

Editorial/Opinion

So, like, what's important?

And they're off and running! The issues will soon come forth, but the structure of the election campaign already biases what issues students will be considering and the flavour of next year's political scene.

With the hefty cutting activity that has been a significant pastime for Dalhousie this year, and will be for a few years yet, our connections to the Dalhousie power bases are fundamental to our interests as students.

Students haven't noticed yet that Dalhousie has been put on a strenuous diet for next year. Professors, who will be taking the heavier course loads, have. The elimination of the physics resource centre is one of the first chips cut out of the bone. And decisions may be made sooner than we think to slice the Art Gallery, some sports teams, and, if government grants are less than generous, the first of departmental programs.

We have to be in there when these decisions are made. Who decides if lab fees are introduced, if the Art Gallery or sports teams will be cut? What's more important to our education, the audio-visual equipment, or the physics resource centre?

The Board of Governors and the Senate are where it's happening, man, or at least the only place we can have a direct say in priorities. So why is there no opportunity in this campaign to drill the representatives who will be carrying out this deed?

The presidential teams, their personalities, their massive ideals for the future of the student union, will once again be the focus. \$400 campaigns and four forums will give them a chance to run off at the mouth and get their jabs in edgewise. And once again we will create a council of sheep following the stars. This year's Senate and Board of Governors reps did not show the leadership warranted by their positions.

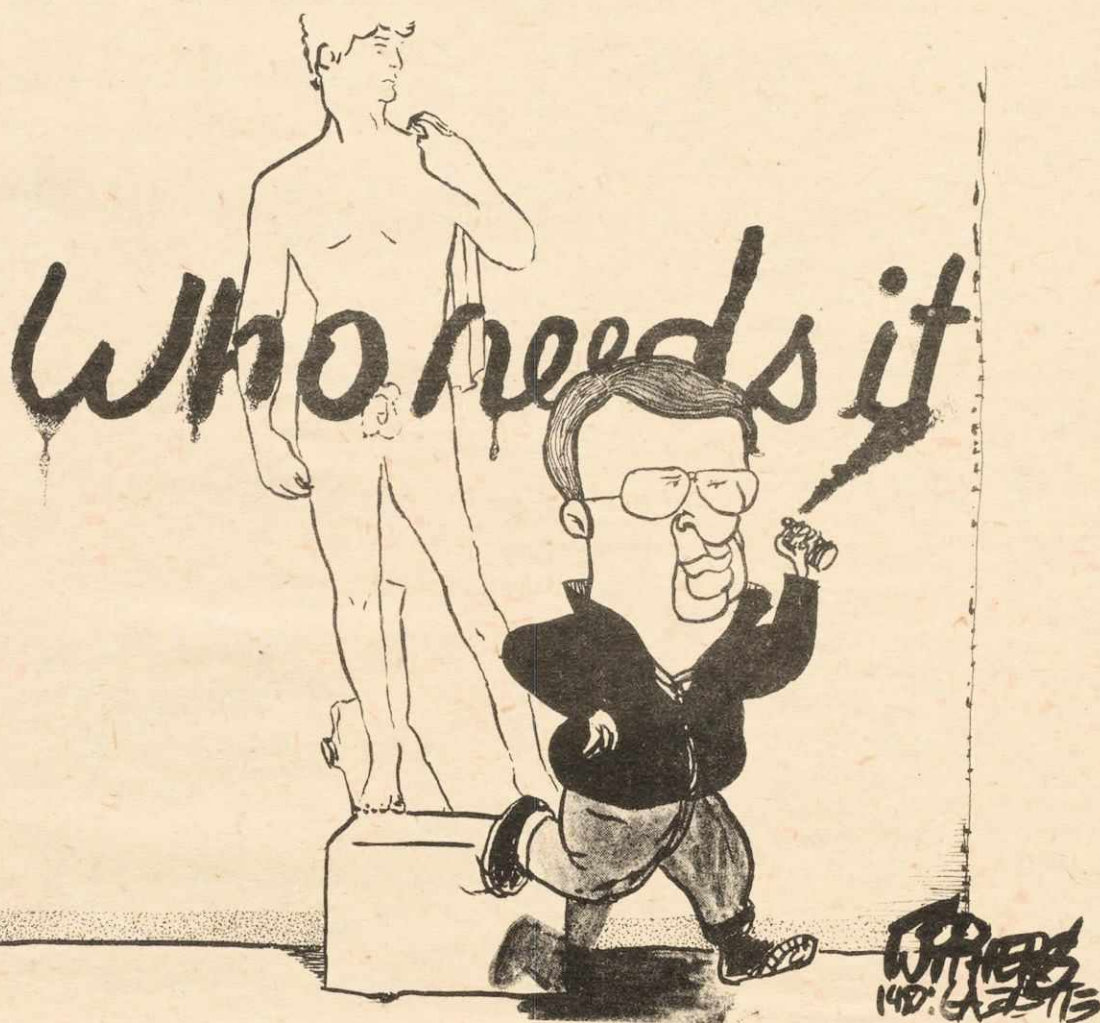
The unimportance we assign to Senate and Board of Governors positions is obvious from the campaign program. Where will they be drilled in public? There is no public forum scheduled.

This year, discussion of the conflicts running through Dal was pathetic. The one time Senate had a fundamental policy decision to make concerning financial recommendations, confusion reigned. Student senators split their vote neatly in half. A nice distinct zero stand on behalf of the student body.

Our education just isn't a popular issue on council. With the release of the MPHEC report, implying a hike of 16 per cent or more for tuition fees next year, the total discussion at council was zilch. One copy of the report was passed around the table for "information purposes".

We want an opportunity to drill our political representatives in Dal's decision-making bodies. We want politically opinionated student representatives, and we want to pin them down on the mandates they will carry out next year.

Student election regulations allow Senate and Board of Governors candidates three banners to give us their stands, as opposed to two for faculty reps. Wow, that's really significant. One can assume that when our team of reps wants to make their point clear, and sway the vote, they will march into Senate and Board meetings carrying a bright red poster.



Letters

Ranking Young Conservative rankled

To the Editor:

Regarding the article "Council deliberating action over ticket forgery," on page 9 of the February 18th edition of the *Gazette*, it disturbs me to see a reference made in said article pertaining to the **alleged** forger's political affiliation especially when said **alleged** forger's identity is not revealed.

Firstly, by not disclosing the individual's identity, the article is casting aspersions about the character of any number of "ranking members of the young Conservatives." Secondly, the mere mention of "young Conservatives" leads us back to the tired old pattern of Tory-bashing. Could not this **alleged** forger also be a ranking member of the local tropical fish society, Slim Whitman fan club, or bowling league?

It is commendable for the *Gazette* to bring issues of this nature into the open, but what on earth has the nature of this act to do with any outside political or organizational capacity?

Yours truly,

Margaret Crook
an **identified** "ranking young Conservative"

Editor's note:

The *Gazette* apologizes for the possible inference in the article **Council deliberating action over ticket forgery**, that Young Conservatives had anything to do with the forgery.

Forgery not revealed to ticket buyer

To the Editor:

I would like to correct Chris Worthingham, the individual who sold me a forged ticket for the winter carnival SUB Explosion.

In the *Dal Gazette* of Feb. 18th it is stated that he claims he sold the tickets for two dollars and that he informed us that they were forged. He may have let some other pigeons off easily but he charged me five dollars and did not mention that the ticket was forged.

To the Council at large I advise a speedy and effective remedy to this unfortunate situation. At least repayment should be considered. In any event the accused name should be published.

Yours truly,

Donald Weld

Imperialism real nuclear threat

To the Editor:

A series of workshops promoted as an informational conference for educating the public about the issues of nuclear war is currently taking place at Dalhousie University. It is sponsored by the office of the President of Dalhousie University, Part-Time Studies, DAGS, Voice of Women, Project Ploughshares and the military-financed Centre for Foreign Policy Studies. While some of the organizers may have good intentions and a genuine desire for a just and lasting peace, this series, more than simply informative, may be lulling people to sleep with illusory opposition to war preparations and an incorrect presentation of the problem.

The workshops present a false dichotomy in world politics that the U.S.A. is "democratic" while the Soviet Union is "communist." Neither the term "democratic" nor the term "communist" apply correctly to either superpower. The way the U.S.A. is run with real-life "J.R. Ewings," Reagans and Carters is a mockery of democracy. The Soviet Union's "communism" is nothing but state monopoly capitalism with a "socialist" disguise which developed, with the assistance of Mikhail Suslov,

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