

Let's strike another committee . . .

What is the DSU for?

by Andrew Poon

Amid the bustling, almost '60s atmosphere recently evoked in Dalhousie student politics during the faculty strike, many students were unaware of what the role of their student union is.

Stephen Davis, a student Board of Governor representative, brought this issue to the fore during the November 6 Council meeting. Council passed Davis' motion to form a committee to investigate "the role of councillors and executive members."

When asked why such a review committee was needed now, Davis said that the DFA strike has revealed that people are the important element in a university. That is why a review to study the role and effectiveness of councillors and improve communication with students is appropriate at this time, says Davis.

Davis says he has no complaints about any specific councillor.

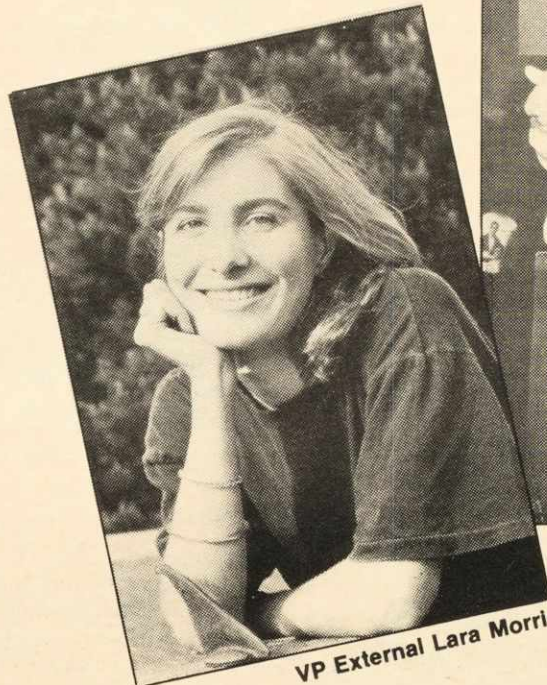
Davis' proposal calls for a ten-member committee of non-councillors to review surveys of how effective the student public perceives the DSU to be. Councillors should also evaluate themselves on their effectiveness in meeting objectives while in office. When asked what he hoped to come out of the review Davis said, "I'm looking for a system for which students can quantify Council's performance."

Other DSU councillors support the idea. Treasurer Frank DeMont says, "I applaud a call for review — but councillors will be apprehensive, as is only natural."

DeMont went on to say the evaluation and the job of the committee should emphasize the examination of the effectiveness of the positions themselves, not the person who does the job.

DSU president Juanita Montalvo says with the concentration of efforts following the aftermath of the DFA strike and up-coming exams, work on the review matter would most likely be delayed until after Christmas.

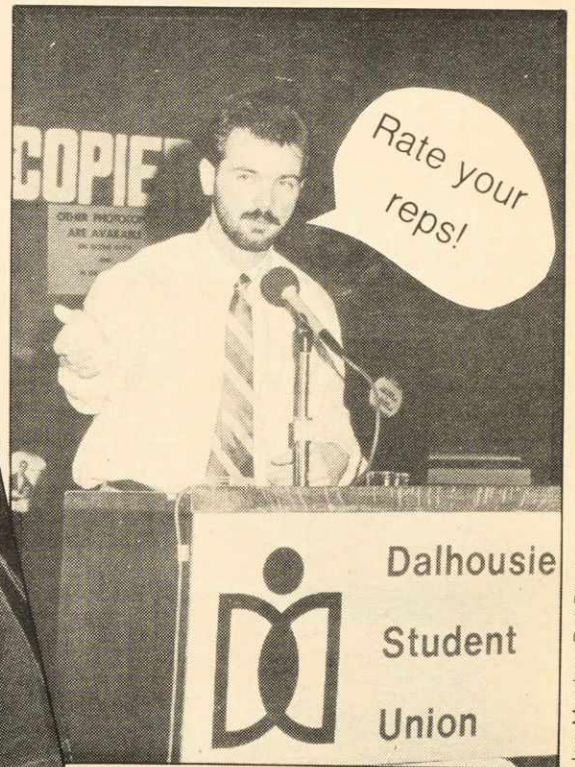
Shayna Watson, another Board of Governors representative, says



VP External Lara Morris

more well-defined roles of councillors would make the DSU more user-friendly.

However, DeMont warns, "students must make an effort to find out about the DSU."



VP Terry Crawley

Ian Mardon: Dal Photo

Above are just two of the DSU councillors up for review. But just when the review will happen, who will do it, and what criteria will be used are all unknowns.

Is anyone in the private sector interested?

by Scott Randall

Dalhousie will be hosting the workshop *Valuing Special Places and Rare Species* and a lecture by Norman Myers will open it with a bang.

The workshop will take place Friday on the third floor of the Dal SUB and many environmental issues will be discussed.

According to Raymond Cote, of the Dalhousie School for Resource and Environmental Studies, the workshop is the result of the memorandum of understanding between Dalhousie and Parks Canada which facilitates the exchange of information between the two bodies.

Cote hopes the workshop will raise the consciousness of many people regarding the environment and also enhance the exchange of information between the various groups working with environmental issues.

Cote says they would like to push the private sector into understanding environmental issues and show them the benefits of preserving habitats and species. The workshop will hopefully result in an increased appreciation of natural places and habitats and perhaps yield some new approaches to saving them.

Underaged, U.S. citizens registered

Enumerators blow it

by Ryan Stanley

In the weeks preceding the recent federal election, many Dalhousie students found they, too, were afflicted by a phenomenon unusually prevalent in metro this election year. More than a few Dal students felt the effects of what would seem to have been careless enumeration procedures, and as a result failed to get on the voters' list or were registered as voters when they shouldn't have been.

One Howe Hall resident, a U.S. citizen says he was surprised to find the card giving him Canadian voting rights slipped under his door. "They were pretty sloppy about it," he says adding he has heard stories of other similar incidents, including some of students being registered who were not yet eighteen. Another source in the men's residence say

that the enumerators simply slipped cards under everyone's door, without checking age or citizenship.

Lara Morris, the Student Union's Vice-President (External) says the DSU suggested the enumerators co-ordinate their work with the Student Union, but that they refused the offer. As a result, says Morris, enumeration of Dal students was a much less efficient procedure than it could have been.

Although there were no reports of enumeration problems at Sheriff Hall, King's College students and tenants of Alexandra Hall experienced many of the same difficulties.

This situation, of course, was not confined to Dal, as there have been numerous reports of homeowners in Halifax and Dartmouth being denied suffrage

because enumerators missed their streets or failed to return to homes of people away on the date of the initial enumeration.

The local Returning Officer could not be reached for comment.

Despite the problems registering voters, an official at the vot-

ing booth in the Halifax riding said there were no problems at the polls.

"We had no one voting who was underage," she said, as pollsters challenged anyone they suspected of being younger than the voting age. Many others who were mistakenly enumerated simply didn't bother to vote.

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- a Gazette staff person.

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