

CANDIDATES DISCLOSE ALL??

NEAL / GILLIS

Revenue

Student Union Contributions	\$100.00	
Gord Neal	45.00	
Ann Gillis	42.36	\$187.36

Expenses

Dartmouth Free Press	86.41	
Office Services	100.95	\$187.36

0

DORSAY / BROWN

Revenue

Student Union Contributions	\$100.00	
John D'Orsay	216.71	
Brian Duggan	20.00	
Helen Demarsh	10.00	
Harvey MacKinnon	10.00	\$356.71

Expenses

Halcraft Printing	\$328.36	
Ford Publishing	17.85	
Office Services	10.50	\$356.71

0

O'NEIL / PITTAS

Revenue

Student Union Contributions	\$100.00	
Jim O'Neil	135.41	
Nick Pittas	50.00	
Richard Haughen	20.00	
Ken MacDougall	25.00	
Doug Harvey	25.00	
John Russell	10.00	\$365.41

Expenses

Cartoons	\$ 45.00	
Mahon's Stationery	20.00	
Ford Publishing Co.	31.24	
Dartmouth Free Press	97.07	
Office Services	172.10	\$365.41

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Ken MacDougall's view

Housing: permanent or current issue

by Ken MacDougall

Sitting out there in Never-Never Student Land, trying to figure out what becomes of the \$50 he pays out in Union dues, the average student must drive himself crazy. This isn't a lecture on the budget of the Student Union (that's coming) but on Student Council bureaucracy. More specifically, the growth of that bureaucracy is the topic, or why Council continues to create student positions which are questionable at best.

Long ago I developed this theory of student government: allow a bureaucracy to grow beyond a certain point, and dilute, minimize or even eliminate the power of the Student Council, and eventually the natural dynamic of student government will fossilize. We would end up wanting to share power, but never being capable of shedding ourselves of the yoke that make our power as students ineffectual.

How Secretariates Are Created

Student Council is rapidly reaching that point of stagnation. In the last two years Council has created several Secretariates that have effectively turned Council into a U.S. Senatorial-style organization, minus the power that Senate enjoys in formulating legislation.

Although the S.U.B. Affairs Secretary was eliminated, we now have appointed to the "cabinet" a Community Affairs Secretary, a Communications Secretary, Academic Affairs Secretary, and now a Housing Secretary. The question I have to ask is - why? Nothing could highlight this question more than the recent creation of the Housing Secretary,

(tied up, not coincidentally, in the bureaucracy of this Union - or, rather, the SUB, that hiatus of the graduate population on campus).

O'Connor, unfortunately, didn't have the flexibility of personality to try to tackle the problem from another angle, such as: approaching the provincial government for funds, or simply throwing out certain questionable functions provided by the Union (CKDU, as an example), to make available the necessary funds for housing. When O'Connor left, nothing had come of his housing promises. The ball was thrown to Bruce Russell, and there it came permanently to rest.

Now, I'm not at all convinced that Russell doesn't believe that there is a housing crisis on our hands. But, he chose to stall the problem, creating his cabinet, to evaluate the situation, and present to the Executive a course of action. Barbara Beach was appointed to the new position. She came to office with some good ideas, impressed everyone with her dedication and sincerity - and what?

There is a chronic shortage of student housing in the city, and it is getting worse. When the university purchased Fenwick Towers way back in 1970-71, it was in response to the crying needs of students at this university. Enrolment was rapidly increasing, and more and more students were falling victim to slum landlords. Quite simply, something had to be done. Student Council pushed to have something done, and that's why the university finally acted.

Well, Fenwick created housing for 800 students, but was the housing problem actually solved? According to Mike Gardner, who became President of the Student Union in 1973, it wasn't. In the Fall of 1973, he polled students as they were registering, and some of those who didn't enroll. The results were significant. Most students who did not come to Dalhousie stated as their main reason for not attending, the chronic housing shortage; this, in spite of the fact that Dalhousie was touted across Canada as the most expensive university in the country. Even more significant in the Gardner survey was the fact that an ever-increasing number of students attending this university were coming directly from the Metropolitan Halifax area. Because of the housing crisis we were losing the cosmopolitan flavour and the multi-national cultural overtones that most graduate universities are supposed to have, while that might have pleased the taxpayers of Nova Scotia, it certainly didn't please the students of Dalhousie.

Well, it was obvious two years ago that the housing problem was still with us. So, what was done? By the university, nothing; by the Student Council a little more action was forthcoming. Gardner established a Housing Office in the Union, and worked through the summer of 1974 investigating slum landlords in the university area. Dan O'Connor, who succeeded Gardner, wanted to start a Student Housing Co-op, but was hampered by the lack of funds available.

And what is right. Russell leaves office in two months, having created the illusion that he has preserved the dynamic of the Union. What in fact he has done is to leave a Secretary in the untenable position of having the facts already collected for her, the course of action only too obvious, and left to compile a report that, as one Council member put it, "has already been written by Brenda Shannon (Dal's member on City Council)." Levely.

The course of action on housing was presented in the last campaign for the Presidency, by all three teams seeking the top spot. You kick the National Union of Students in the clang, make them work on the federal government in a lobbying capacity to ease the restrictions placed on student housing by the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation (make NUS earn their dues), you go after CMHC for the funds already available for student housing, and you tell Lou Vagianos (Vice President, University Services) that he has sufficient statistics to justify building a new residence (several of them; in fact), and he either gets moving or the Council will make things very uncomfortable for him - not by pressuring Dr. Hicks, who will protect Vagianos to the end, but by going to the provincial government with their case and the threat of actively opposing the Liberals in the next provincial election if they don't get Henry and the boys moving. If you don't believe that would work, then you certainly didn't see how quickly the Liberals backed off last summer on student aid under student pressure.

The public would support any and all of these tactics, simply because students are taking up housing that the community needs; the problem is that we currently have an ineffectual Council Executive too willing to compromise students for the sake of ruffling a few less feathers in the Liberal camp (and that includes Dr. Hicks).

So, what's the problem? Housing is the problem. We now have a Secretariate investigating the problem. Barbara Beach will perform to the best of her ability, even though she is being used to create an illusion of Council activity.

Barbara will produce a report that will set down, once and for all, the course of action that the Executive and Council must take, even though a research team of students could probably have done the work at far less cost to the Union. And after she is through we'll still have the Secretariate. And, what then will be done with this cabinet post?

Someone should ask Bruce Russell that question.

POEMS & GRAPHICS CONTRIBUTIONS



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