

Dalhousie Student Elections :

The Gazette asked presidential candidate Gord Owen and vice-presidential candidate Jeff Champion to provide written answers to the following questions.

Why are you running? Based on past experience, what makes you capable for the job?

The positions of President and Vice-President of the Student Union are unique, but complimentary roles. In our interpretation, the President's role is an external one, representing student concerns at both a local and a national level, while that of the Vice-President is basically internal, dealing with the day to day operations of the Student Union and with organized societies on campus. As a team, we have been actively involved in almost every aspect of the Student Union operations, at the club level, in societies, in council, the executive, and on the Senate of the University.

There is a great potential for student input and the establishment of a working relationship with the new university administration, as well as with the DFA and the Alumni. In addition, the continuance of the DSU services to the student requires previous experience and familiarity with such operations. We feel we have the experience and have demonstrated our capabilities to take on both tasks. Our combined experience on council this year includes membership on the executive, chairman of the SUNS Campus Committee, Chairman of the DAGS-DSU Negotiations Committee, Chairman of Entertainment, Chairman of Honoraria Committee, membership on Grants and Employment Resolutions Committees, and active involvement in other societies and organizations on campus.

What do you feel will be the issues facing council for '80-'81?

The issues relevant to SUNS are ones which concern the basic welfare of post secondary students in the province. These issues center on the deficiencies in the student aid program, funding restraint, rising education costs, coupled with a decrease in educational standards, and the problems caused by high rates of student unemployment. As in any organization, SUNS can be no better than the people behind it. Dalhousie, being the largest post secondary institution in the province, should increase its participation in the organization to assist in tackling these problems on the provincial level. Our immediate goal is to have a Dalhousie student elected to the SUNS Executive.

Greater community awareness of the problems facing education in this province will assist us in effectively ad-

programming department in order to achieve positive results.

Our executive would actively pursue the establishment of day care facilities on the campus, to cater to those students with small children. We feel that this is an area which has been overlooked in the past.

We will also support the efforts to provide for an on-going course evaluation program. This would serve to provide students with relevant information in selecting courses, and also aid professors and instructors in improving their teaching methods and course structure.



Gord Owen

What do you think about tuition increase? What are your feelings on the MPHEC [Maritime Premiers Higher Education Council] report for the present year?

It is perhaps unrealistic to expect that tuition fees will not continue to rise in the next few years. The present policy of the provincial government and the MPHEC, is that tuition fees should increase at the present rate of inflation. This is entirely unsatisfactory. The high unemployment rate for students attempting to find summer jobs to finance their education is an example of the inherent problems in such a policy. It ultimately means that fewer students in this province will benefit from a university degree. Because of the seriousness underlying this situation, one of the strongest commitments of our executive would be to keep any increases in the present cost of education to a minimum.

The government of Nova Scotia met the full amount of the MPHEC recommendation for 1980-81, however this is not as gratifying as it may seem. The MPHEC report appears to be concerned more with present governmental restraint policies than with the role of post-secondary education in the future of the Maritime provinces. We feel that there is a critical lack of long term planning from both the provincial government and the MPHEC.

How do you think council

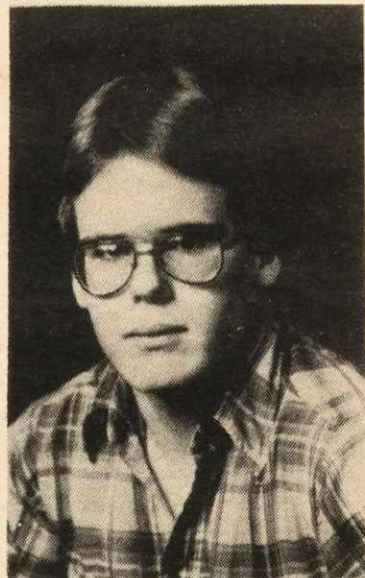
should divide their energy between services [Grawood, entertainment] and issues such as cutbacks and tuition increases?

The members of council must work together to improve the quality of support which students receive from the government and the university administration. The Student Union Executive, as full time employees of the Union, must anticipate decisions from these bodies, and make student representatives on council aware of the effects their decisions might have.

In regard to the internal operations of the Student Union, such as Bar Services and Entertainment, the student representatives must bring feedback from their respective faculties to the Executive, who can then work with Council to make necessary improvements in the level of services provided.

What have the weaknesses of past councils been? How do you propose to remedy / avoid these?

The principal weakness of past councils has been the lack of communication and contact with the student body as a whole. In order to rectify this, and increase their support, we as executive members of the student union, would work more closely with societies on campus, and increase our contact with the individual students. By showing the students that we are more aware of their concerns, they will be more supportive in our efforts.



Jeff Champion

Do you feel council publicity is a problem? If so, do you plan to deal with this problem?

Communications between the student body and council is presently a major problem. Part of our solution is to have separate Student Union bulletin boards placed in most of the buildings on campus. This

would prevent the Student Union news from being lost under a myriad of other notices. We would increase the use of present media sources on campus such as the

Gazette and CKDU as a means of communicating council activities and issues to the students.

The presidential/vice-presidential team of Jim Enman and Brad Wicks provided the following commentary on their candidacy.

We would like to emphasize at the outset that we are not interested in being elected as president and vice-president of the Students' Union. This statement will be our only participation in the election campaign. Our reason for being nominated as candidates is to avoid some of the consequences of the ridiculous election rule which prohibits the president and vice-president from being elected by acclamation.

Nominations for presidential teams had been open and properly advertised for five weeks, and were within minutes of being extended for a second time when we submitted our nomination. Surely five weeks, including one extension, is ample time for anybody seriously interested in the positions to have themselves nominated. The absence of any nominations other than Gord Owen and Jeff Champion suggests that either no one else at Dalhousie was interested in taking on the responsibilities, or, other potentially interested candidates had no desire to run against a team whose experience, ability and popularity they recognize.

Had nominations been extended yet again, then the election for all positions on Student Council would have been delayed for weeks, until after the study break. What's the point? Why create such an inconvenience in the hope that eventually someone might come forward to challenge the one team which is interested? Is it likely that serious and suitable candidates would require two or three extensions of the call for nominations before finally submitting their names? Hardly.

The only rationale we have been given for the rule is a desire to prevent a team of idiots from getting into office unchallenged. In theory, some interested team will come forward to save the integrity of the positions. Even accepting this shaky reasoning, wouldn't one extension be sufficient? If no one objects to a presidential team enough to run against them within one extension period, then surely that team has implicitly been accepted by the student body and should be acclaimed.

It's a shame that the situation has arisen requiring a non-campaign for president and vice-president in order for the only interested team to get elected, but it has.

The Gazette asked Board of Governors candidates Sandra

Zed and Gordon Neal to prepare written answers for the following questions.

Why do you want to be a student representative on the Board of Governors and what are your qualifications?

ZED: The position of student representative on the Board of Governors of Dalhousie University is an office that requires not only an understanding of the operation of this institution but also requires experience in dealing with student affairs. The task that a member of this body has cannot be taken lightly as it is the supreme governing body of this university. The Board of Governors can veto any legislation passed by faculty, Senate or students of the Student Union. As a member of this board, I would also have voting rights on the student council and intend to take full advantage of these privileges.

Having been active around residence in several areas of interest, including a donship which I am serving presently and with my involvement as a Senator and Student Counsellor this year, I feel that I can make a significant contribution to the Board of Governors. My committee experience includes the Senate Discipline Committee, the Committee on Studies, the Faculty of Arts and Science Committee.

My record shows the interest I have demonstrated on behalf of students in the past, that is, attendance at all meetings. With your support I will continue to show a keen interest in student issues and I will work to represent your ideas and aspirations to the best of my abilities.

What do you feel are the major issues facing students today?

ZED: Of course, the major concern of the students is the spiraling inflation which is reflected in our increasing tuition fees. Governments at all levels must be made to realize that the quality of education in our region cannot be compromised and must be sustained at all costs.

We must also confront and collaborate in our efforts to challenge the cutbacks in our university services. Specific reference may be made here to the cleaning services in our buildings which have fallen well below acceptable or satisfactory levels.

What do you think have been problems of this year's council?

ZED: This year's council has been characterized by both outstanding and qualitative leadership. On the whole, council has performed as a responsible and keen group of individuals in the management of student's affairs. There remains, however, room for improvement in the committee structure of council. It is important to remember that such improve-