

The Dalhousie Gazette

elected representatives from office. Even in my anger, I can see the weakness in this proposal and yet is there any other way of letting your Council know that they have betrayed your trust by blatantly overstepping their authority? Personally, I am totally disgusted with and thoroughly disappointed in this year's Council. Because of the irresponsibility shown tonight, I not only question if the Council deserves an increase in their revenue, I question whether they deserve any revenue at all. It appears that the majority on Council do not feel they have an obligation to be responsible to the student body. They certainly know that the apathy at Dalhousie will permit this denial of democratic principles to go virtually unchallenged.

Yours truly,
Valerie A.E. Dyer
Shirreff Hall Representative

P.S. Go ahead and rebut my uncomplimentary comments again, Dan...I'm too tired and disappointed to even care.

Defends

Decision

To the GAZETTE

During this past week, you have probably heard of the decision of your Student Union to increase the student union fee for next year by \$10.00. Your initial reaction to this step will probably be one of amazement when you look at the results of the fee referendum of October 30, 1974. In my opinion, the student body was in favour of an increase but the question remains: What will the increase be and will this increase be justified by the Student Union?

I still believe that the majority of the Students on this campus want the Union to play a more active role on the issues that concern the needs of the students and to give every student at Dalhousie an equal chance to benefit from everything this Student Union provides. This has not been the case for the students of the Carleton campus because they feel that, since their energies are not being used in the Student Union Building, they are getting something far less than what they should be receiving.

Everybody on campus pays the same basic fee of 40 dollars but a great majority of the Students who are not in day-to-day contact with the SUB or the Upper Campus are not benefiting from the resources the Student Union provides (or should I say most of them). They do not benefit from Course Evaluation or Course Monitoring, they are unable to hear the raves and waves of Dal Radio (CKDU), they have to cram or provide eating facilities for over 2000 students, faculty and staff in an area which is much the same size as the front lobby of the SUB. For the major societies a great benefit which the Union provides and they cannot take part in because they are back to classes is our very own Orientation program which costs the groups on the Carleton campus close to

\$500.00, a figure they cannot easily absorb in their budget. In the past these students have had very little chance to become involved or go to the major social activities on campus because the tickets have been distributed from the SUB and, since these students have about an hour or so free at lunch time, they were unable to buy tickets. The special lecture series or guest speakers usually speak at times which are reasonable for the Upper Campus people but since a large number of students are in Hospital at these hours they can not attend these excellent events. The students on the Carleton Campus have just now received a temporary bookstore which helped quite a bit, but is really short of anything that will solve the problem on a year round basis.

I agree with some of the comments that I am being too slanted to these students and that being Vice-President of the whole Student Union, I should look at each student equally. However, the situation in the Medical Students' Society and from sectors of the other Health Students' Society is quite serious and they have pondered the idea of leaving the Student Union if something is not done to cure the problem.

With the fee increase of 12 dollars there was provision for monies which would allow the Student Union to get outside the SUB and into the problem areas where help is badly needed. The campus was split as to a \$12.00 dollar increase or no increase. To many people I have talked to, their feeling has been: "Why should I vote for any increase if what I vote for won't do me any good." The students want something better done or they don't care if anything is done if we can't go beyond the Student Union Building. My decision for a 12 dollar increase was made on the basis that there are problems which have to be solved quickly and we can't be negative in our quest for perfection of students' wishes. I feel we have to be fair to every Dalhousie student and we have to be willing to give a little for ourselves and for others to make sure all aspirations on Campus are met.

Yours sincerely,

E. Lorne Richardson
Vice-President
Dalhousie Student Union
P.S. Remember - inflation is growing at 10% annually.

The Vocal

Majority

To the Gazette

SMIFF, SOB, WAIL. Ho hum...Here we go again. If I hear one more word about student apathy, I'm going to SCREAM!!

Let me explain in simple English why apathetic me is not involved in student activities, and didn't even bother to vote in the referendum (or whatever that thing was).

I would dearly love to join the ski club, Karate club, debating club, and take over

the Dalhousie Gazette. There is a slight problem. From the moment I get up in the morning until I get to bed, on weekends, there is a constant supply of homework with which to stimulate my unexcited mind. If Frankenstein doesn't have to be read, some nonsense about urban-rural migration has to be discussed in an interesting (imagine urban-rural migration being interesting), thought provoking essay. Of course one could always do a substandard job or even not bother to do it at all...and flunk or make C's and D's or something. But what are we here for in the first place? (if in fact we even know that).

Some people will tell us we are not here to make A's, but to learn something; which are two different things. It is unfortunate that the professional schools act as if this idea for being at university does not exist. If you're one of those suckers who's breaking her back to reach that thrilling ambition of an "A" average to get into one of the post-graduate faculties - where's the time?

By the time Friday nite rolls around, one does not feel like running down to Killam Library and doing research for your speech in that next fascinating debating topic of something to do with the welfare state destroying the backbone and the fiber of the nation. If anything, one just feels like getting drunk, or better yet, burning down the A & A Building or throwing Professor Whatshisname into the Northwest Arm to see if he bounces, sinks, or floats. The only break during the day seems to be grub time, and it never ceases to amaze me how the steak, fish, peas, potatoes, carrots, and coleslaw in residence all taste exactly the same. For a while we were worried whether we'd catch pneumonia when the snow belched in through that loose window in the showers, (that is - those who found time for a shower).

So, if you folks really want to do something for us apathetics, how about chopping down the workload? Then, I'll join every damn club on campus and THRILL OF THRILLS!!! Maybe, I'll finally have time to read the Dalhousie Gazette completely.

Yours hastily,
A Cross-eyed Freshette

Dear Freshy:

CONGRADULATIONS!!
Your letter is interesting, well-constructed and shows you have a flair for comedy. Now tell me...how long did it take you to write it up and type it for us? It might surprise you to know that contributions to this newspaper often involve as much time in the writing.

You claim that you must spend most of your time on your studies; but many of the events we ask our people to cover can involve topics that add a new dimension to their subjects. Your reference to urban rural migration suggests you are a Political Science or a Sociology major. I would refer you to the CIC article, and the China article this paper.

Also, many people have some vague idea that once they enter that GAZETTE

they are chained to the layout board and never let go. Actually we could hardly demand weekly contributions, in terms of articles or time from any of the students. Many of our staff are sporadic, making contributions only when they have the time, or when certain topics catch their fancy.

Conversely, many topics covered by students in their class papers are contemporary and, with some editing, are well worth printing in the paper. You may also give this some consideration in the time you spend at Dal.

Anyway, thanks for the contribution and please don't give up on us!

Comments To

Councillors

To the GAZETTE:

This is a short comment on the Student Referendum motion to increase Student Union Fees by \$10., which was passed this Monday by the Student Council.

I wish to state my sentiments that the Council should have questioned the student body again in a second referendum, since it was obvious the first referendum vote yielded confusing results which could be interpreted as the Council wished. I feel that Student Council should not have voted for a specific increase in the meeting, and can only say so now because I was prevented for doing so at the meeting by a motion to vote on the \$10 increase motion without discussing it first. So much for democracy.

So to all those I have tried to reason with in the last three weeks who said Council would vote as it pleased regardless of student wishes, I guess you were right after all. And to those who said Student Councillors would be shirking their responsibility in asking the student body for a further directive in the decision, I would gladly have taken the blame.

However, I sincerely hope that you reasonably agree with the decision of your Student Council to raise the fees by \$10. You'll have to live with it next year anyway.

Andy Foster
Science Representative,
Student Council

More Comments.....

To the GAZETTE:

I am writing this letter in response or comment to the Dalhousie Student Council meeting of Monday, November 11, in two capacities, those being, Pharmacy rep. on the Council and the Chief Electoral Officer of the recently held By-Elections and Referenda.

Firstly, I was rather dismayed with the way Council debated an increase of \$10.00 to Student Union Fees. I fully agree that there should be an increase, and one of at least \$12.00, but the way the increase was determined was a bit appalling, to say the least. As one who did

a fair amount of work in compiling the results of the referendum, I can fully see arguments for and against a fee increase. But a helluva lot of Council members were interested in only one thing -- that of increasing fees. And the sad part is that they did this only on basis of a part of the results. They did not consider the total results, as far as I could ascertain, and thus their reasoning was not totally justified.

Secondly, I would like to say, that although quite a few members of the faculty of Pharmacy were against fee increase, it is advantageous for Pharmacy, because with this increase in fees, there will be more effort put into the Lower Campus to better serve their needs. I feel the reason students on the Lower Campus voted against the referendum, was that they felt the money from the increase would be staying on the Upper Campus. I think those students were being very narrow-minded in this, when all they had to do was to ask a few questions and show a slight interest, rather than merely sitting on their asses and not wanting any increase.

Since I am not the rep for Medicine, I can't really speak for them, but I think the reason they voted against a fee increase is that they have been totally dissatisfied with the Union in the past and wouldn't mind breaking away, and so the few that voted, voted for no increase, failing to realize that their dissatisfaction was not only the fault of the Union, but to a large extent the fault of Medicine itself.

Thus, I think an increase in fees is for the better, and that Pharmacy students and other professional students should not sit back and bitch, but stand up and bitch and press for things that they want.

Thank you,
Warren Meek
Pharmacy Rep &
Chief Electoral Officer

Comments Cont'd

To the GAZETTE:

In regards to the special student council meeting, of November 11th, whereupon the elected representatives decided it would be nice to increase the Student Union dues by the sum of \$10., and then proceeded to do so -- saying that the results of the last referendum indicated that such was the choice of two-thirds of the total votes cast.

"Two-thirds of the student vote indicated a raise in student fees," was the slogan (heralded by the supporters of this increase), that echoed the walls of the Union chambers with few to argue. How did they get these marvellous results? Well it was all based on the Student Councils interpretation of the findings of that referendum that hardly anyone knew enough about. If you remember the votes for this referendum were cast on what is known as a

Cont'd pg. 6