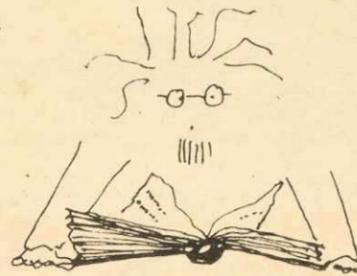


WORDS FROM THE WISE...

election, n. A system wherein every so often the electorate is reminded how stupid it is.



SC rep Smith replies to charges

To the GAZETTE:

Having been named in recent issues of the GAZETTE as an example of an irresponsible Council member, I would like to reply.

The Engineers are a closely-knit group and a very active one, considering their numbers (202) on campus. As their representative on Student Council and Nova Scotia Tech Student Council, I do my best to advance their aims and express their opinions. Being active in sports and social functions run by the Engineering Society, I am constantly available to hear their views. Because Engineers hold regular meetings, I can bring issues before them and

report on Council meetings. So far they have seen fit to support me, and feel sure that I could be re-elected tomorrow, if need be.

If you wish to criticize Council perhaps you might name those who rarely show up for meetings, or those who endlessly debate trivialities rather than the issues at hand.

Before the GAZETTE condemns the actions of others, perhaps it should clean its own house. I have never seen an accounting of the minutes of a Council meeting in the GAZETTE. I have often watched the editors and staff leave a Council meeting soon after discussion of the paper is over, laughing at the suggestion that

they stay to hear the remaining discussion.

The paper also has a bad habit of printing a biased portion of a story rather than investigating and reporting the entire story, because it coincided with your own views. The recent handling of the Campus Police articles is a good example.

I also take you to task for your stand on student elections. The GAZETTE is financed by students and should be an information and unifying force on campus, not the mouthpiece for the opinions of a select few. For this reason you should be correcting your decision of refusing to publish information on the elections.

I hope these matters can be corrected by discussion, but I fear the punitive measures that may be taken against the GAZETTE if they are not. These measures may set dangerous precedents, and I do believe in freedom of the press,

no matter how poor.

The Administrative Board you wish to set up also intrigues me. How will you appoint these people? What will be the checks on their power? (What will they do with the GAZETTE?) This sounds to me very much like the first step to 1984 or 1932.

I agree that there are many disillusionments in society that carry over to student government. I agree that the Student Union sadly lacks the people who will fight for the type of society we all would like to see in our time. However, if these aims are yours, and you really wish social change, then you should slow down, look around, and re-evaluate what you are doing. Then try to gain the respect and support of the Student Body.

Sincerely yours,
Gary C. Smith
(Engineering Rep)

The GAZETTE indeed appreciates Smith's reply to our editorial and his subsequent visit to our office. The fact that

he wasn't seen in our office until he felt that he had been personally attacked is indicative of the attitude that he and others on the council have toward student functions.

Whether or not he is adequately performing his role of keeping the Engineering Society informed can best be answered by those people. His actions at Council meetings (not to neglect the others who show up every now and then) are at best seemingly irresponsible and frequently asinine.

The GAZETTE finds it difficult to report on the council minutes because for the most part it would be a waste of time, as so little happens. Reporters are present at the meetings, Mr. Smith, and if you looked around a bit you might notice them. What relevant issues do occur receive the coverage they merit and only that much.

Much more could be said, but perhaps it is all summed up by stating that at this time only one ad has been received from council campaigners — from Brian Smith. So much for the concern of the council and their desire to inform the student body.

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