn't need more money from the Union. At least not as desperately as we do.)

The repercussions of the referendum will be felt for a long time to come on this campus. By limiting the power of the Union Executive and the Council we have effectively limited our own power as students. Apparently this is just what the Student body had in mind by voting Proposal "D". The cries for freedom and self-determination heard on every University campus in the late '60's have been declared null and void by the students at Dalhousie in 1974. When the cutbacks on Union activities start, and they will have to start soon, the present complaints about student demands not being met will seem petty in comparison to the new outcries against the Union Executive. Somehow it will be conveniently forgotten that this is what the student body wanted, asked for, and turned into a reality.

Though it is impossible to keep everyone happy all of the time it is conceivable that the Union could keep a larger number of students happy more of the time. By a larger number we are referring to the dissatisfied graduate students, the Lower Campus and the Law School, among others. However, it has now been determined that the student body as a whole couldn't care less what happens to these segments of the University and they can either lower themselves to the level of social (?) activity exhibited at the Beer Bash last Saturday afternoon or get out of the Union altogether. Of course, it's always possible that before some groups are forced to secede there could be another referendum, next year or the year after, and a more enlightened student body, not dying of the terminal disease known as apathy, could vote to reverse the decision made this year. That may be the Students' Union only hope of remaining a "Union" for future students.

#### Canada's Oldest College Newspaper

The Dalhousie GAZETTE is the weekly publication of the Dalhousie Student Union. The views expressed in the paper are not necessarily those of the Student Union, the university administration, the editor, or the staff. We reserve the right to edit or delete copy for space or legal reasons. Deadline date for letters to the GAZETTE and outside contributions is the Friday preceeding publications. No anonymous material will be accepted, but names may be withheld on request if there are extenuating circumstances. The Dalhousie GAZETTE is a founding member of Canadian University Press.

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