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## DSU's "friendly" hiring practices

by Alex Mason

Six months after Lale Kesebi and Dennis MacNeil successfully campaigned for the offices of Dalhousie Student Union President and Executive Vice President, Danielle Foley is holding two prominent positions in the DSU. Foley and Kesebi are fellow law students, and former roommates.

One of the positions Foley holds is that of Course Evaluation Guide Co-ordinator (CEGC). The job pays an \$8000 honorarium.

Most positions hired by the DSU go through a recruitment committee chaired by Executive VP Dennis MacNeil. He and two other members accept all applications for a given position and shortlist them.

Then they invite a small number of applicants for interviews. Out of these interviews the committee selects one person they think should get the job.

A recommendation is then sent to Council. The DSU Council then votes on the recruitment committee's choice. At this time Council can debate the committee's decision, and anyone dissatisfied with the recommendation, or the recruiting process in general, can have their views heard.

This opportunity for debate guarantees that all applicants will be considered fairly. If anyone feels they've been overlooked they have a chance to say so before the vote.

For the position of Course Evalu-

ation Guide Co-ordinator, Dennis MacNeil alone shortlisted applicants. He says between 12 and 20 people applied for the job. From that he picked four possible candidates, without the help of anyone on the committee.

MacNeil then set up interviews for his four choices. The day before the interviews he asked Fraser Matte and Sandra MacDonald to sit in on the interviews with him. In the past, Matte and MacDonald sat on an official DSU committee which recruited other positions on Council.

When MacNeil chaired the official recruitment committee all three members were involved in shortlisting applicants. The committee's objective was to reach a consensus, so that MacNeil would not have to vote, so that he could remain impartial in the procedure.

When interviewing for the CEGC position, MacNeil was not an impartial member of the committee. He voted to endorse Foley. It was Fraser Matte who voted last, in order to break the tie, created when Sandra MacDonald voted in favour of another candidate.

There was no recommendation to Council. Foley's hiring came as a direct result of the committee's action.

Matte says he doesn't consider the committee that hired Danielle Foley the "official" recruitment committee, because the recommendation did not go to Council for approval. He and MacDonald both say their role

Interested individuals must provide application and submit it no later than October 8, 1992.

Applications may be picked up and dropped off in Room 222 of the Student Union Building.

For more information please contact: Dennis MacNeil, Executive Vice President, Dalhousie Student Union, Phone 494 - 1106

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Dalhousie Student Union

in the procedure was small.

MacNeil alone performed the role of the recruitment committee, before Matte and MacDonald were invited into the process, thus they acted as a hiring committee rather than a recruitment committee.

MacNeil says it was within his authority to hire Foley. There is nothing in the DSU Constitution that says Foley's position must be approved by Council.

Lale Kesebi denied that Foley

helped her with the election campaign.

"No, not at all. Not at all," Kesebi said. "She wouldn't have any role beyond any role that a normal friend would have, or just to say 'hi, how's it going?' Not at all. No more than she would, or that anyone that I know on Council that would know me directly that would say 'good luck!'"

Danielle Foley says she helped Lale Kesebi and Dennis MacNeil with their election campaign. "I

helped Lale one night paint posters," Foley told CKDU, "and then she needed a scrutineer to count votes, so I counted votes for her."

Kesebi isn't worried that people might think the hiring looks like a conflict of interest. "I don't have any more influence over the recruiting process than any one else."

"Well, maybe I'm naive to think that political appointments don't actually happen," said the third year law student.

## OPTAMUS helps students make ends meet

by Marie MacPherson

Rising tuition and high rent, combined with the crunch of the recession, can sometimes leave students unable to meet basic needs.

In response, the Organization of Part-time and Mature University Students (OPTAMUS) is establishing an on-campus food bank and clothing bank for children.

The idea for a permanent food bank at Dalhousie originally came out of last year's "Freeze the Fees" campaign, says Tay Landry, OPTAMUS president. "OPTAMUS had held our own food drive at Christmas last year, and it was used. When we mentioned this at the student rally in the McInnis Room, people thought it was a great idea."

"There really is a specific student need," he says, noting that students have been using the Metro Food

Bank facilities.

While the children's clothing bank is up and running in Room 314 of the Student Union Building, OPTAMUS is still waiting for official approval for the food bank. The approval is to come before the end of the month.

Landry worries that students might feel embarrassed to use the bank. He encourages, "If you're a student whose costs have gotten too high, that's what we're here for."

St. Francis Xavier is the only other university currently running a food bank in Nova Scotia. Mount St. Vincent is considering opening one, as well.

"The response from other universities that have heard about Dal's initiative has been great - they are very interested in following the need," says Landry.

Dianne Swinemar, spokesman for the Metro Food Bank, says that while they will support the efforts of

OPTAMUS, food banks are only band-aid services.

Swinemar says, "A food bank might take away the hunger for a bit, but the need is still there. I would encourage student leaders to look at

the reason for hunger and poverty among the student body. If the cost of tuition and books is too high, for example, then perhaps this could be addressed."

While many students still are not

aware of the program, the donations have been coming in for the clothing bank. Landry hopes that both services will be well received by the university community.

## Celebrate women's history

by Lise d'Entremont

October has been designated Women's History Month, announced the Honourable Mary Collins, Federal Minister responsible for the Status of Women. Women's History Month coincides with the annual commemoration of the "Person Case", which on October 18, 1929, five Canadian women won the lengthy legal and political battle which legally recognized Canadian women as persons.

Throughout Canada's history, individual women have emerged as community leaders to address unmet needs, organize for the common good, and fight for social justice. "Women's History Month," says Minister Collins, "will be a time of recognition and celebration of women's contribution to our history as a nation and as a people."

In the past, history has focused on political, military and economic leaders and events, an approach which excludes women, people of colour,

and the mass of ordinary citizens from history books. The objectives of Women's History Month are:

to celebrate the achievements of women as an important part of Canadian heritage

to foster appreciation for the contributions of women in Canada: Locally, nationally and internationally;

to heighten awareness and understanding of the diversity of women's lives in our society

Women's History Month will be celebrated each year.