

Candidates urge university taxation

by Glenn Wanamaker

The race for the Mayor of Halifax picked up steam in a debate between the two candidates last Thursday at Dalhousie.

The debate was chaired by Student Union president Brian Smith. Two law students, Tony Ross and John Chipman (who is also a town planner for Halifax) were on the panel as well.

Alderman Charles McGuire and former council member Walter Fitzgerald exchanged arguments, but they did agree on one issue. They maintained that universities and all property except houses of worship must be taxed.

A small crowd in the McInnes room of the Student Union Building listened to both candidates state that taxation of universities would not make tuition more expensive. While providing more revenue for the city, the universities would be compensated with federal grants.

HOUSES OF WORSHIP, THEY BELIEVE, should not be taxed because they receive no grants at the present time from any level of government.

The debate began with the two candidates giving summaries of their platforms.

Fitzgerald stated that the key to his platform is taxation. This

would include property tax and a reduction in taxes for senior citizens. One of the major issues brought up by Fitzgerald concerned changes in self-help programs, including greater use of school facilities and more recreation areas.

McGuire cited housing as a very serious problem. At the present time there are only 1100 public housing units with 1400 on the waiting list. The choice of homes for those in the upper income bracket is also limited. "Alternative housing," said McGuire, "is a necessity."

This crisis is related to inadequate sewers, a shortage of land, and the inability to finance major capital expenditures," McGuire stated.

THE MEETING CAME TO LIFE when Fitzgerald charged that the present council had permitted the industrial commission to go downhill and that the city was losing industry. McGuire then accused him of "misreading" his previous statements. Earlier McGuire said that strong and imaginative industrial promotion could help alleviate the unemployment crisis in Halifax.

Both candidates favor Halifax-Dartmouth amalgamation. According to McGuire, "We must ensure a successful annexation. The watershed must be freed, the sewer system should be made a public utility, and the provincial government



Charlie McGuire, mayoralty candidate in the upcoming civic election. (neil harrison/ seed)



Walter Fitzgerald, mayoralty candidate in the upcoming civic election. (neil harrison/ seed)

must come up with a better monetary deal.

The idea of making the sewer system a public utility drew comment from Ross, who called the proposal "garbage". Fitzgerald has called for a tax as well as a small charge on the amount produced.

One of the questions put forward by Chipman concerned the role of the mayor.

FITZGERALD COMPARED THE JOB to that of a team captain. "He should present

ideas and get the aldermen cooperating," he said. He also stated that there is a strong case for civic parties, especially with regional government, as teams are needed to implement policy.

"The city charter," stated McGuire, "does not define the role of mayor in its legal jargon." He sees the mayor as a leader as he is the only one elected by the whole city.

"The mayor must make clear (cont'd. on p. 13)

Demonstration planned for October 16

New Morning collective held a press conference October 2 to announce a demonstration planned for October 16. The action is to demonstrate

solidarity with the people of Quebec, on the first anniversary of the invocation of the War Measures Act.

The demonstration will begin

at 11:45 in Victoria Park. From there the demonstrators will proceed to Maritime Command headquarters on South St.

"We're still not sure about exactly what our tactics will be when we arrive," said New Morning's Dave MacKinnon, "except that it will be more militant than anything ever done here before. We aren't sure to what degree of militancy we will go yet. We don't want to be suicidal and we don't want to lose more people than

necessary through arrests. Whatever we do will be well-planned. All angles of risk to either side will be investigated."

Considering the history of the Halifax area, New Morning said that the armed forces is the most relevant target for this expression of solidarity. Said New Morning member Diane Vincent, "The armed forces is one of the major oppressors and exploiters in this country. As an organization it is useless

and a waste of money. They don't help the people in the least. In Cuba the army spends a lot of time working in the sugar cane fields."

New Morning does not claim to be an affiliate of the FLQ, but sees a necessity for the collective's sort of struggle and their solidarity with that organization.

"Passive and non-existent resistance can be a form of rebellion for a long time. We can march with placards until we're blue in the face and it'll get us nowhere, just as in the past," said MacKinnon.

"All the revolutionaries in North America have a great deal of solidarity because they are out to destroy the same thing — the oppressive capitalistic system which serves its own interests and not those of the people. Our targets are those which oppress the people," he added.

Vincent went on to say, "We all have the same enemy. This gives us an excuse to attack, which worries the pigs. There's a bit of nerve warfare involved."

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