

Not funny

Dear Gazette:

Congratulations to Ms. Dow on her election as vice-president executive of the DSU. However, I would hope that she realizes who her constituents are. As VP-executive, she represents the concerns of all societies of the DSU. In comments heard at the candidates' forum in the Grawood on March 11, she managed to offend a great majority of her constituents. The present Dalhousie Student Union maintains a policy preventing racist, sexist or homophobic views on campus, includ-

ing the entertainment provided at the Grawood. Ms. Dow suggested the return of such acts as The Barenaked Ladies and the comedy team of Lambert and James, both of which have been banned from the Grawood for not complying with DSU policy. Ms. Dow attempts to defend this as "it's just comedy." It's this type of ignorance and narrowmindedness that creates a divisive society at Dalhousie. Comedy at the expense of someone's sex, skin colour, religion or sexual orientation is not funny. I would strongly urge that Ms. Dow make a public apology to the students of Dalhousie, in hopes of creating a better working relationship between her and her constituents.

Av Singh,
non-white student

Black comedy?

Dear Editors:

I am a Dalhousie student and I have some concerns and suggestions regarding the results of the recent Student Union elections. There are three points about the newly elected Ralph Cochrane and Patti Dow that should be of great concern to all students.

The first is on the issue of racism. Ralph and Patti stated throughout their campaign that they want to change the Dalhousie Student Union constitution because it presently does not allow us to bring in racist, sexist and homophobic entertainment. At the Grawood election forum, Patti stated that when 'you make a joke about a black, it's comedy guys.' Their statements show they have no understanding of what racism is and how it is expressed in our society. This is of grave concern to students, as we attend a multicultural university and we live in a province where discrimination against black and native people is prevalent. Under no circumstance should we allow the singling out of one group so that others can have a good laugh or so that we can generate more school spirit

and greater bar revenues.

The second point of concern regards tuition fee increases. Patti Dow has publicly stated that she favours large tuition increases and she even contradicted the current student union president when she told the DSU-DFA Liaison Committee that the students were behind him in opposing substantial tuition hikes. Her contradiction was clearly out of line since, as a health professions senator, she had never been given the mandate to present such erroneous misrepresentation of student concerns.

The third point of concern is Ralph Cochrane and Patti Dow's misguided view of student representation. Prior to beginning their campaign, they met with the university president to ask him for advice. The role of the DSU president and vice president is to represent student concerns to the administration and other bodies. Clearly their role is not to get students to accept the administration's views. This explains why, throughout their campaign, we had to listen to statements like "tuition fees have to go up" and "we have to cooperate with the administration."

There are many important student issues coming up next year. We have, as a student body, elected officers that need your assistance in representing our views. I encourage Dal students to

make their views known to the newly elected team by joining the student council or dropping in to their offices.

"Education's purpose is to replace an empty mind with an open one." —Malcolm Forbes
So make it happen.

C. S.

DSU not Christian

To the Editor:

While we find it admirable that Mr. Shannon and the DSU have acquired an interest in Theology, we must take issue with the letter, "DSU Speaks Out," which appeared in the Gazette. While the DSU is well within its rights to state publicly that it does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, or sexual orientation, from whence does it derive the authority to make statements like: "We hope sexual orientation is irrelevant to a fulfilling and harmonious relationship with God," and to add to the list of propositions it finds 'problematic' the notion that "all persons on earth are inherently sinful." Furthermore, Mr. Shannon states, outrageously, that "the unavoidable extension" of

the Christian position is that "while all persons may be fallen, lesbian and gay men have, in the eyes of God, fallen further than all other persons." Apart from the fact that this argument is a non-sequitur, it also confuses 'original' with 'actual' sin. Since the DSU are now theologians, we feel free to correct them on this. These statements go well beyond condemning homophobia, they are an improper attempt to meddle in questions of religious belief.

Orthodox Christianity has always held that human sexuality is intimately connected, in the Divine Order, with reproduction and family life. Consequently it has condemned acts which sever this connection as illicit. Mr. Shannon may find this a harsh position and he is free to reject it. However, he has no right to officially condemn it as perverse and discriminatory. The DSU's implicit definition of homophobia identifies the condemnation of the sin with an irrational hatred of the sinner. That this is not the

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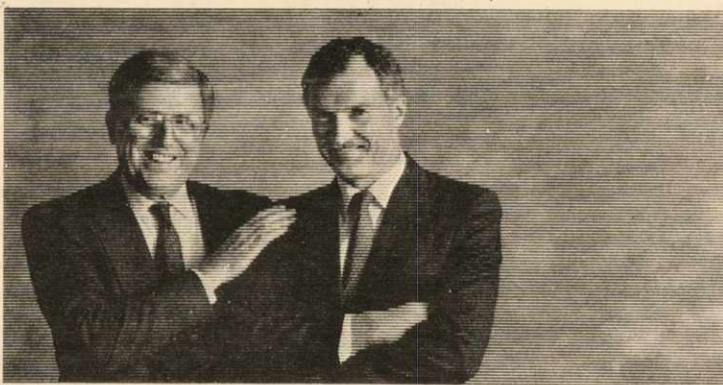
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Sunday, April 1, 12:30
Council Chambers