

EVAN RICHARDS

The position of senate representative holds essentially, responsibility to represent the attitudes and feelings of the student union with clarity and fairness to the Dalhousie Senate. This means certain qualities are necessary.

Firstly, the ability to get along and work with others is prominent. Not only does a senate rep have to make clear the stand which is taken by the student union before it is presented. Both of these aspects require the ability to listen to both sides of a situation, in other words listening to others, as well as to decide logically which decision is best suited to the needs of the students.

My experience in these kinds of organizations was in high school. I haven't had very much exposure in university council oriented work with the exception that I've been on the yearbook staff both of my years at Dal. However, in high school I was on the yearbook staff again for two years, the second of which I was one of the two editors. The same year I held two positions on council, a class



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representative, as well as an executive seat for the yearbook editors. From that experience I learned how to look at both sides of an issue and make the most beneficial choice. It is this ability and the ability to represent those choices clearly that is important, and I feel I am capable of representing Dal students this way.

SEAN SWEENEY



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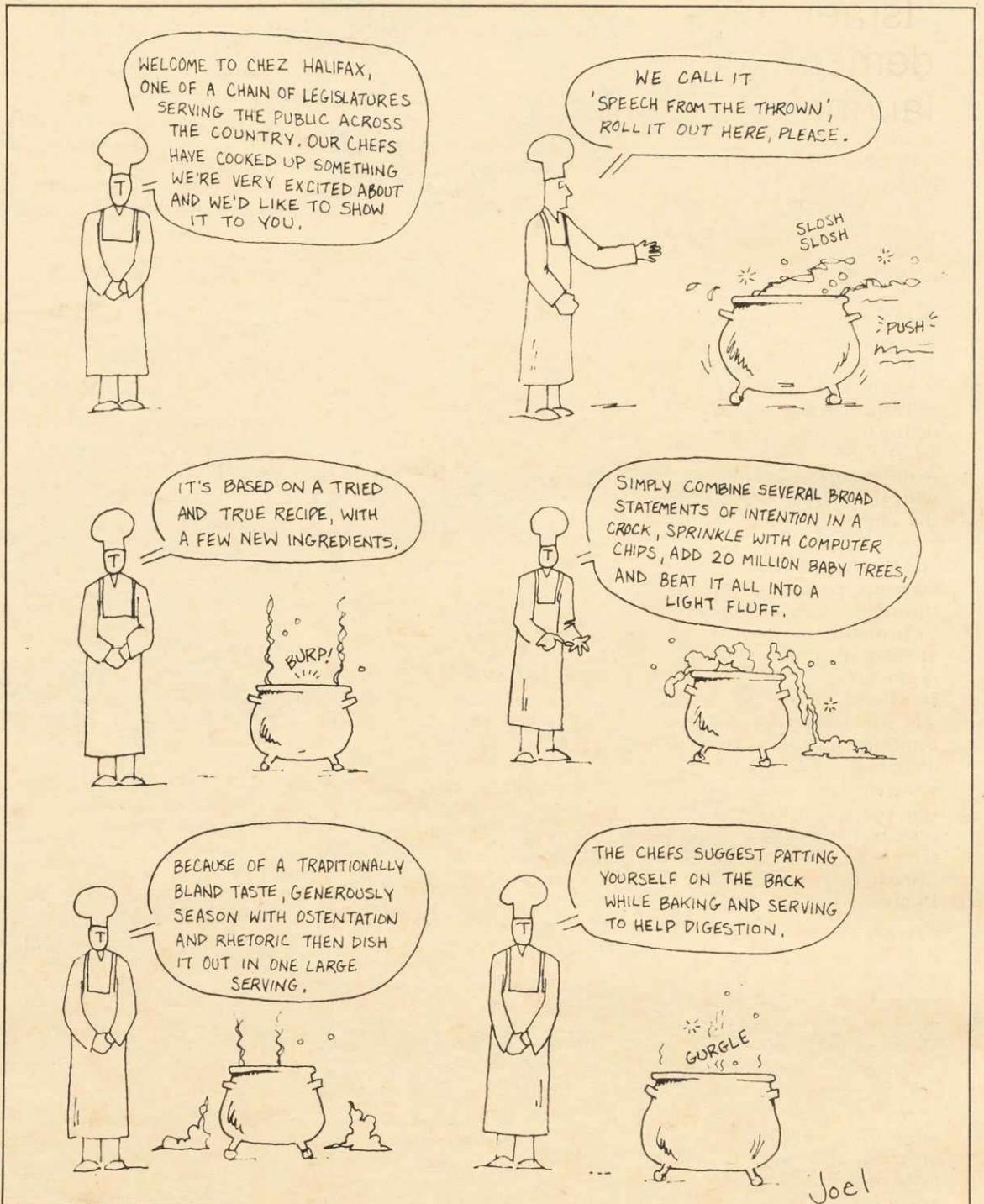
experience an imperative ingredient in student senators. This is why my experience as president of Vancouver community college (6,000 students) best qualifies me for a senate seat. During this term as president 1983-1984, the college administration was active in implementing the 'hatchet' policies of Social Credit 'fiscal restraint.' Cost efficiency frequently prevailed over academic needs. During this time I developed the essentials to effectively represent the interests of students.

I see a similar problem of government underfunding developing in Nova Scotia. Student representatives at all levels — senate, Board of Governors, and student council are going to have to increasingly battle for each and every academic right which, in the past, has been taken for granted.

Experience I believe, is therefore essential for effective student representation.

Administrative bodies are unfortunately ponderous and often cumbersome. Behind-the-scenes lobbying and petty nugatorial politics make

EDITORIAL



Buchanan gov't should be throne out

ON FEB. 28, TO MARK THE opening of the provincial legislature, 15 guns were fired on the Citadel for the Lieutenant-Governor, Al Abraham.

They missed him every time. Actually, the Lieutenant-Governor was not the target. With better aim, the gunners could have wiped out half the provincial cabinet, sparing us the trouble of another Tory-led session of the legislature.

Judging by the content, or lack of content, of the speech from the throne delivered that day, what's most likely to be shot full of holes is the province's post-secondary education system.

Clearly John Buchanan & Co. don't expect much from this sitting of the House. The throne speech is supposed to outline the moves the government will make during the session. If the length of the document is any indication, the government will be making so few moves that there is a possibility of *rigor mortis* setting in.

The outlook for university education is particularly bleak. At no point in the speech is the word "university" used, despite the fact that universities are one of the government's most important and costly responsibilities. In a 105-point speech, youth and education are mentioned in only eight.

The only significant news for post-secondary education is the computerization of the student aid office, as well as vague promises of expansion for the Nova Scotia Institute of Technology and the Agricultural College. Job training and trade schools, rather than arts and science degree programmes, are obviously the government's overriding priorities.

On the other hand, volumes could be written on what the throne speech *didn't* say. No mention was made of the recent report of the MPHEC, so we still have no idea how the government is going to deal with university funding increases in the coming year. With \$52 million just

lopped off the federal transfer payment to the province, we can only assume the news is going to be bad.

One recent sign of trouble was the tiny increase in the budget for elementary and secondary education. The \$20 million increase barely keeps pace with last year's inflation; the net result is no real increase over last year's budget. Since most teachers have received pay hikes in their latest contracts, local school boards are being forced to cut back on non-salary costs to cover the increases.

All we can ask ourselves is: Are the province's universities going to have to face the same treatment?

We shouldn't have to guess about these things. A throne speech should let us know what our elected representatives are up to. Buchanan and his buddies have clearly failed to do so, especially in the field of education.

Our best recommendation for the throne speech is that it be flushed.

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