

# Andy Who ?

Dalhousie has a new president. Andrew MacKay was given the final nod Tuesday at a closed meeting of the Board of Governors. It was the final chapter in a series of events which, whenever possible, were kept away from the eyes of the student population and the university community as a whole.

For many students who will read this paper or who will listen to the news on TV or radio today, the news of Mr. MacKay's appointment will come as a complete surprise. It will come as a decision they played no part in (whether they agree with the choice or not). It is a decision where the entire student population of over 7000 was represented by only one student on the selection committee.

The argument over whether or not to have an open process in the selection is one that draws heated replies from both sides. Those who are in favor of retaining the secrecy say it is of the utmost importance that all candidates names be kept quiet. The university stands a chance of losing valuable talent if their names become public. They also say that the choosing of the president of the university is different than the choosing of a president of a student union. Large numbers of opinions only confuse the issue. Besides, they say, there are over thirty people involved with the selection committee, which they feel insures a large spectrum of opinion.

Other groups feel it is important to know the name of the candidates so that they can look after the interests of their group as a whole. After that, they are not too concerned who knows the list and who doesn't.

So where does this leave the student? Out in the cold as usual.

It seems that people on this campus are so eager to make sure that the candidate's interests are protected and individual groups are protected. Secret meetings are the order of the day as everybody fights to make sure nobody else is aware of what they are doing. It seems that administrators and faculty alike have a tendency to forget why they are here. They are here because the students are here.

If there were no students their would be no administration, no faculty, no board of governors. It is the students who should be the committee's first concern, for the man or woman they choose as president will be the president of the student's university.

Keeping the selection a secret only serves to add to the growing gap between student and administrator.

There are far too many secret meetings on this campus. Administration, faculty, board of governors, all seem to want to keep each other in the dark, and the students in the dark most of all. Although there is some student representation on these bodies, it is minimal and no where reflects the number of students at Dalhousie.

Students have a right to know what is going on at their own university. If candidates are afraid of their names being public, perhaps they should not run. Openness is needed between student and president, not a buffer of silence.

Board of governor meetings should also be open to the public. Far too many important decisions are made by this body with far too little student input. What are these people afraid of having out in the open? What is of so much importance that it must be kept so quiet from those who it will affect the most, the students?



## Letters to Gazette

### Round 4 ?

#### To the Editor:

I would like to further comment on the letter controversy that has been taking place in issues 112 No. 8, No. 9, and No. 12.

Sheila Jensen has stated that "the fact that those two letters exist is a practical proof of the correct "judgement" that there are two lines in the student movement." Is it, I question?

Students can join political parties if they so choose, but those parties are not solely concerned with the issues that students face. The "student movement" is that group of students who are solely concerned with students' interests—whether they be internal matters on a campus, or external issues that have lasting effects, as they directly affect the whole post-secondary education system.

It is nice to know that I have a "Co.", before I even knew myself. Those students who are committed to students' interests and concerns, and who are not willing to compromise their positions are far and few between today. There are very few people that I know of today in Nova Scotia who are in elected positions and who are committed to giving the students the rights they are entitled to.

If I have a "Co.", then they are of others, students-at-large, who believe that the university was made for and is to be run for the student population.

Sincerely yours,  
Ms. Janet Mrenica

### Gazette unwise

#### To the Gazette:

The compounding of irresponsible actions does not make them individually less odious. If your alleged informer was unwilling to give you his name while naming others, then, to borrow from the *Gazette* editorial, "one wonders about the integrity of . . ." an informer . . . who is shy of publicity". One also wonders if the *Gazette* is willing to report unsubstantiated rumor as fact, albeit agonizing over what a difficult decision it is to do so! If the rumor was substantiated one wonders about the lack of factual background made available by your publication. One certainly wonders about the integrity of any individual who is willing to jeopardize the welfare of his peers, by which I mean both students and faculty, by breaking confidentiality in such an offhand manner. I trust that you will find the name of your informer if you have not already done so, substantiate his claims if you have not already done so, and make all of this informa-

tion equally public. Certainly that person does not deserve any more confidentiality than normally expected in a civilized society. In my view his leaky actions were a disgrace; your actions in printing the leak were merely unwise.

Sincerely yours,  
J.C. Fentress, Ph.D.  
Chairman and Professor  
of Psychology

### Capers offended

#### Dear Editor,

We, the staff of the *Caper Chronicle*, take offense to the description of the *Chronicle* which appeared in the *Dal Gazette* (November 22 / 79), in the article entitled "University Newspapers in the Maritimes".

We would like to take this opportunity to clarify our position at C.C.B. and to correct a number of misquotes.

To begin with, our college is known as the College of Cape Breton (C.C.B.), and not the Cape Breton College.

Our editor, Alan Cash, was quoted as saying, "Cape Breton College's newspaper is set back four or five years." This quote has been taken out of context. What was really said was that owing to our particular circumstances, it is very important that the newspaper gets off the ground this year. If this does not prove to be the case, we feel that our

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## the Dalhousie Gazette

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The views expressed in the *Dalhousie Gazette* are not necessarily those of the Dalhousie Student Union, the editor, or the collective staff. We reserve the right to edit material for space or legal reasons, or if it is considered offensive to our readers.

The deadline for articles and letters-to-the-editor is noon on Monday. No unsigned material will be accepted, but anonymity may be granted on request. Letters should not exceed 500 words and must be typed on a 64-character line and double spaced. Local Advertising is handled by DAL-ADS—the advertising department of Dalhousie Student Union: Tel: 424-6532. Ad copy must be submitted by the Friday preceeding publication.

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Editor: Tom Regan

News Editor: Paul Clark

Entertainment Editor: Margaret Little

Sports Editor: Greg Dennis

Advertising and Business Manager: Steve Garret Tel: 424-6532

Circulation Manager: Joe Wilson

Production Manager—Sandy MacDonald

Features Editor—Paul Creelman

Staff for this week: Frank McGinn, Glenn Walton, John DeMont, Albert Hennen, Bob (B.C.) Campbell, Susan Edgett, Greg Morgan, Sheila Mills, Melanie Smith, Paul Dayal, Sylvia Kaptein, Cathy MacDonald, donalee Moulton, Dave Grandy, Paul Withers, George Evans, Nancy Ross, Heather Myers, Margot Griffiths, Eleanor Austin, Richard Samuels, Ellen Broadhead, Elizabeth Patterson, Ron Cohn.