



Fred Schmidt

Schmidt and MacQuarrie



Heather MacQuarrie

Gazette: What do you consider to be the major issue of this campaign?

MacQuarrie: One of the major issues in the campaign is our continued membership in student lobbies like A.F.S. and N.U.S.

Schmidt: There's more to it than just the lobby. The whole idea of Student Union is at stake. If you look at the number of acclamations we've had, you begin to wonder. The issues are there: the lobbies, our own Student Union, and the crux of the issue is communication. Getting the issues to the students is what we are concerned with. To me, it means communication: getting the message on A.F.S. on the Student Union to the people.

MacQuarrie: The problem we had this year was that no campus coordinator was appointed or elected to handle our correspondence with A.F.S. and N.U.S. For this reason, the Dalhousie Student Union failed to make any significant input into the organization. This is the reason why we're having this referendum. The referendum is also bringing up the question of whether the students are justified in having an autonomous student lobby at the regional and national level. We are coming out to support the referendum for NUS and AFS because we feel that with the Maritimes Provincial Higher Education Commission, it's evident to us that the provinces are organized on a regional basis. We feel it also follows that the Student Union must put together a regional organization as a viable way to have input into decisions such as changes in Current Fiscal Arrangements Act.

Schmidt: Another point to make is on student issues. The struggle is ongoing with student issues and we will continue to push to get changes and to strive to get things done better. The point is that we will work hard for them. For this campaign, I don't think Carleton campus is an issue any more. Everyone is aware now that it's a matter of keeping up steady pressure. Every council member and president that runs, must be aware that this is an issue of concern to the Student Union. I think that communication was lacking on last year's council and something has to be done to change that. The other issues are of a student nature. As election issues, I think the main thing is getting the message to the people. I've sat as a council member and talked to people and a lot of people gripe but don't know who to gripe to. They gripe to me and I go to the executive and I won't say they have closed minds but often they're so busy themselves having to work on all the committees that they couldn't get back to me.

The thing is, we have to state what our duties are and show people clearly where they can go and re-establish what this Union is all about- to help students, provide services and give the students more voice.

MacQuarrie: Looking at the area of student services, we feel that an improved system of communication will help us reappraise the role of the societies in the Student Union. We'll take a look at their representation on the Council and possibly improve that representation regarding such programs as Graduate Studies, particularly the TYP Transition Year Program, and again particularly part time students. We would like to emphasize the need to re-examine this role in the Student Union in the University and use these findings to put together a cohesive association of part time students at Dalhousie, and hopefully work with the National Association of part time students.

Schmidt: Another point that will bear out the fact that communication is a problem is, and probably you're aware, that the Arts Society had to be helped along and the Science Society was just getting started as the end of this year. People aren't aware that those societies exist. They can't be aware or else they would realize that they do have a big part to play in this Union. People have to be told that.

Gazette: Outline your past experience.

MacQuarrie: My past experience in working with Council has been as Community affairs secretary. Less significant experience includes working SUB staff and working with Saga Foods. As far as my employment record goes I've gained fairly good knowledge of how this University is run and what's going on here.

I think I understand the hierarchy and I no doubt see that there are some changes I would like to make in that organization. Concerning my experience in community affairs, I still feel I was not able to direct the Council's more effective participation in its role as a member of this community. As Vice-Pres. this would be one thing I would like to work on. I would like to see more students representation on MOVE, which was not there this year. I would like to see student input into areas of municipal government such as the up coming municipal development plan, which will effect students at one level simply as far as housing goes.

Schmidt: I came to Dal. from high school and was involved with student affairs at the high school level. At Dal I immediately got

involved in the debating society, under the false impression that any society in university has some voice. I discovered, to my surprise, that the Dal Debating Society has just a small group. Then I became President of the Dal Debating Society and we've tried to give the society more input on the campus and the society is getting more involved. Last year I was an arts rep. on council. What did they say? Well whatever I could do I was supposed to open the doors for the students.

I'm really into societies and have been involved actively in everything I've gotten into.

I know I can do a good job as President because I know that I've got leadership capabilities and I have ability to delegate authority. When things have to be arbitrated I know that I can be a good arbitrator. As concerns my record, I've always done what I was supposed to and a bit more -not simply to do it adequately, but leave something there for the next person to build on.

MacQuarrie: My experience as a community affairs secretary gave me the contacts with different societies, community groups, and student organizations which I feel will be necessary in order to carry out the Vice-President's role. I found there were particular societies whose needs were being ignored and who consequently never achieved any outstanding role on the campus. I'm thinking particularly of the International Students Association and the Graduate Studies Society and my own faculty-the History Society. I'm concerned about status of international students at Dal. and whether they will be subject to differential fee. By building up the ISA and establishing an International Society we feel that we would have an effective voice to negotiate with the administration as with the Provincial government to oppose such a legislation.

Gazette: How much time will you have to offer to the job next year?

MacQuarrie: This year I took a substantial drop in marks in order to carry out my responsibilities for community affairs. I'm prepared to forego my expected graduation next year also. I probably wouldn't be taking more than three courses.

Schmidt: I plan to take two courses this summer and take three next year. My marks are stable even with all my extra curricular activities so I haven't lost anything by taking a full load and being very involved with all the activities I'm in. Taking three next year will give me all the time I'll ever need.

Gazette: How do you perceive the role of President/Vice-President?

Schmidt: The President's role is to serve in a leadership facet that is not so much above the rest, but as the first among equals. He should represent the University and the Union. He should be willing to give up some of the responsibility and delegate it to other willing students. His role is to lead in a way which will inspire the people who follow him. The President will be the one who makes sure that he's always on top of the situation.

MacQuarrie: I perceive the role of the Vice-President as one which is mainly involved with the internal operation of the Union. I don't want to dispense too much of my time worrying about the SUB operations. I'm mainly interested in working with the societies in redirecting some of their attention to the Student Union and also in lending as much assistance as I could to those societies which need additional support and voice on the Student Council.

Gazette: What made you decide to run?

Schmidt: I think we can do the job. I want to do the job and Heather wants to do the job. I think I can set the pace, and I think Heather and I can do it because we're concerned.

MacQuarrie: My decision to run was made practically at the last minute. Initially I planned to reapply for position of Community Affairs Secretary. I felt that the teams who at the time had declared themselves, pretty much balanced each other out and that it was going to be difficult for any particular team to establish themselves as having a clear cut image of an outstanding perception of what were the issues. Some of the things which I perceived to be issues were not being represented by other teams.

Schmidt: What it amounts to is that we think we can do a better job. We've got a lot of interested and spirited people. It's not a question of apathy, it's not a question of not knowing. You can't get involved and excited with something unless you know what you're involved with. Why we ran? Well, National Student Day was a flop. Students didn't know what it was about. That kind of thing didn't go over on a University campus. The thing is, there is no easy assessability to the union heads and the committee heads. That has to change and I think we can do that.

Gazette: Thank you.