

National Student Affairs

President-elect and Finance-elect disqualified at Carleton

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CARLETON UNIVERSITY

Christian Dallaire sits in his office, a glum expression on his face. He shakes his head and shrugs his shoulders in silent disbelief. When he is finally able to speak, his voice is thick with emotion.

"It's really depressing," says Dallaire. "This is a hard thing for me."

Dallaire, Carleton University Students' Association president, and Finance Commissioner-elect Sachelle Magloire had the carpet pulled out from under them when the pair was disqualified from the CUSA general elections Feb. 20. Just days after they swept the recent elections, council's constitutional board ruled they violated the electoral code by slipping election pamphlets under residence doors and voted to remove them from their positions. So instead of preparing for a second term as CUSA president, Dallaire will soon be emptying out his cluttered desk and taking the birthday cards and photos down from the office walls.

"I'm still shocked," says Dallaire. "I didn't expect it because in my eyes I did everything by the book."

The presidential and finance commissioner spots will automatically be handed over to second-place candidates Heidi Van Dyk and Paul Hennessey, who ran on separate slates.

It's the third time in four years CUSA elections have been plagued with controversy. In the 1996 elections, Dallaire watched as presidential winner Jamey Heath was disqualified on the grounds that his campaign manager was

leading voters to the polling booth. In the follow-up election, in which Heath was banned from running for president, Dallaire won the seat he currently holds.

In 1994, all CUSA election results were tossed and the entire election held again after a complaint that not enough debate had been heard in the days before the election.

Dallaire says his disqualification is unjustified because he received written permission from the residence association and the housing department to slide pamphlets under residence doors. "If I honestly did something wrong, I would not have a problem being disqualified," says Dallaire.

Darcy Val, chair of the constitutional board that ousted Dallaire and Magloire, stands by the board's decision despite the fact Dallaire had permission from housing and the residence students' association to campaign in residence.

He says allowing Dallaire to pamphlet in residence gave him an unfair advantage over other candidates who were warned residence was off-limits.

"This is our interpretation of the rules," says Val. "We followed the strict letter of the law."

He says the practice of not sliding election pamphlets under residence doors is "not specifically laid out" but is something of an unwritten rule.

"Nobody's been able to hand out pamphlets under the door in res," says Val.

Because a challenge to the decision was brought forward at the Feb. 20 meeting and failed, the same motion

can't be brought forth again.

"They could well try, but I think it would take some serious re-wording of the motion," says Val.

Paul Hennessey, who will take over as finance commissioner, voted to overturn the decision of the constitutional board to disqualify Magloire and Dallaire.

"I thought that the constitutional board had made a wrong decision."

At first, he said he would refuse to accept the finance commissioner

Brock's radio back on air

Despite many obstacles, setbacks and scandals, Brock University once again has a voice after 12 years of radio silence. At present, CFBU broadcasts via closed circuit daily from noon until 4:00 pm over the telephone lines and into Isac's. All broadcasts are done by volunteer DJ's who are using the closed circuit broadcast time as preparation for future FM broadcasting.

Denzil D'Sa, Spoken Word Coordinator for CFBU, regards the closed circuit programming as a "learning ground so that we can get rid of the dead air and mistakes before we go on FM."

CFBU is expected to begin broadcasting on the frequency 103.7 FM sometime in May. Before this can occur, the Brock Radio Collective (BRC) has to be granted corporation status. The paperwork for the incorporation of the BRC has been submitted and final approval is expected within weeks. The installation and inspection of an antenna and transmitter is also necessary.

The immediate future for the Brock Radio Collective will involve establishing

position because he thought the disqualification was unfair.

"I had a couple of weeks to think about it and I decided to take the job," says Hennessey. "I think the last thing this association needs right now is more turmoil."

Heidi Van Dyk, CUSA's new president, says she was surprised to hear about the disqualification, and vows to do everything in her power to avoid a repeat in the future.

"I'd like to see some sort of electoral

policies and procedures for the training of on-air programmers, increasing student awareness of the closed circuit broadcasts in Isac's with a poster campaign, and establishing a working relationship with BUSU.

Volunteer coordinator, Kevin MacLeod, states, "we want to represent every aspect of Brock and the community at large. If there is anyone who would like to be represented by the media, we would like them to take the initiative and contact us so that they can represent themselves."

An important step in process has now been taken and CFBU can now work at establishing its identity on campus and in the community. Music Coordinator, Dawn McLeod sums up the vision of Brock Radio, "CFBU is here to represent the diversity of Brock University and the surrounding community. We are here to provide the public with something different from commercial radio and we want to be able to give media access to those who don't have the money for access to commercial media."

<http://www.brocku.ca/press/>

reform and make sure things like this don't happen again."

Several student petitions are floating around campus demanding that CUSA overturn the disqualification. One petition also calls for council to abolish the constitutional board altogether.

Dallaire says the petitions give him hope that he will be able to overturn the decision.

"I'm not going to give up. Not without exploring every option possible."

<http://www.charlatan.carleton.ca>

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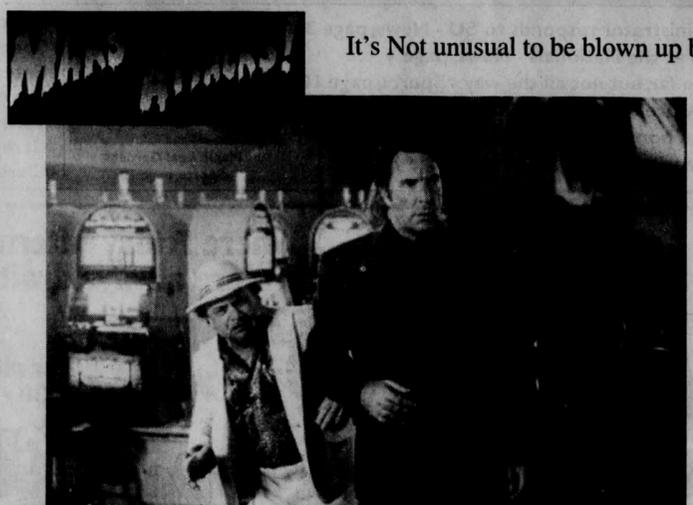
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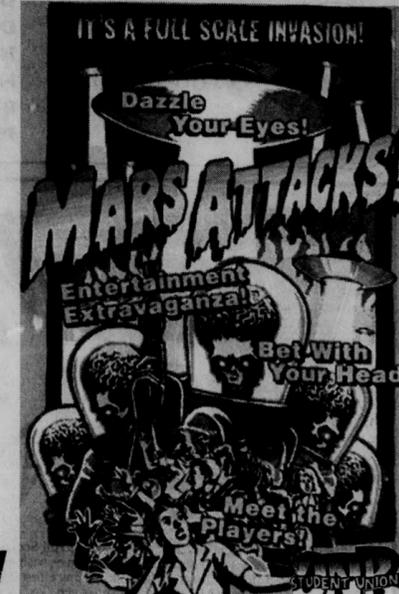
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