

Honesty in student politics ?

The Student Union elections, seen from the position of the Gazette editorial offices is more frightening than the average student understands. We are subjected to cursing, character assassinations, numerous petty arguments which circulate among the candidates, as well as the cry-baby attitudes of the student politicians themselves (why do they get page so and so and we don't? and, they have "thank you" at the end of their interview and we don't.)

However, all this is not really any different than past student election campaigns (and on the surface is better than the muckraking of last year's campaign). What bothers the Gazette and provokes an editorial such as this is the backroom politics of the little shits around this student union building; however, these background antics are not restricted to the backrooms of the candidates' camps.

The Gazette has the duty to expose the moral irresponsibility of the backroom supporters. The irresponsible acts began with one group first lying to the Gazette about a letter which a student had submitted concerning one of the teams.

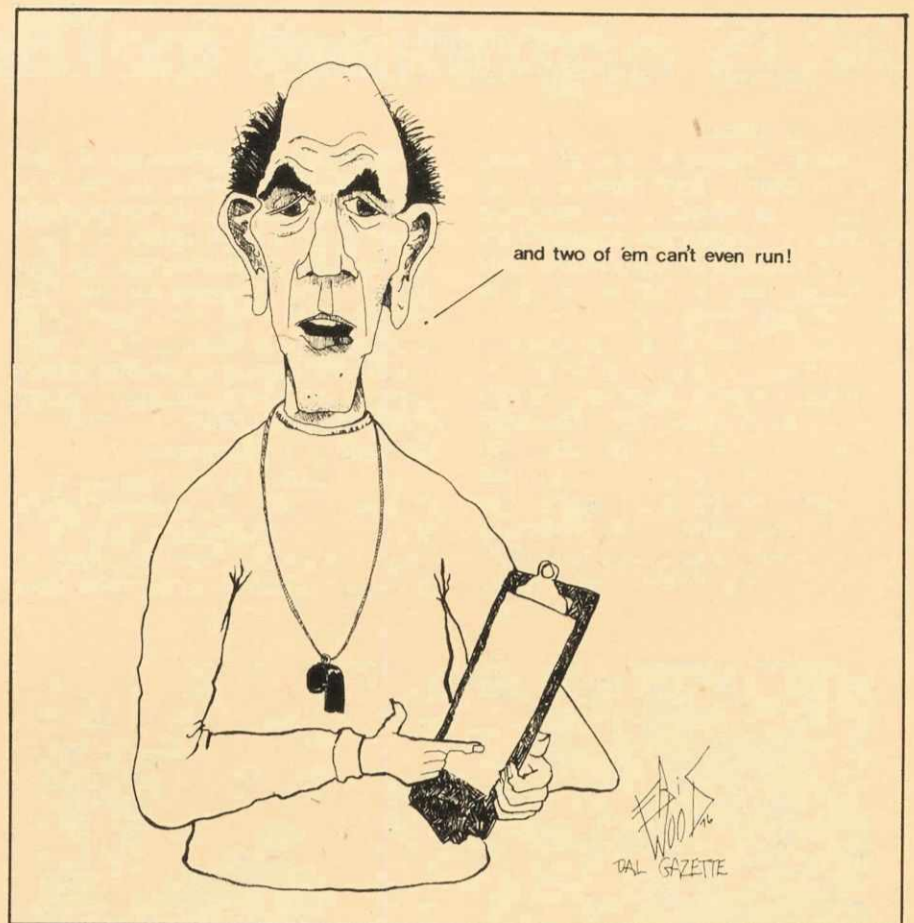
After the Gazette confirmed the verity of the letter, the same backroom boobs tried to convince the Gazette that the letter was a put-on; again the Gazette knew differently. These actions were to prevent the publication of the letter.

Another instance of backroom shenanigans erupted as a result of the Gazette editorial in the Election extra. After hitting the news-stands on Monday afternoon, Tuesday morning saw the Gazettes across the campus stuffed with "Attention notices" from "responsible readers". These "responsible" students attempted to use the Gazette as a vehicle for their own candidate.

The notice was not only erroneous in its assertion that the Gazette's editorial was drawn up by one person (it was a result of long hours of interviews with each team, then a review of each teams' platform, and resulting finally in a split of opinion among the editorial board which was reflected in the editorial) but that the Gazette should not editorialize on the elections.

The Gazette editorializes on everything else, so one might ask what makes the student union elections any different? The editorials are only the views of the editorial board and are regarded as such by students (at least we at the Gazette hope they are, just as any other newspaper's editorial is the opinion of its editors).

We feel, then, that it is the Gazette's duty and prerogative to editorialize and we hope that those people responsible for the backroom antics will in the future keep their actions where they belong -- in the backrooms.



Council's logic behind the decision is reasonable; since other positions within the student union structure do not receive, in relative terms, as hefty as salary, then the secretaries should not either. However, this logic can perhaps (only perhaps) be applied to two of the four secretarial positions; namely, community affairs and academic affairs.

Because of the limited duties involved in each position and consequently, the limited time involved, these two secretarial positions might not warrant \$125 / month.

The other two secretarial positions are much different. Housing has become a major issue in the past number of years, including in the present election. Communications similarly has received more emphasis in recent years, so that now it plays a predominant role in student union activities.

What happens when suddenly these two vital positions are financially neglected? Firstly, \$50 / month would attract less qualified people; people who look on the fifty dollars not as a salary, but as a cheap honourarium (it works out to \$12.50 / week. Great pay, huh?). The position is no longer a job, but a spare time activity.

Secondly, and more importantly, the \$50 / month is a restriction on the people who will apply for the position. Applicants who need to work part-time to supplement their summer income and their student loan (if they receive one cannot afford to work for only \$50 / month. Thus, the people available for the position could tend to come from only a stable economic background. Where \$125 could pay rent and possibly part of the food bill for the month, \$50 pays only part of the food bill.

Council should seriously reconsider the ramifications of their action and the worth of the two secretarial positions (if not all four).

Inopportune austerity

Last January 25 the Students Council decided to reduce the salaries of all student secretarial positions in the student union to \$50 / month from \$125 / month. The Gazette editorial board took some time to reflect on this fairly drastic decision and decided that council was half-right at best. There are four secretarial positions in the union: academic affairs, community affairs, communications, and housing.

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Letters

Upper Canadian

To the Gazette:

As a fifth year student, in Geography 557, at Dundas District High School, Dundas, Ontario, I have been assigned a project on the following:

"We continually hear the Maritimes referred to as an area of economic disparity within the rest of Canada.

Question - In response to the economic needs what approaches or philosophies has government, federal or provincial, taken. Give specific examples and a short evaluation of each."

I would greatly appreciate any information, guidance, viewpoints, etc. on this matter readers could provide.

Roy Greve
RR No. 3
Dundas, Ontario.

St Mary's helps

To the Gazette:

I would like to correct an error appearing in your February 5th issue, page 5, "Killam defends policies and services." The Saint

Mary's University Library offers 90 3 / 4 hours service, and not 71 3 / 4 hours as stated.

The "Killam rules archaic" column and the Library's response are typical of the debate surrounding contemporary libraries. However, in the vicious circle of diminishing library funds vs. increasing student demand, there are two further alternatives to the Killam response:

- 1) Saint Mary's Library has reciprocal borrowing with Dalhousie and makes its services available to Dalhousie students. The Atlantic School of Theology, King's, Mount St. Vincent, and N.S. Technical College offer similar service.
- 2) The Provincial Library maintains a master list of books and periodicals in Nova Scotia. The Reference Staff should be able to locate material not available (for whatever reason) at your own library.

The overriding point to consider is that students can't receive these services if they don't actively solicit them. Far too many give up on their library without exploring alterna-

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