

New options

Student Union elections are almost upon us again though the new Council and Executive will not take office until the end of the year. Elections don't always provide Dal students with any real voting options other than Hertwig-Reynard but they do provide some interesting light entertainment, which is perhaps a useful function. Before the circus-like campaign activities begin it might be interesting to look back on last year's election - the promises made and the promises broken.

Last year's winning team, Russell-Smiley, made few real campaign promises but did emphasize three areas they considered priorities for the upcoming year - the situation of societies on campus, housing and Carleton Campus.

The recent D.A.G.S. / Student Union controversy proved exactly how important some reassessment of the position of societies within the Student Union structure really is. The Gazette is not convinced that this reassessment has been done as completely as it should have been though some positive steps have been taken.

Housing is as critical as it ever was and real action to ease the problem has yet to come from the Student Union. Russell and Smiley suggested last year that a way to supply more housing would be for Dalhousie to purchase several low rise apartment buildings in the campus area. To date no such action has occurred but the real question is whether or not the Union has brought enough pressure to bear on the Administration to take such action. The Gazette feels that Dalhousie students can fully expect to return to Dalhousie in September to a housing shortage as critical as any in the past.

Carleton Campus is no longer the hotbed of dissatisfaction it was two years ago. The Task Force is still somewhat active but not to any great extent. However, the reason Carleton Campus is presently somewhat happier within the Union structure is because the previous administration worked long and diligently to provide solutions to the problems. These solutions were worked out and merely waited for implementation when the present Council took office.

Entertainment was also a hot issue in last year's election campaign. There seems to have been an enormous improvement in this area in the past year, at least there are not nearly as many complaints. Less money and heavier academic burdens may in part account for fewer entertainment complaints, though certainly the appointment of Fiona Perina as Entertainment Director has also eased the situation.

Over all the year has not been particularly bad but it hasn't been that terrific either. It has, if you will, been something of a neutral year. Little emphasis was put on real issues in last year's campaign - one can only hope that this year's issues and not personalities or Gazette Election Extra's will play the predominant role in the election campaign. After all we only get as good as we ask for.

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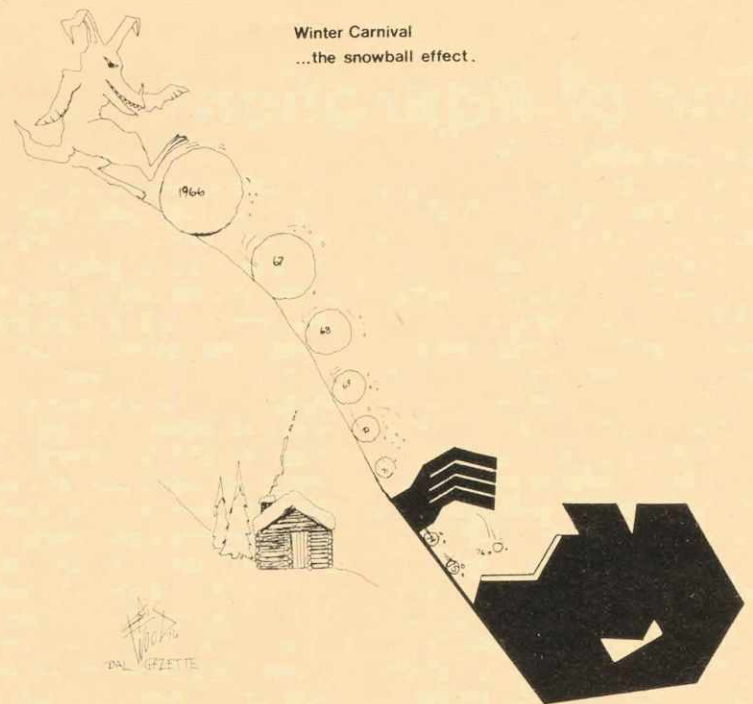
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Letters

Trudeau closet socialist ?

To the Gazette,

While Canadian men and women of letters, position, status, and reputation bantey their respective diagnoses concerning the inherent ills and cures of Prime Minister Trudeau's recent control measures, they would do well to bear one fact of consequence in mind -- their inevitability.

Given our past and late present system of commerce, the Open Market, the incentive of selfinterest in a competitive and materialistic society was relied upon as sufficient to spur on beneficial progress. We have fostered a thorough motivation by profit as the sole true avenue to wholesome self-actualization and comfort.

The resultant "good society" became irreversibly associated with self interest and private indulgence. Yet, to our startled dismay, that same society has saddled us with the inefficient use of our natural resources, the exploitation of quiet profit, few restrictions on greed, and has offered little to compel the individual or corporation toward restraint.

By no error, it has also blessed the western world with a most magnificent standard of living, coupled with the inherent expectation of its constant improvement.

Unfortunately, Canadians have had little appreciation of how these constant improvements were to come about. Our goals have always been extravagant while the consequence of their means were ignored.

Mr. Trudeau, fortunately or unfortunately, is not a "closet"

socialist, secretly transforming our society and jockeying for position within the Warsaw Pact. He speaks of a sentiment of reasoned restraint rather than any system of thought, and of discovering new methods of motivation rather than reorganizing industrial society.

As the pace of competitive industrialization soars, as workers and enterprise managers compete vigorously for the large share of the profit "pie," as natural resources disappear, as accumulated pollution begins to disfigure children and threaten cities, our society moves even closer to the brink of devastating social conflict, irreparable class schisms, and inevitable economic bankruptcy.

It is in this setting, therefore, that government, with the confidence, advice and support of its citizenry, must at last govern.

Today, governments must take a significant role in determining the substantive rules of the market place, and in establishing the procedures and responsibilities of its participants. The viable industrial relations system of the modern industrial society is genuinely tripartite--enterprise managers, workers, and the common elected government of the people.

The trial for this rare Liberal touchstone with reality will be decided not before the fact, but in its pragmatic versus rigid, just versus unjust, and equal versus prejudiced application. To the suspected alarm of the Bud McDougalds and Paul Desmarais'.
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