

8 Sweatshops
& free trade

16 Ralston
Saul

17 AUAA
casualty

Democratic
right

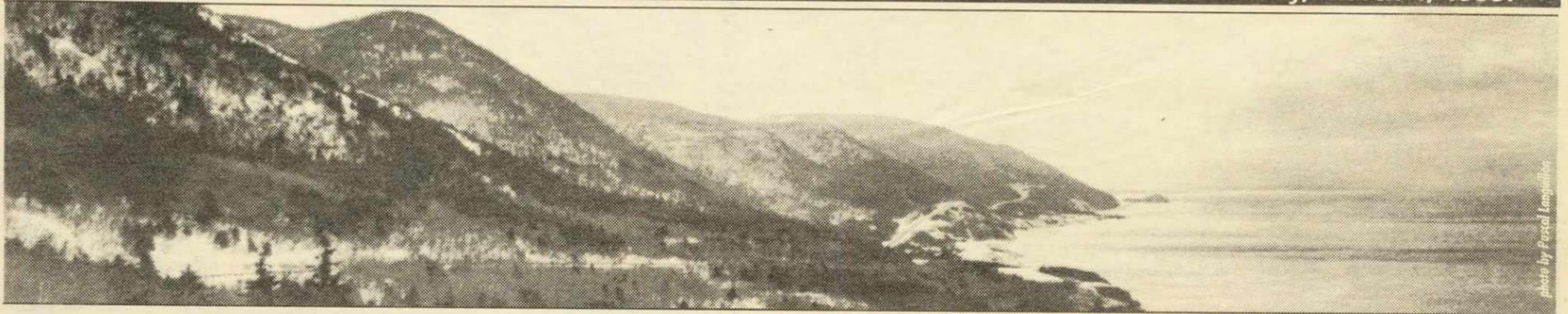
p. 14

THE GAZETTE

Volume 131. Number 20.

Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Thursday, March 4, 1999.



Dal student union elections off to slow start

BY SALLY THOMAS

The word on every candidates lips was the one people said was most lacking at the start of this year's student union elections. Communication.

As part of the elections, the Dalhousie Student Union holds

candidate forums at different spots around campus. The forums are designed to inform student voters on the issues each candidate feels are most important.

But on Tuesday, the first day of elections, only one of two planned forums even got off the ground.

Poor attendance and advertising were blamed for the collapse of the first forum, scheduled for the T-Room at DalTech, where five people showed up. And the second was also plagued by shoddy attendance, with roughly twenty-five people attending.

Each candidate was allowed two minutes to give their opening speech, and the team running as president and executive vice-president were each allowed one minute to speak, instead of two.

Elaborate hand signals

accompanied the speech countdown.

The following 20 minute question period held candidates to a strict 30 second time limit after which candidates were cut off.

The whole process had some people frustrated.

"It was a wasteless exercise of talking out of our asses," said one student who was helping out with a candidates campaign.

He says no one got to hear answers to any of the questions because of the time limit.

Dean Naugler, vice president

Community Affairs, agrees.

He says while he understands people don't want to go to forums that last for hours he didn't think students got a chance to have their questions answered.

"Every student needs to hear a response to their questions."

Sean Moreman, the election's chief returning officer, is in charge of all election regulations.

Moreman, who did the same job at Acadia, says his main duty is to make sure the elections are run

continued on page 3



AFRICAN NIGHT: Dal students celebrate a rich heritage.

CASA director Hoops Harrison steps down

BY KRISHNA LALBIHARIE

OTTAWA (CUP) — The director of one of Canada's national student lobby groups has resigned, citing "personal reasons" for his decision.

Hoops Harrison, national director of the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations, announced his resignation last Wednesday.

"The organization is in fine shape," Harrison said in an interview. "It's in a transitional period for the organization. The reasons why I'm leaving aren't that important. It's really insignificant in the big picture of things."

Yet insider speculation credits Harrison's early departure from the post as a sign he disapproves of the group's shift toward grassroots lobbying on a wider range of issues.

In the past, CASA has focused

exclusively on post-secondary education issues.

Harrison denies the speculation.

"The new direction of the organization and the fact that I'm leaving have nothing to do with each other," he said. "If CASA chooses to lobby for things beyond [post-secondary education] or through grassroots lobbying, that's fine. CASA is constantly changing and is reflective of the changing concerns of students."

Andrea Wenum, vice-president external of the University of New Brunswick students' union, a member of CASA, isn't convinced.

"I think Hoops has a slightly different idea than what the majority of CASA now wants: a more comprehensive and broader

view of how to lobby and who we should represent," she said.

Motives for Harrison's resignation aside, some student leaders are sceptical CASA is in fact headed toward a more activist approach.

"They can talk all they want about doing grassroots work, engaging in demonstrations, etc.," said Elizabeth Carlyle, national chairperson of the Canadian Federation of Students. "But their bylaws are very clear in stating their membership is comprised of student councils and not the students themselves and so you can only get so close to the grassroots with that kind of structure."

The association plans to elect its new national director March 9.

The Dalhousie Student Union is a member of CASA.

DSU Election Supplement

The candidates answer our questionnaire
See pages 9 to 13