

NEWS

Meet the Dalhousie Student Union

BY DAVID McSEVENY

Peter Pottier is the Student Union President for 1991/92. As President, Peter is the voice of the student body in University affairs as well as representing Dalhousie in external matters. Among other duties, Peter is a member of both the University Senate and the Board of Governors. The Senate's principle function is to make the decisions which affect the academics of Dalhousie while the Board of Governors is responsible for the overall operation of the school.

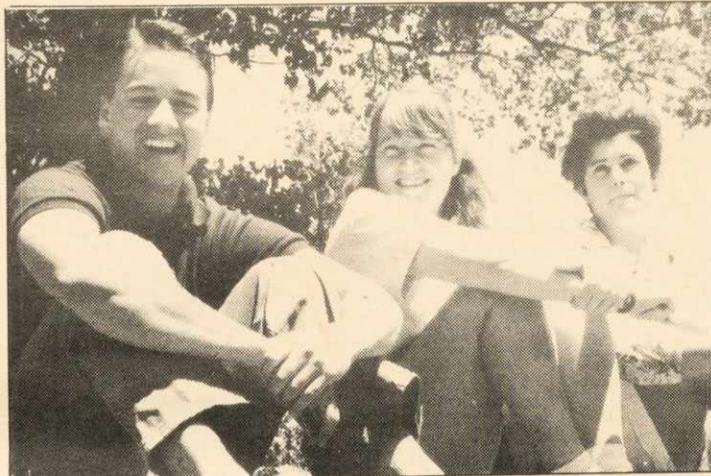
For 1991/92, Peter plans to improve what he sees as the ailing morale of the entire Dalhousie community. Peter hopes to do this by providing vehicles through which students, faculty, and administration can more fully interact. One possible method of doing this is the creation of "focus groups" which would discuss both societal as well as campus specific issues. Consisting of members from every area of campus, and set in an informal atmosphere, the ideas presented would perhaps be more productive than regular committee meetings.

For new students, Peter believes that, "In order to get the full Dalhousie Experience, you should pursue many extra-curricular activities as well as academics" while for returning students, "Don't complain about what happens at Dal unless you're willing to try and change it."

"Hilary proposes the 'Eco-Olympics' — pitting buildings against each other

The Vice-president is Hilary Wells. While Hilary will be working on many committees including athletics, alcohol awareness, parking, and security she also hopes to establish a new women's centre on campus as well as installing the Tiger Patrol, a service designed to provide those who would like assistance in walking home or around campus after dark. Along the same lines, Hilary will work towards the improvement of campus lighting.

Also, Hilary proposes the "Eco-Olympics." This competition would pit campus buildings against each other. The staff of the building which accumulates the most points (gained by lowering



From left to right: Peter Pottier, Hilary Wells, Joanne Smyth

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power costs, recycling, etc.) would win themselves a party funded by the money saved through campus-wide improvements.

"Peter plans to improve... the ailing morale of the entire Dal community"

As with the other Executive members, Hilary maintains a completely open-door policy and will make time for anyone with a concern. Her advice for new students is to "try and make your student representatives responsible for their actions, respondent to your wishes."

The Treasurer for 1991/92 is Joanne Smyth. The Treasurer is the chief financial officer for the student union. Last year the council passed an expenditure budget which outlined the ways in which this year's council will spend its revenues. It is the Treasurer's job to detail and advise the council as to how funds are being used.

Joanne also serves as the Chairperson of the grants committee. This group decides how much money each student society or club receives. Also, the Treasurer works as a member of the CKDU Board of Directors, as well as the Gazette Publishing Board. As has been done in previous years, Joanne insures that the 1991/92 Student Union funds will be used as well as possible with none of the financial problems facing several other Canadian University student organizations. The establishment of a student union run clothing store is one of the projects Joanne hopes to initiate.

As a full time student at Dalhousie you contribute almost one hundred dollars to the student union. The entire budget for the 1991/92 council is approximately \$760 000. For more information on how your money is being allotted, Joanne invites you to visit her on the second floor of the SUB.



Alex Boston, the Vice-president external, represents the DSU at both the provincial and federal levels. Through organizations such as the Student's Union of Nova Scotia and the Canadian Federation of Students, Dalhousie students have a stronger voice in determining their future. Issues that impact the student body are brought to the attention of the Government through the lobbying power of these agencies.

"Student concerns of any social nature can be expressed through Alex"

However, topics such as the 3 per cent student loan tax and other monetary or academic affairs are only part of the VP external's role. Student concerns of any social nature can be expressed through Alex. Academic racism, violence against women, and abortion are issues currently being discussed by the CFS. Provincially, the idea of rationalizing the University system is being addressed. By bringing the concerns expressed in these areas back to Dalhousie in the form of literature, or guest speakers, for instance, Alex hopes to educate the populace as well as encourage more feedback.

The Spicy Commission, "the DSU's response to disunity everywhere," has been created by Alex. By using the resources of university societies along with outside groups, an exploration of various issues of concern will be presented in a theatre, dance, lecture, and/or film format twice a week at noon.

"Community Affairs is responsible for the DSU Clown Troop... and other charity projects"



Community Affairs are handled by Evelyn Stewart, at least until she resigns to enter medical school. The Community Affairs executive is responsible for the DSU Clown Troop which is actively involved in local charities. Other charity projects are also organized from this office but volunteers are needed. If you would like to help charities such as the IWK Hospital for Children, clothing drives, or others, contact this office for more information.

The Executive Council now requires someone to fill the office of Communications Chairperson. The Chairperson would be responsible for the promotion of student events, DSU public relations, and advertising. Applications for

this position are available at the council office.

Also, a Member at Large is required. The Member would sit for the Executive at various committee meetings and perform other council duties. First year students are encouraged to apply for this position.

The DSU council executive can be reached at Room 222 of the SUB or 494-1106.

"Jean-Guy works to approve programmes of study and faculty candidates"



Jean-Guy Forgeron is the Vice-President Academic this year. Jean-Guy works in coordination with the President and other Senators to approve the programmes of study of each academic faculty as well as reviewing each faculty's candidates for degrees and other awards.

GLAD

Gay and Lesbian Association of Dalhousie

will be holding its first meeting of the year Thursday September 12 at 6:30 in room 307 in the Students' Union Building.

For more information phone:

Neil 429-4170
Julie 425-3277

or leave a message in the GLAD mailbox at the Dal SUB enquiry desk.