

Editor's note: Martin Baker introduces here a section of his commentary which should have appeared last issue, but was left out due to a Gazette error.

MARTIN, ON COUNCIL
by Martin Baker

In my previous commentary I told you that approximately 60% of the Student Councillors have not fulfilled their responsibilities and could best be characterized as inactive nonentities.

I then stated my main point: that political responsibility is a two way street and that political apathy exists because we allow it to exist. I was about to explain exactly what I meant by this, but as a result of an unfortunate mistake, this explanation was left out. Here it is...

This year you paid \$67 in student union fees. It's taken for granted that when you fork over those bucks that there are groups, activities and programs worthy of your support. These

range from SUB operations (\$9.70 of the \$67), to the Gazette (\$3.10) to entertainment (\$.73). The most basic responsibility of student council is to administer all this. Beyond this, the council is supposed to be responsible for representing and leading students in their dealings with the faculty, administration and the provincial and federal governments. Some councillors - the fabulous forty per cent - clearly recognize their responsibilities and are genuinely and actively representing students in a variety of different capacities. I'll give you the names of those Councillors that stand out as examples of responsible representatives. (the envelope please) They are: The brothers Logan, Caroline Zayid, Dave Rideout, Robert Stanley, Geoff Seymour, Jay Doucet, Atul Sharma, Randy Kelly, Kathy Ann Hagen, Liz Vibert and Kevin Feindel.

Granted this is a subjective list, but the point is that their are councillors that are getting things done. I think it's important that you realize this. Some of these people have taken on a great deal of responsibility. These people need and deserve your support. The so-called average student has a responsi-

bility here too. You're responsible for seeing that your money is spent wisely and that your student council rep is actually representing you. Councillors can't really know if they're doing an adequate job unless they have input from you. Remind councillors that their position on council isn't simply a cynical means to an end, ie Resume, but is in fact a responsibility. Councillors that are active deserve your support and councillors that are non-entities deserve your criticism. It you don't suffer fools gladly then why let them represent you?

Students literally cannot afford to be complacent anymore. The Board of Governors is working on a financial plan that will both increase the cost of education and reduce the quality of that education. The federal government meanwhile is also making decisions that will shape the future of post-secondary education.

Your participation in the March symbolized your concern over these matters. You're responsibility now will be to actively support those who wish to represent you, be it at the campus level, the provincial level or the national level.

paper, although admitting "I don't really know Ms. Hames that well," I will take the liberty of criticizing Mr. Baker, on the basis of his article, glad that I don't know him at all.

Ex-student Senator Baker writes with the general attitude that council wasn't worth his time and effort due to its lack of leadership and initiative. Simultaneously, he issues the statement "My challenge to students at Dalhousie is to meet your responsibility." Ironically, Mr. Baker has resigned from his council position, copping out of the responsibility bestowed on him by his electorate. My challenge to you, Mr. Baker, is to practise what you preach.

Mr. Baker is quick to condemn other councillors, describing them as cloutless and banal, and as harmless buffoons while he fails to describe himself. He continues to challenge John Logan to publicize each councillor's performance in the last term. What needs to be exposed to the Dalhousie community is the

are the best reflection of what's really out here. Students don't care.

But we do. We care about ourselves. The Sept. 30 march is a good example. Very few of us want or can afford to pay more for tuition. A mutual, yet individual concern. Finally students find a common frontier worth fighting for, the financial struggle for survival. It does not end here. Students have many more mutual interests. The problem is 1) they don't realize they share common interest or 2) they don't know how to delegate a common community. The uproar raised against student apathy is a cry for community. Come out, come out wherever you are, join the human race. Participate. Not easily done. Let's face it, we are all individuals with our own personal goals. Three cheers for community but let's hear it for individualism. We haven't achieved the Marxian utopia quite yet. Finding your own piece of the rock is no easy task and few people realize that this can be achieved through

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Today, if you were to ask Joe Student what he thought of his president, you'd hear replies ranging from "Hey, Logan's a pretty wild guy, eh?" to "Da dummed bugger, I'd like to light his face on fire an' put it out with an ice pick, eh?" Whereas last year if you asked him what he thought of his president, the reply might have been: "I think Carter should make an ocean where Iran is, eh?" With Logan's Council in command, we at least realize that it's a Canadian president who is tickling the funny-bone of the student body!

Logan's slapstick tactics in the election campaign (who can forget the "Vote for us, we need 10% to get our money back") brought politics to the level that we can all relate to (and it's a good thing, because the Three Stooges have been off the air for years). The point is that the Council has sparked a great deal of interest in us and this hints to the potential for a good government. We look forward to reading about our President keeping his light-hearted promises and our Treasurer's sneaky threats to embezzle funds. This informality makes us feel that Logan is one of us and we can see that he's having a ball. Now that the Student Council has our attention, they have only to get on that friggin' ball and get it rolling.

Yours,

Paul Murphy

Hames defends herself

To the Editor:

I am writing this letter because, since my appointment to Senate by council in November, I have been the

subject of much criticism both in the editorial of this paper and by the ex-senator, Martin Baker, whom I succeeded.

Mr. Baker's obvious lack of facts does not excuse his ignorance, nor his article, which he had no basis for writing. Blind to the fact that I do more than occupy a seat on council, Mr. Baker has omitted, to suit his purpose, the fact that I am involved with the grants and women on campus committees.

Realistically speaking, if our ex-senator was so well attuned to the problems of student council, and obviously not one of the "60 per cent of the student council who appear cloutless and banal", why then did he vacate his seat?

Perhaps Mr. Baker too should receive an 'F' for failure to carry out his term. Obviously those whom he had "think about it" and "do it!" obviously did not get their full representation out of a person who quits.

This letter is not intended to be a personal vendetta, just as surely as Mr. Baker's wasn't. I'm sure Mr. Martin Baker alias "it's easier to shit on council than sit on council" can be a very nice person, that is, when he wants to be.

Sincerely,
Mary-Lou Hames, Student Senate Representative

Hames is supported

Martin, Martin, Martin! I felt I had to respond to your remarks in the **Dalhousie Gazette** concerning certain council members, in particular Miss Mary Lou Hames, whose cause I must champion (talk about run on sentences). To your readers I must introduce myself, Randy Kelly, Chairman of the Grants

Committee for the Student Union, nice ta meet ya folks!

Mary Lou Hames sits on the Grants Committee along with Sue McKinley and myself. We all work together and hand out money left and right to everybody who asks for it. Many times these two councillors have made admirable decisions concerning allocation of the Grant funds when I was bemuddled. I'm no dummy and these two aren't either, not by a long shot.

To say that your are ignorant of their activities hardly qualifies you to complain about their complacency or their involvement in the societies which they represent. It would give us all a great deal of satisfaction if we could devote our entire week to the Student Union; however, most of us are in school and also have our work cut out for us as particular society representatives, as well as our committee work in the Student Union, which I should be doing now, not sitting down, writing some damn silly letter to correct some embarrassing statement which you make.

There are many constructive things to do to help out the apathy apparent on council but to pick out an individual underserving of your criticism is not one of them.

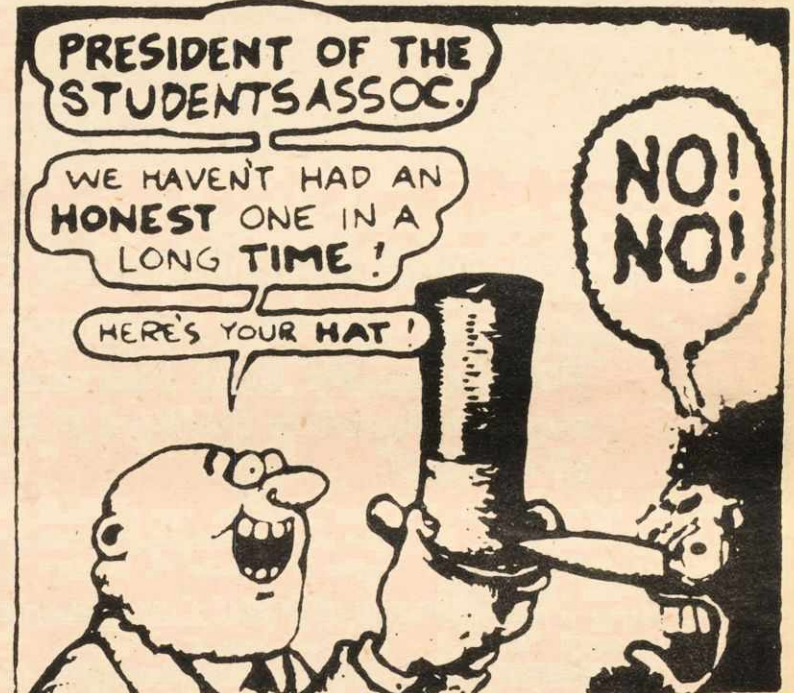
Thanks to the **Gazette** for publishing this. See you at a council meeting in the future.

Chauvanistically yours,
Randy Kelly
Chairman of the Grants Committee

Baker graded

Dear Editor,

Just as Martin Baker has slandered Mary Lou Hames in his recent "Commentary" in this



record of Mr. Baker during his short term and exactly what led him to terminate his responsibility to Dalhousie students.

"Political responsibility is a two-way street," according to Mr. Baker. However, does he feel he is immune to the political process by opting out of his elected position?

Just as Gregory F. got a "report card," so will Martin B:
Name: Martin B.
Position: Senate
Grade: Incomplete
Comments: Martin was a quiet student. His character, therefore, was only known after the class received a postcard from him when he moved away.

Instead of shitting on council, Martin Baker should shit on himself.

Heather Roseveare

To the Editor;

Martin Baker I adore you. Not only do you have fine convictions, you also express them beautifully. Thank you for the affirmation that I am not a blind, naive student after all.

In my view student council is a reflection of the student body. It is the administrative body that rallies support for common cause and question. We students raise the issues and student council organizes us and we (all of us) solve or attempt to solve the matter. Simple (ideal is the word). Therefore those doing nothing, don't care councillors

public mediums.

So how do you maintain public interest? Why are students unconcerned? I have heard the argument the students are not informed. Who is at fault? **The Gazette**, despite the snickers, and other papers are credible forms of communication but you can not force people to read. Being an idealist with no conception of the practical the answer is obscure.

I love the quote by Mr. Baker, "political responsibility is a two way street and political apathy exists because we allow it to exist."

So, council members, why are you here? Are you a mere apathetic reflection of the Dal community with no interest to change things? If you sit on council for yourself alone then council is not where you belong. You are supposed to be there for all of us. Please don't be despondent for our sake, that isn't getting any of us anywhere. In an apathetic society it takes a few determined individuals to get the ball rolling.

I admire you student council members if not for your convictions (if you have any) at least for your fame. Keep communicating, you are not going unnoticed. As a plea from the depths of apathy, don't give up on us yet.

Debora Fraser
student-at-large