

Male-strom swamps election

If we can predict how well next year's DSU council will work on the basis of how well the present one has operated, the future looks dismal for Dalhousie students.

In this week's elections, very few women are running for positions on next year's council.

The five student senators who have already been acclaimed are all men; four of the five are members of one of the campus' most liberal-minded institutions — a fraternity.

Of the nine candidates for president, vice-president or Board of Governor's positions, only two are women.

Equal representation for both sexes aside, why is this necessarily a bad omen?

Looking over the present councillors' performances, one thing becomes apparent. With the exception of one or two, the men have done most of the talking and the women have done most of the work.

Vice-presidents academic and external Ava Czapaly and Kamleh Nicola have been the most effective members of the

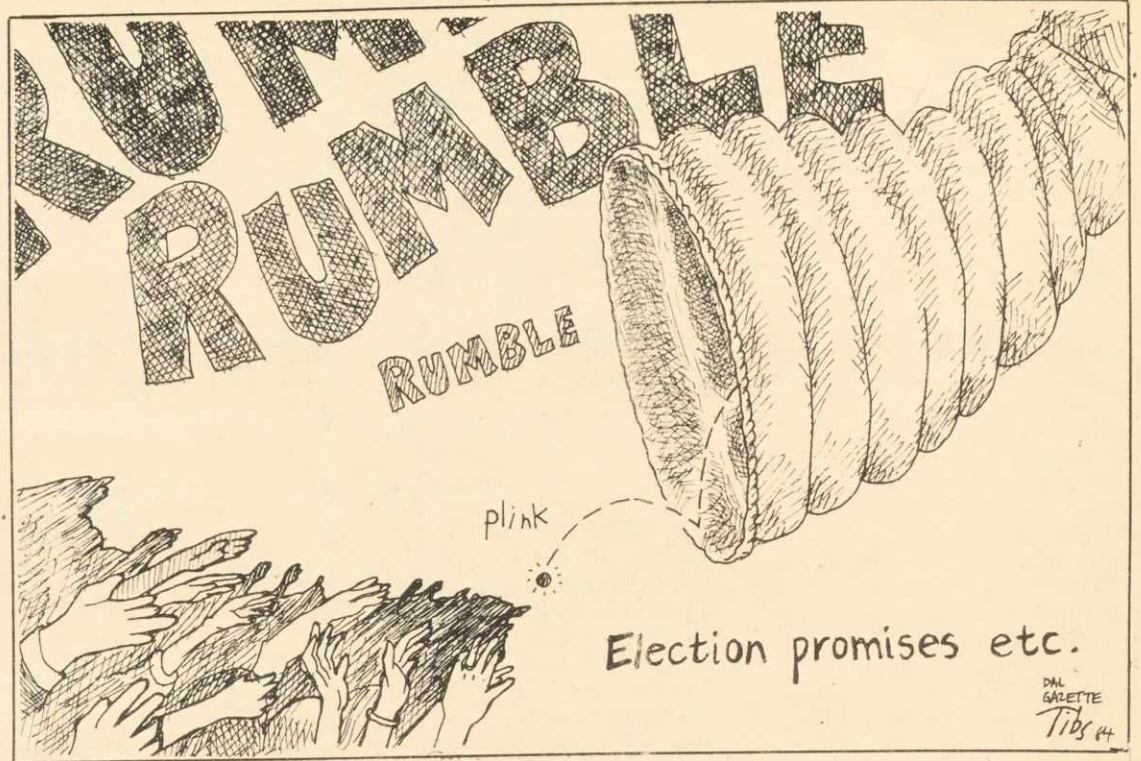
present council: organizing a push for senate reform, an extension of course withdrawal dates, a successful CFS awareness week, and a revival of Dalhousie Open House for next year. They have accomplished these steps ahead of their fellow councillors, with little except verbal support from their colleagues, and with little credit.

Senate representative Kelly Sharp was one of the best student senators this year, strongly representing concerns of students from the health professions.

Vice president internal Sandra Bell and Sherriff Hall representative Celia Sollows have both worked long and hard hours, communicating and working with societies to involve them more in DSU affairs and entertainment programs.

Likewise Board of Governors representative Jolene Pattison has concisely and effectively stood up (often literally) for students' concerns at DSU meetings. And what about the men?

Outside of regularly prolonging council meetings intermina-



bly, they haven't done a hell of a lot.

DSU president Jamie MacMullin has decided after a year in the job that he isn't going to pursue a career in politics. One wishes he had come to this realization one year earlier.

Although he has worked closely (sometimes too closely) with the administration over a few concerns, he hasn't been a very effective or political president, abstaining on virtually every vote in council or senate

that wasn't about to pass unanimously.

Senate representative Runjan Seth has been quite vocal in council meetings but accomplished little except negotiating a change in library hours and providing the *Gazette* with much useful information.

Grants committee chair Shane Feriancek worked hard this year but it is part of the occupational hazard in the position.

The one exception this year is

Sean Casey who, in addition to being an able recorder of executive meeting minutes, has been the best Treasurer the DSU has had in many years.

The rest of the men — including four of the president/vice-president candidates who presently sit on council — are hardly worth mentioning.

What little choice there is left is yours: to vote for someone who is going to talk or to vote for someone ready to act.

LETTERS

Students fail professor

To the Editor,

Please allow me space in your paper to comment on an article by Kathy O'Brien and Geoff Stone, titled "Students Fail Professor", March 5, 1987.

This article states that two students are boycotting Dr. Benoit's class on deviance and social control because of his negative attitude towards blacks. They thought that he may also be passing on this attitude amongst the remaining 140 students in this course.

If the content of this article is correct, then I unite with the boycotting students in their positive/affirmative action.

At the same time, I challenge Dr. Benoit and other professors to educate, not indoctrinate.

Sincerely,
Leonard Santucci
Acadia Student

Zionist falsification

To the Editor,

Zionist falsification of the history of Palestine and the Palestinian refugee question is not a novelty and Mr. Michael Gisser (*Gazette* March 5) is only regurgitating well-worn tales. No amount of distortion and misquotation will change the fundamental facts:

1. The Palestinian people are

the indigenous people of Palestine who have been dispossessed and uprooted from their homeland, by Zionist terror and violence and not by Arab states. The well-known Jewish writer Nathan Chofsi wrote (*Jewish Newsletter*, New York, 1959):

"We old Jewish settlers in Palestine who witnessed the flight (of the refugees) could tell how and in what manner we, Jews, forced Arabs to leave their cities and villages... Here was a people who lived on its own land for 1300 years. We came and turned the native Arabs into tragic refugees. And we still dare to slander and malign them and to besmirch their name. Instead of being ashamed of what we did and of trying to undo some of the evil we committed, by helping these unfortunate refugees, we justify our terrible acts and even attempt to glorify them."

2. The conditions of oppressive Israeli occupation which the Palestinians endure in the West Bank and Gaza are intolerable and have been condemned by, amongst others, the U.N. Human Rights Commission, Amnesty International, American National Lawyers Guild and the International Red Cross.

Professor Israel Shahak, Chairperson of the Israeli League for Civil and Human Rights, wrote this:

"In my opinion, the Israeli occupation regime, in the conquered territories, is in fact one of the most cruel and repressive regimes in modern times." (*Middle East International*, 1975).

The oppression has escalated. The Israeli Jewish writer Maxim Ghilan wrote in the Feb. 1983 issue of the Paris-published journal *Israel & Palestine*:

"Arabs in the territories con-

quered by Israel since 1967 have no rights whatsoever. Their children are shot, beaten up, jailed; their young men assassi-

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THE GAZETTE

DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY

Volume 119, Number 20
Dalhousie University, Halifax
March 12, 1987

The *Dalhousie Gazette* is Canada's oldest college newspaper. Published weekly through the Dalhousie Student Union, which also comprises its membership, the *Gazette* has a circulation of 10,000.

As founding member of Canadian University Press, the *Gazette* adheres to the CUP statement of principles and reserves the right to refuse any material submitted of a libelous, sexist, racist or homophobic nature. Deadline for commentary, letters to the editor and announcements is noon on Monday. Submissions may be left at the SUB enquiry desk c/o the *Gazette*.

Commentary should not exceed 700 words, letters should not exceed 300 words. No unsigned material will be accepted, but anonymity may be granted on request.

Advertising copy deadline is noon, Monday before publication. The *Gazette* offices are located on the 3rd floor SUB. Come up and have a coffee and tell us what's going on.

The views expressed in the *Gazette* are not necessarily those of the Student Union, the editor or the collective staff.

Subscription rates are \$25 per year (25 issues) and our ISSN number is 0011-5816. The *Gazette's* mailing address is 6136 University Avenue, Halifax, N.S. B3H 4J2, telephone (902)424-2507.