

EDITORIAL

Is there life after Camille's Fish and Chips?

Logan and Logan. Logan and Logan. Logan and Logan. The names still ring through the ears of more than one presidential candidate. Their election was the most unexpected, the most shocking, the most ominous and, especially for those who voted for them, the funniest news event around here in ages.

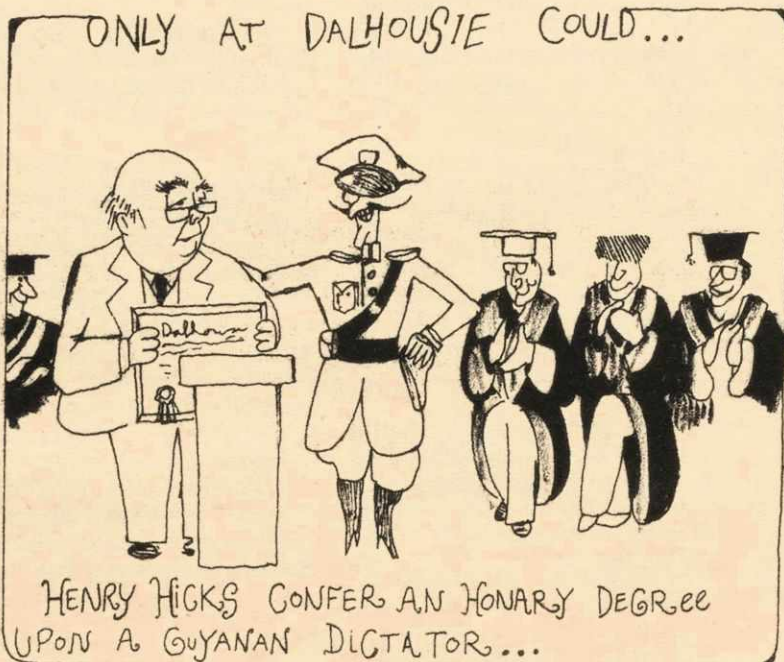
No one doubted this thirsty duo had achieved a great rapport with students when they appeared at candidates' debates cracking one-liners, lampooning more serious attempts to serve the student proletariat with an impish giggle or a flying pantyhose. Their brewery tour on election day showed a marvelous perception of the nature of students' real spirit and their plea for 'ten percent' (the minimum electoral support needed to obtain a refund on election expenses) wrought sympathy as well as proving their heady idealism did not extend beyond the wallet in their back pockets.

But few people around the SUB, that stronghold of student administration, ever thought the Logans would win. If you heard the talk around the Gazette and Council offices it was a battle between the Owen-Lamont and the Graham-Gilkinson team, with an outside chance that the "ignorant students" might fall for the feisty promises of the Dunn-Kelly team. Every now and then someone might crack the joke, "What would happen if the Logans got in?" Their victory proved true the dictum that fact can sometimes be truer than fantasy. It also proved that Dalhousie's student institutions — notably the Student Council and the Gazette — don't really understand the beliefs and preferences of the "average" Dalhousie student.

Yes, we admit it. We thought the other three were good teams who were making honest efforts to address the issues closest to the hearts of students. We didn't know that the problems in Dalhousie Student Union have become so bad that students were prepared to ignore all other candidates to vote for a team which, apparently tongue in cheek, pledged to effectively junk every Student Union service.

Why did students do it? Some no doubt voted as a joke, never realizing it would come to fruition. Others probably fell for their wit and imagination: they were certainly a lot funnier than anyone else. Most, however, seemed to agree with the brothers Logan: Dalhousie Student Union elections are laughable.

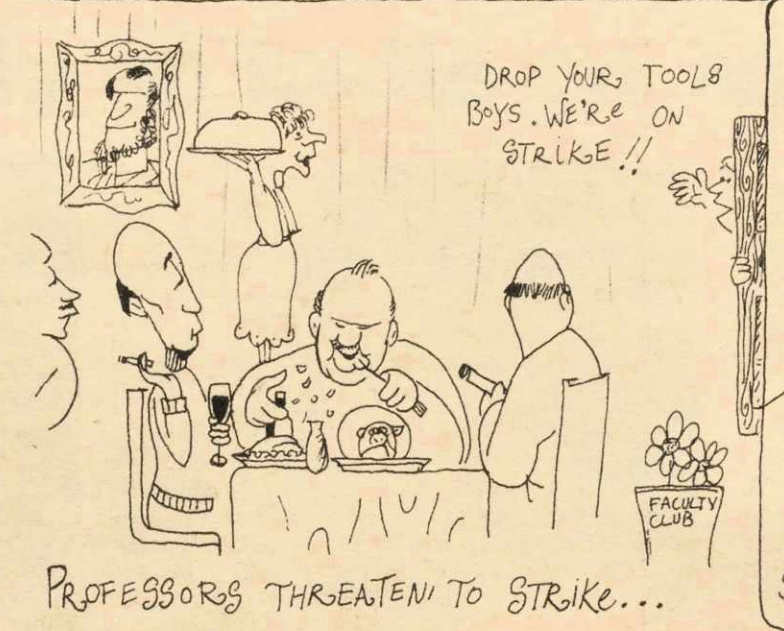
For years councillors have emphasized the communication problem at Dalhousie: if only students knew what we are doing they'd appreciate it and indeed even help us out. These elections, however, with a turnout of 33 percent (very high for any university



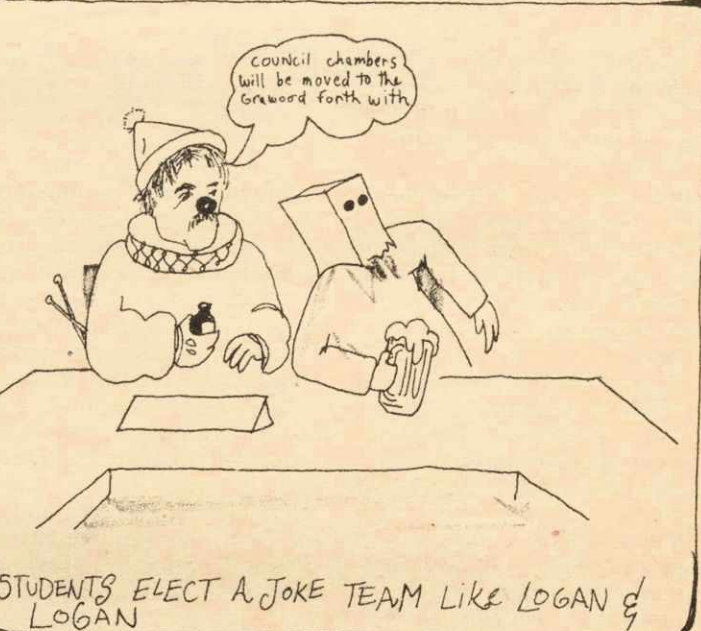
HENRY HICKS CONFERS AN HONORARY DEGREE UPON A GUYANAN DICTATOR...



ANDREW MACKAY BECOME PRESIDENT...



PROFESSORS THREATEN TO STRIKE...



STUDENTS ELECT A JOKE TEAM LIKE LOGAN & LOGAN

election) showed the problem is not communication around here: students know what's going on, they're just not interested.

Why aren't they interested? Is it the students' fault? Or is it the fault of Council, Entertainment, the SUB staff, SUB ops, Pharos, Dal Photo and the Gazette? Who knows? After all, Dalhousie students supposedly run all these institutions.

Maybe it's just apathy, made increasingly severe by an increasing job consciousness among students. But how do you change apathy? Better services might help. But what are they and how will we ever get apathetic students to provide them?

The more one reflects on them, the more apparent the severity and complexity of the malaises affecting the Student Union and its relation to Dalhousie students becomes. There are no easy answers. Indeed it is not even easy to define the problem. Is it communication, apathy, or the bankruptcy of Student Union services? Or are we just hoping too much for a student-run organization?

These are gigantic problems and it remains to be seen how the comic spirit will handle them. Consider the possibilities: If the Logans turn student council into a big party they may end up squandering a half million dollar budget and have scores of

societies, clubs and active students forming lynching mobs to get them. If they simply ignore things SUB Ops may just take over Student Union affairs and students will be more alienated and dissatisfied than ever. If they try to address student problems seriously they'll find themselves up against the same eternal problems every other council executive has had to face, this time with a whole lot less experience and knowledge of Student Union affairs. There doesn't seem to be any way they can succeed.

On the other hand, it cannot be denied they are imaginative. And they are funny. These qualities can do all of us a little good. And if things do go bad, it won't be without a few laughs.

the Dalhousie Gazette

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EDITOR: PAUL CLARK
NEWS EDITOR: PAUL CREELMAN
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GRAPHICS EDITOR: PAUL WITHERS

STAFF MEMBERS: GREG DENNIS, FRANK MCGINN, JOHN CAIRNS, SUSAN HAYES, GISELE MARIE BAXTER, ANDREW SINCLAIR, ALAN CHRISTENSEN, CATHY McDONALD, MICHAEL MCCARTHY, ELAINE FRAMPTON, MARTIN SULLIVAN, FLORA MacLEOD, IAN HOLLOWAY, SYLVIA KAPTEIN, KEN FOGARTY, ELLIOTT RICHMAN, GRETCHEN POHLKAMP, P.J. McMANUS, KIM MARCHANT, JOHN DOBBS, PINA DIPIERRO, ROBERT STANLEY, DON PERRY (mascot), and JANINE ROY.