

## Comment

# Comedy of errors

by Jody Clarke and Tom Regan

Late last year one of the authors of this article researched and then applied for the position of Dalhousie's Chief Electoral Officer (CEO). Clarke did not receive the position. With a limited amount of experience he viewed the elections seeing enough to prompt him into writing a letter of concern to the students council. The letter was not presented to Student's Council, but rather was nicely tucked away in the President's files. What else is tucked away in the President's files?

During the elections presidential candidate Fred Schmidt was told by the present vice-president, Anne Gilles, that she had to convince Sandy MacNeil into becoming this year's CEO because no one else had applied. What prompted Anne's answer? Did she just forget all other applicants?

Clarke also requested to be considered for a position on the Election Committee, yet Council did not appoint an election committee at all in clear violation of the constitution. (By-Law XII).

What we have at this point is a one-man election committee and some question to the validity of his appointment.

Lets now look at additional problems arising in the elections.

Fred Schmidt was told by council president Gordon Neal that he was not permitted to make campaign speeches in the SUB cafeteria for fear of ties being created between a candidate and Saga Foods. Yet we all know of Mr. Sampson's and Mr. Mancini's escapades with Beaver Foods, in Howe Hall. CEO MacNeill did not, however, condemn their actions. He allowed, if only superficially, ties to develop between a presidential and vice-presidential team and a food concession business. But emphasizing this issue would be like 'kicking a dead horse', so lets move on.

The constitution requires that nominations close nine days before election day. However, MacNeill re-opened nominations from February 8th to 11th without Council's permission, leaving only 5 days from the close of nominations to the election date itself.

Although we already stated that no elections committee was constitutionally established, we understand that McNeill picked a few friends to help him. Regardless of Councils neglect in this matter, MacNeill should have pressed Council for a proper committee. Such actions would surely have lessened his work load and perhaps made the election a little less questionable.

Hoss Watson, who has worked as a polling agent in two previous elections stated that this was the worst run and poorly organized election day he had yet seen. In past years the polling agents were briefed at 8:30 a.m. election day and were on duty by the required 9:00 a.m. deadline. Such was not the case this year. Watson stated that many agents were not properly informed of their duties also pointing out that polling stations were so undermanned that the job could not be properly done.

In MacNeill's election report he stated, "There was, of course, a problem supplying personnel", despite the fact that he could have hired as many people as he needed to maintain proper election procedures. This fact was given to us by a person closely related to council.

Another violation of the constitution on election day was the irregular hours kept by many of the

polling stations. Constitutionally it is required that all polling stations be open from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Some incidences violating regulation 26, sections 8 and 10 were: Howe Hall poll opened at approximately 11:00 a.m. which was also closed several minutes early; library poll was closed from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and, the phys-ed. poll closed at approximately 4:30 p.m.

All of the above have been listed in the "Election Challenge" submitted to Council on Monday, March 7th, 1977.

In his report MacNeill said that, "Some of those scheduled to work did not appear, thus certain polls did not open as scheduled. This was cured by fast work by those who assisted me." The short delay of 'only two' hours could hardly be described as 'fast work'.

MacNeill also said, "that the same misfortune was repeated but I was able to fill the poll in question with only a short shut down." The delay of two hours can hardly be considered as a short shut down such as in the case of the library poll which lost one quarter of its allotted time, particularly the high-density period between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

MacNeill then stated in his report, "All polls closed at 6:00 p.m. unless otherwise instructed by myself, of whose decision is final." Yet his report failed to justify why some polls were closed before the constitutional time regulation.

Another interesting development was that some people who we have spoken to stated that they were

given more than one presidential ballot. This can be considered as either another example of either lack of man power or lack of interest on the part of more responsible individuals.

At another polling station the ballots were openly displayed, and the polling agent merely told any voter to pick up the required ballots, not prohibiting any person from taking more than one of any single ballot. Also, several polling stations lacked commerce and science ballots.

Through the lack of responsible poll management, King's students, whether permitted or not, turned out in record numbers to cast their president preferences. We have proof that at least two of the new franchised Kings students voted in the elections. One merely stated that his name was not on the list and was not asked for his ID. While the other had his ID card punched.

This was the case at many polling stations, where understaffed

continued on page 7

## NAPOLI

"Our Specialty  
is our Quality  
**FREE DELIVERY**"



PIZZA

PIZZA

LASAGNA      SPAGHETTI

**OPEN EVERY DAY EXCEPT MONDAY**



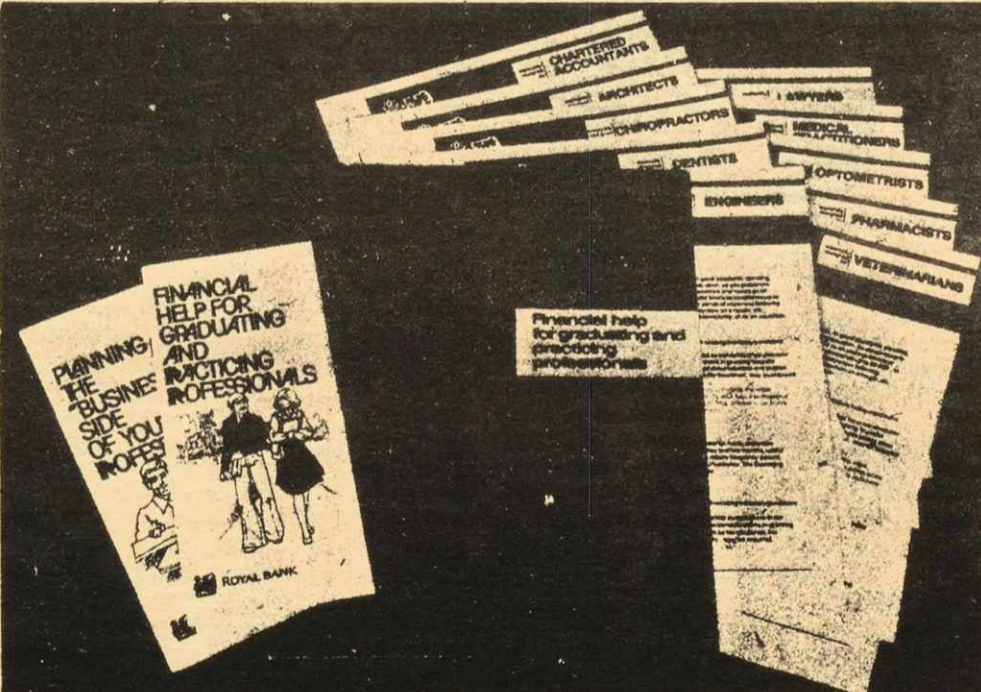
# 425-5330-1-2-3







**6430 QUINPOOL RD. HALIFAX**



## PROFESSIONALS SOMETIMES NEED TO SEEK MORE THAN JUST ADVICE.

All the good advice in the world won't pay the rent on office space, or keep the cash flow of an expanding practice running smoothly.

If you're a graduate, or have already started your career, the Royal Bank can help you to either get established, or progress further in the professional world. Your Royal Bank manager is qualified to give you good financial advice, and assistance in a more tangible form—up to \$50,000 where the circumstances warrant.

Speak to your Royal Bank manager about our Business Program for Professionals. Whether you're just starting out, or on your

way up, he can help you plan your future with practical solutions to your financial problems.

 **ROYAL BANK**  
the helpful bank

Eligible professions include: Accounting—Chartered Accountant—C.A., Architecture—B. ARCH., Chiropractic—Doctor in Chiropractic—D.C., Dentistry—D.D.S., Engineering—B. ENG., Law—B.C.L., LL.B., Medicine—M.D., Optometry—O.D., Pharmacy—B. Sc., PHARM., Veterinary Medicine—D.V.M. ... and others.