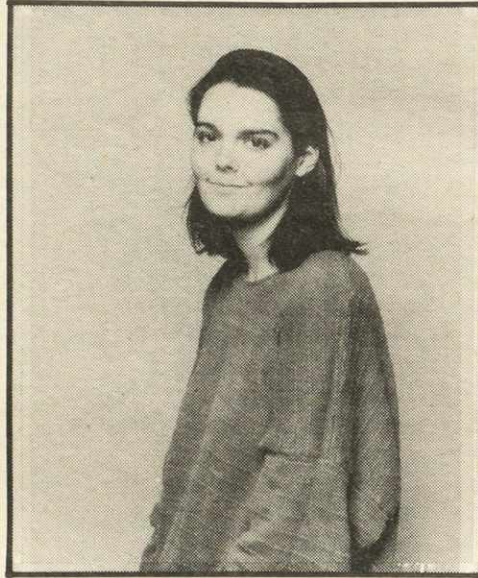


## elections supplement

## What's in it for us?



Caroline Kolompar

by Ryan Stanley

An uncontested race is a bit of an oxymoron, but Jefferson Rappell and Caroline Kolompar are running one. The only team of candidates for the Dalhousie Students' Union's two top jobs is campaigning cautiously.

"We've had to change a bit of our outlook", admits Rappell, the man who would be DSU President. "We had prepared as if we were going to run against someone."

Their election posters are all over campus, and Rappell and VP running mate Kolompar are hoping the lack of opposition won't dissuade voters from casting a ballot on March 16, 17 and 18. Students will be asked to check 'yes' or 'no' on the pair's candidacy.

In a year when many students are feeling powerless to influence developments which affect them, such as rapidly rising tuition fees, university rationalisation, job shortages and scarce student loans, Rappell and Kolompar are running under a slogan of "Accessible leadership for accessible education".

"The positions of President and Vice-President are there for the students", said Rappell. "You have to be there when they have concerns."

He sees tuition fees and rationalisation as the key concerns which students will face in the upcoming year.

On the former issue, however, Rappell advocates an approach bear-

ing little resemblance to that pursued by the organisers of Freeze the Fees campaigns in recent years. "If it [tuition] is going to be put up, it needs to be put up by a reasonable amount", he said. "If you go for zero per cent, you're going to get ten per cent." He believes that student negotiators should aim for a three per cent increase, and insists that raising fees is becoming politically more and more difficult for the university's Board of Governors (BoG).

Dalhousie fees are set to go up by ten per cent next year. They rose by the same figure a year ago, following a 25 per cent leap the year before. A similar pattern has been seen at other Nova Scotia universities. The Freeze

making crucial decisions in examination season and limiting student access to meetings. She intends, if elected, to work on the tuition fees issue starting immediately.

She also feels it is important that students be aware of the services which the Students' Union offers, such as a help line, counselling services and student advocacy. "We have to find more ways to promote these things", she says. Kolompar is enthusiastic about the Tiger Patrol, the DSU's walk-home service, and intends to experiment with expanding the territory it covers.

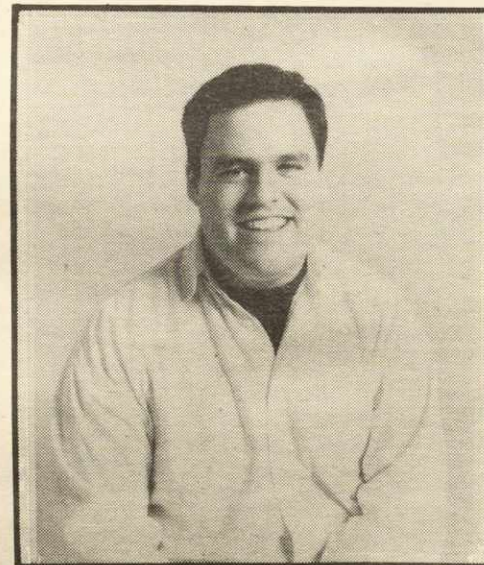
Kolompar, a fourth-year English major, is currently the DSU's Communications Co-ordinator. Rappell

**"raising fees is becoming politically more and more difficult for the university"**

the Fees campaign, headed by the Students' Union of Nova Scotia, has been predicated on the belief that students cannot afford further increases, and that additional funds must be found in places other than students' pockets.

On rationalisation, Rappell says, "We can't let the quality of education fall." Rationalisation is a provincial government plan to cut costs by amalgamating programs, resources and procedures among Nova Scotia universities. Rappell supports a centralised application and registration process, along with a shared physical plant and freely transferable credits. If combining programs is taken too far, however, "We'd lose all sorts of the diversity we have on campus", Rappell says.

Kolompar emphasises the importance of informing students about, and involving them in, decisions which affect their interests. "They [the BoG] are very cunning in terms of setting meetings", she noted, referring to the frequent practice of



Jefferson Rappell

has been President of Howe Hall for the past year, and is in third-year English.

Why run for election? "I love working in the DSU", says Kolompar. "I want to get more people involved. If we win, I want things to start now."

the Board to consider other alternatives to raising funds in order to balance the operating budget. I feel they have not explored all other possibilities for raising funds and will insist they do so. One alternative is lobbying for increased government funding. The university's mismanagement of funds is also a concern.

Rationalization has been a topic of discussion for the past two years and soon changes will be introduced. As students we should be concerned about accessibility to programs, transfer credits, costs and quality of educa-

tion. When changes are proposed it is important they are evaluated thoroughly from a student perspective and that no rash decisions are made. I feel students should have the opportunity to express their opinions and concerns about these issues during an open forum and that students should have an equal opportunity to participate in the decision-making process.

In the future, I will welcome all comments and suggestions from students, especially ideas about how to improve the quality of life at Dal!

## Presenting plenty o'potential PIRG people

In conjunction with the Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) elections the Nova Scotia Public Interest Research Group at Dalhousie (NSPIRG-Dal) is holding elections for positions on its Board of Directors. PIRG is a student funded, student directed organization dedicated to educating the public through research and education on a wide variety of social justice and environmental issues. The PIRG Board is comprised of nine Dalhousie students who determine policy, budget priorities and PIRG's organizational structure. Currently, nine students have submitted nomination forms to PIRG. Candidates for the 1993-94 NSPIRG-Dal Board of Directors are: Tryna Booth, Nina Butlin, Sandra MacDonald, Laurissa Manning, Paul Nimmon, Dave Pringle, Candida Rifkind, Eleanor Russell and C.G. Smith. And, here is what they have to say for themselves:

## NINA BUTLIN

DSU Rep: Dalhousie Committee on Sexism and Racism (Anti-Discriminatory Harassment Policy); DSU Rep: Adhoc Senate Non-academic Discipline Committee; Dalhousie Collective for Graduate Students of French; Nova Scotia Cuba Association.

Academic freedom is only meaningful in the context of social justice. This requires the redress of the instances of power in equity which silence and oppress many groups. Taken together, these groups constitute a majority in the university and in the larger society. Those who are oppressed by virtue of their race, sexual orientation, gender or class share a common struggle. I would like to see PIRG working as part of a dynamic which opens the university to these energies and perspectives.

## TRYNA BOOTH

Hi, my name is Tryna and I am a fourth year student in the Honours Philosophy program. My experience as a member of Amnesty International has given me valuable knowledge on letter writing and lobbying campaigns for social justice. For the past two years I have been an active member of the Dalhousie Women's Collective running education, action and support campaigns for women at Dal, as well, I represented the Dalhousie Women's Collective on the DSU (1992-93). My time currently has been spent actively working on the committee to establish a Women's Centre at Dalhousie and I have recently been elected to sit on the Management Collective of

## SANDRA MACDONALD

I'm back because ns-pirg is . . . AMAZING, BOLD, CARING, DETERMINED, EMPOWERING, FUN, GREAT, HARD-WORKING, INGENIOUS, JOVIAL, KEEN, LOUD, MARVELOUS, NIFTY, OPTIMISTIC, PURPLE . . . (purple?!), QUEER, RADICAL, SWIFT, TERRIFIC, UNUSUAL, VIBRANT, WISE, X-CITING, and ZANY. . . kinda makes you want to get involved, eh?

## LAURISSA MANNING

I am in my third year of university, this is my first year attending Dalhousie. I am twenty years old and am from the Halifax/Dartmouth area; however, I have attended McGill University in Montreal. I am studying languages and political science here at Dalhousie.

I am running for the Board of PIRG because I feel that keeping people informed is very important and students should have a vehicle from which they can access issues relevant to them. I am interested in international issues relating especially to children living in poverty. I am horrified to see the state in which so many people are forced to live. At the present as a Youth Support Worker, I work with children who have been removed from their families because of difficulties in family dynamics. I look forward to being able to provide positive input to PIRG.

## PAUL NIMMON

Currently I am in my third year at Dalhousie studying physics. A position on the PIRG Board of Directors interests me because I feel I will be able to bring fresh ideas and alternatives concerning waste management in Metro to the Waste Management working group of PIRG and to the Board. As well, I have experience working with non-profit Boards as a previous member of the Save the Georgia Strait Alliance (B.C.).

## DAVE PRINGLE

Presently I am in second year Arts studying international development

studies, political science, and economics. I feel I can offer the Board experience within the student politics stream. In first year I was involved with SUNS, the Dal External Committee, and ran in the 1991 DSU elections for student representative to the Senate. After a year "sabbatical" on the Canada World Youth program I find myself back at Dal and involved in the NAFTA in PERSPECTIVE organizing collective. I hope that my involvement in PIRG will allow me to both straddle the campus and the community, and work with other motivated persons for progressive change.

## CANDIDA RIFKIND

Presently I am a third year student in the Honours English Program. Since arriving at Dalhousie I have found myself involved in a variety of organizations all of which attempt to make Dal a better place for all students to be. I have been involved with the Dalhousie Women's Collective, and the Collective to open a Women's Centre at Dalhousie. My past year has been spent as Vice President External of the DSU and as the Women's Commissioner of the Students' Union of Nova Scotia and the Canadian Federation of Students. I believe in NSPIRG-Dal and have been a vocal advocate on PIRG's behalf on many occasions in my capacity as the NSPIRG-Dal / DSU link (1992-93). I am interested in further networking with other PIRGs, and in establishing a Nova Scotia network of PIRGS. I have participated in many PIRG events and would be proud to act as a member of the NSPIRG-Dal Board of Directors.

## ELEANOR RUSSELL

Why I want to be on the PIRG Board:  
- I am a naturally energetic person who needs to be kept occupied  
- I have ideas that are waiting for action  
- I'm impressed by the huge amount of good work PIRG does  
- I want to see if my degree can be put to good use  
- I believe that the only route to real learning is through acting on your beliefs  
Why PIRG would want me:  
- I tell people (nicely) what I think  
- I don't take it personally if someone doesn't agree with me  
- I have experience coordinating volunteers, organizing events, and serving on a board  
- I bake good cookies  
- I know how to apply for a grant

## C.G. SMITH

I have been impressed with the work PIRG has done in the past, such as the publication of the *Single Mother's Survival Guide* by Brenda Thompson.  
In the future I would like to see PIRG become more involved in issues relating to cultural diversity. I feel that as a lesbian-feminist woman active in the Halifax lesbian community and as the former Vice-President of BGLAD! (1991-92), I could provide a valuable contribution to PIRG's activities in this direction.

## Senate Management Rep candidate speaks

I have found, in no issue of the *Gazette* this year, an opposing view to the proposed Statement on Discriminatory Harassment that is being reviewed by the Senate. That is, of course, consistent with the *Gazette's* continued efforts to stifle this debate at Dalhousie. I am trying to offset this bias.

Stan Beck, author of the February 18 *Gazette* Editorial, stated that those opposed to the proposed Statement on Discriminatory Harassment, and those calling it "politically correct", do so because they have not read the policy, and are thus ignorant. Well I'm here to say that I have read the proposed policy and it IS politically correct. Furthermore, it is misguided and unworkable. The proposed statement will limit everyone's freedom of expression guaranteed by the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms (section 2).

The amazing thing about the proposed policy is that it is so stifling that even its biggest proponents can-

not escape its grasp. For example, Anthony Roberts, President of BGLAD!, has already violated the proposed policy. This is what Roberts wrote in the "Peace" issue of the *Gazette*: "No, in fact the group that is labeling [the proposed policy] as politically correct are comprised mostly of white, upper class, heterosexual males. Those who are in a position of power. Those who are the select few who are privileged in our society... [that this policy is politically correct is]... simple backlash from the political right wing — there is a history of such attacks from the right." Roberts goes on to say, "Women, people of colour, lesbians and gays, people with disabilities, etc. They actually make up the majority in terms of numbers (women are about 54%, people of colour 15%, lesbians and gays 10-20% etc.)."

I ask the reader (indeed, Anthony Roberts) to read the policy wherein it states: "...discriminatory harassment includes: ... (2) personal vilifi-

cation on the basis of sex... colour... class or socio-economic condition... (and) sexual orientation... (3) speech or other expression (including written) which would reasonably be interpreted as maligning or derogatory towards an individual or group of individuals on the basis of sex... colour... class or socio-economic condition... (and) sexual orientation..."

I, myself, found Mr. Roberts' comments humorous. However, in case he is not familiar with the proposed policy, I should point out that Mr. Roberts could "reasonably" be found to have made "maligning or derogatory" remarks towards (as he pointed out) a minority group on this campus (namely white, upper class, heterosexual males). Under the proposed policy, Mr. Roberts could be tried and fined before a review committee if no agreement between the parties is reached. He could even get suspended from school. As you can see, if the policy's most vocal supporter can fall into its trappings, imagine

what would happen to the rest of us.

Political correctness got started a few years ago on campuses in the United States. It actually caught on quickly (ever notice how long it takes for fads to reach Canada?), but recently its popularity has waned. The reason is simple: political correctness seeks to forcibly implement the notion of "equality" in society. So forceful is this idea that it is made paramount to the notion of "individual freedom". This is why its popularity has plummeted. One system has tried to do this in the past, we know it as the "former Soviet Union".

People around the world are tossing off this defunct set of ideas, yet we see groups here trying to implement its tenets. Proponents of political correctness say that capitalist societies are inherently racist, yet we see millions of Jews and ethnic minorities fleeing from the persecution of the former Soviet regime to come to North America. If these "class" societies are so great, why have they

crumbled?  
It is obvious to all that racism and discrimination cannot be tolerated. The types of policies proposed above, however, are not the answer. We must begin to look at all people based on their merit, not their skin, their sexual orientation, their gender, or anything else. We are very fortunate to be of this generation. This generation alone has the ability, the will, and the desire to overcome our prejudices of the past, and the injustices inflicted by our ancestors. As with all great moments in history, however, these triumphs are realized through moderation and thoughtfulness, not through the rash actions of a select few.

I am of the opinion that we can do better than fads of political correctness, and borrowed ideas. I am of the opinion that our generation is capable of much more.

Rod L. MacLeod  
Nova Scotia Progressive Conservative Youth Association

**BOG**  
Representative

## Tina Sweeney

1993/94 will be a year in which the Dalhousie Board of Governors confront many issues directly affecting students. Rationalization, government funding and another tuition fee debate will all be on the agenda. As a student representative on the Board of Governors, I will be in a position to voice students' concerns about these issues.

Often the Board of Governors view

such issues in terms of profitability rather than accessibility feasibility. I feel another potential tuition fee increase next year will force more students to discontinue their studies and deny them the opportunity to complete their program. For the past two years, I have been involved in "Freeze the Fees" campaigns. Next year, if another increase is proposed, I will be committed to persuading