



Q1

WHY DO YOU WANT TO BE PRESIDENT?

Eric Button:
It's been, over the past year, my occasion to observe things going on at Dalhousie, and I felt there was a lack of co-ordination and leadership. I felt that I personally could offer a lot to this university from my past experience. I felt that I could take certain things from my undergraduate university and pull them into this system and it would be of great benefit a) to the Student Council itself, and b) to the whole organization and the students themselves for more active involvement and communication.

Kim Cameron:
Because I don't believe that the student council presently serves student interests as well as it should, mainly because after its annual election it becomes very removed from student opinion. I don't believe that this is due only to the personalities on the council, but rather is caused by the structure of our union.

Bruce Gillis:
Of the people I see now who are in the race available for

the job and have qualifications I feel that I have first of all the best qualifications, the best understanding of Dalhousie and the student problems at the moment and I feel that my experience as Internal Affairs Secretary at Dalhousie and working on other various committees and so on at other universities such as McGill and my experience with CUS makes me the most qualified person.

Phil Goldring:
I want to be president because I believe I can do the job, because I am not satisfied with the other candidates in the race, and, let's be candid, I have personal reasons for running; specifically, having spent five years in student activities, I feel the desire to culminate all that experience by putting it to what I like to think is the best use. And I have certain political ideas, you might call them political principles about the running of the Student Union, and of course there's always an element of personal ambition in it too. I'm quite prepared to accept the fact that it's a tremendous responsibility, but it's one which I am willing to take on, and which I feel I am quite capable of discharging.

Q2

HOW DO YOU CONCEIVE OF THE OFFICE PRESIDENT?

Kim Cameron:
A president's first responsibility is to be responsible to the students. While I may have particular political opinions, it is the opinion of the student union which I must represent. I am bound to the decisions of my constituents, even when they disagree with my own. I accept this fact because I believe that it is crucial that the student union be democratised.

You have a responsibility to ensure that the union bureaucracy and treasury operate properly — by that I mean in the interests of the students. You have a responsibility to understand what issues are relevant to students, and to arrive democratically with their participations at real solutions. You have a responsibility not to deal with sand-box politics, but rather to deal with real student issues — rents, tuitions, education, and so on. It is the Student Council's irrelevancy which makes many students apathetic towards it. Judging from its past behavior, people have a perfect right to be apathetic about it. But this could change through the power which a democratic structure would give the union.

Bruce Gillis:
Basically I think the big job of the president is that he speaks in any matters that could possibly deal with students and acts on behalf of students. He has to know what is best for them, what they want and what they're interested in. What is best for them and what they want do not always exactly coincide. I think he has to be aware of the problems they have; he has to be available to anybody. I think another very important thing he has to consider is that he has to carry the case of students to people who can affect the lives of students in the areas of housing, finance, particularly the government, the administration. He has to be able to speak for them and speak coherently and he is not only able, but very keen on arguing on behalf of students in order to further the interests of students.

Phil Goldring:
He's head of the Student Council. I question whether he is head of the student body or just the spokesman for the student body. The President's greatest responsibility would lie in the realm of working with higher bodies, either the University administration or the Provincial Government, and presenting and interpreting the interests of the student body to these other organizations and institutions and trying to get the best possible shake for the students. As far as the internal working of the Student Council is concerned, the President's major role is to remain in contact with what is going on, and see that the will of the general student body is carried out with regard to internal management, especially as concerns the administration of the budget. It is now somewhere in the vicinity of a quarter of a million dollars, and the President has to make some pretty careful judgments on what the students really want and what they expect. The principal one is the efficient management of this building, I believe, and general management of the Union on sound business-like principles is essential.

Eric Button:
First of all, the President must be the type of person who can give the Council aim or purpose a philosophy. He must have the desire to co-ordinate and have people work together for the service of the students. As for position, he is obviously the head of the Students Council in an informal as well as a formal way. His responsibilities extend to a) the building — to know what is going on in the building and keep it moving smoothly, b) the university — to give the impression that this building is not a monolithic monster, but a place to become involved, to induce a Dalhousie spirit, a pride in their university c) the community outside the university, he is supposed to be able to speak for Dalhousie students. He should develop better relations and a better attitude in the community which would benefit Dalhousie to a great extent. I feel I have the personality and aims to direct Council in this regard.

Q3

AS PRESIDENT DO YOU THINK THAT THE PRESENT STRUCTURE OF COUNCIL PROVIDES ADEQUATE REPRESENTATION, AND IF NOT, HOW WOULD YOU CHANGE IT?

Bruce Gillis:
I think that the representivity, whether or not it's representative is a matter for the representatives themselves. If I were President I would definitely impress this on them at all times, at every Council meeting if possible, that they have to speak for their students. Now he has to know what their feelings are but he also is put there to make decisions, knowing their feelings and knowing what he would like to achieve for them. Now if he is elected, supposedly he has a platform which they have elected him on and obviously they have put their trust in him to some extent. I think basically that the present structure is adequate. One thing that comes to mind particularly, is the Political Affairs Secretariat; as it's set up now, it's not of too much effect. If you're talking about student politics, that's the president's job; if he can't speak on political matters, then he shouldn't be president. I can't see that there are too many ways to improve Council itself. It's a democratic system, it has its faults, but any other system that I can think of has more faults.

Phil Goldring:
There are certain aspects of the faculty representation system at present which are not carried out properly. For example there are 930-odd Arts students with three reps while there are upwards of 700 Graduate students with only one rep. Now as a simple matter of mechanics there has to be another graduate rep. With regard to the executive, I'm pretty happy there. However it's not terribly good procedure to set up four posts with the Secretariats and then carry on the entire year with people only appointed to three of them. In regard specifically to the Offley telegram affair, if there had been a Political Affairs secretary, the whole problem would simply

not have arisen. But I am satisfied with the existing situation as long as people are appointed to all the posts and those appointed are suitable.

Eric Button:
If I am elected, I will put in a Speaker or Chairman — a non-political person concerned with rules of order and the like, functioning along the lines of the Speaker of the House of Commons. This would bring more order to Council meetings which were too informal and therefore poorly run last year. I would have to further investigate any other changes in Council, for instance in the executive. I would like to have a retreat weekend to establish good informal relations between Council members, and to give them a sense of purpose.

Kim Cameron:
Well, four thousand students elect their representatives at the end of the academic year, and thereafter the representatives usually have no clearly defined constituency to which they are responsible. How, for instance, does an Arts representative understand the opinions and reactions of his constituents? He can only venture his guess, or more usually, his own opinion. As a result, the Council begins to operate in relative isolation, and in turn creates apathy amongst students. This results in powerlessness for the Council, because it doesn't have the student support to engage in important work.

I believe that this can only be changed by instituting a more democratic form of Union organization. This could be done through mass student body meetings or referendums on all important council decisions.

My whole platform is based upon doing just that. All important resolutions would be phrased in such a way that they would require approval from the student body. I would envisage seeing a referendum on CUS, the yearbook, the newspaper, etc. These organizations are meaningless if we don't understand how they affect the students.

Q4

WHAT IS YOUR OPINION OF THE REFERENDUM AND ITS USES?

Phil Goldring:
The referendum is no worse a judge of what the Union wants than a motion of Council. I would use a referendum in cases where a question threatened to create a hard line split of the executive, and in case of a similar split on Council. I think where the whole Council is opposed to something a vocal element of the student body wanted, the President would be obliged to submit the whole matter to a referendum.

Eric Button:
Referendums themselves ordinarily don't come up unless there is some very, very important question which makes Council feel inadequately representative and unable, morally or legally, to decide on its own without a referendum. Firing it back to the students themselves is an admission of in-

adequacy and not very good policy wise. I certainly cannot conceive of using the referendum, in the future — not in the next year.

Kim Cameron:
Cameron, as he has said above, is basing his entire campaign on the immense value of the referendum.

Bruce Gillis:
I don't think that referenda should be used indiscriminately, only on major issues. If you have to have a referendum on every issue, then there's no point in having a Student Council which is supposed to represent the students. CUS is a good example of an issue where you need a referendum to find out what the student body wants. There are a lot of other issues, such as civil rights, the war in Vietnam, etc. in which I don't think referenda would be very effective because these and other social issues are strictly personal.

Q5

THE PROBLEMS OF STUDENT HOUSING — ARE EXPECTED TO REACH CRISIS PROPORTIONS BY 1971. WHAT DO YOU FEEL COUNCIL SHOULD BE DOING ABOUT THE SITUATION, IF INDEED THEY SHOULD BE INVOLVED IN IT AT ALL?

Kim Cameron:
If the students support it, we could bring pressure to bear on landlords by collectively delaying rents. We could pressure the city for badly needed rent controls. And, most important, an all out effort, I believe, should be made to begin a real co-op complex; the first phases of such a complex could be in use by the fall. All previous council research on co-operative housing has been hopelessly deficient.

Bruce Gillis:
It's a problem that can't be solved by students alone; we don't have enough voice or power to do anything about it. I don't think that building more residences like the Halls is the answer: The university plans to encourage private enterprise to build apartment buildings and large-scale accommodation of this sort, and to have them guarantee a certain proportion of them to university students. I think we can work on this and get their co-operation in this respect. This isn't something that can be dealt with quickly or easily. Students have a very important interest in this area, but there's very little they can do by themselves. We can arouse public sympathy through the media, but I think that anything that's done is going to be done on a higher level than Student Council.

Phil Goldring:
It has to be one of the obligations of the Union next year that a higher priority be given to housing, and a much higher priority than it now holds with the administration. At U.N.B., student co-operatives are being set-up, and again I look back to the fact that we have a Union budget in the vicinity of \$250,000, and that it would require a relatively small portion of that for the Union to get into the position of owning houses. While I realize that we are not in the same position here as they are in Fredericton, because of higher real estate rates and the fact that the university itself is interested in acquiring a lot of nearby properties, this still cannot be ruled out. Provided that a suitable deal could be struck, I would be most favorable to the Student Union getting into housing on this basis. We have also referred in our campaign to the fact that other universities are going in the business of constructing new housing projects and again you run into the same Halifax problem of high rates and having to tear down before you can build. This is something that has to be investigated, not on the basis of investigating to complain or to prove that you have a case, it's a question now of what's to be done about it.

Eric Button:
There's not much the Student Council can do; the university itself is looking after this as well as anyone can, considering high costs of construction, etc. The administration hopes to create apartment type housing and is actively soliciting available accommodation at present. We can't do anything about high rents except to express sympathy to the community.

Q6

IT IS RUMORED THAT THERE WILL BE A GOVERNMENT CUTBACK IN AID TO UNIVERSITIES. WHAT CONSTRUCTIVE ACTION WOULD YOU TAKE AS PRESIDENT SHOULD THIS HAPPEN?

Eric Button:
I don't think there is too much Council alone could do. In co-operation with the university, we would have to tighten up to avoid raising students' fees. Secondly, we would have to deal directly with the government on a university community level, including faculty, administration, and students from all universities in the Province. We also need public sympathy, so that when the brief was presented to the government, we would have the support of the people of Nova Scotia to deny any claim by the government that the people are not in favor of such large university grants. We should develop the student loan system further, possibly along the lines of the Ontario system; half grant half, student loan. The long term goal would be universal accessibility to university.

Kim Cameron:
Once again, the students council will have to work with the students to decide what action will be taken. One of the main problems which our present council has in dealing with the government is that the government realizes that the student council does not have the backing of the students. I personally would like to see the students of this university engage in concrete action against such a measure. But it must be the students themselves who decide.

Phil Goldring:
I think the first thing to do would be to approach the administration; it's their problem as well as ours if the government cuts back on money. I think we'd probably be much more effective working with them because they have more resources at their disposal. Obviously, we would have to speak to the government. Rather than raise a lot of trouble ourselves, we should do this in consultation with the university since they obviously would know of better channels through which to go. I think we should be represented on any committees or groups of people that do approach the government, and I think that the university would probably agree with this. It's hard to say what specific steps would be taken. If necessary, some student action could be useful, but I'm very worried about antagonizing the community.

Bruce Gillis:
I have basically very little interest in the type of demonstration that seems to be gaining ground on certain campuses, specifically the Sir George Williams affair and the 114 arrests at Simon Fraser last fall. I don't believe that behavior of a legally actionable nature is justified; I equally don't believe in civil disobedience.

A cutback would demonstrate that universities are not high on the priority list of the average tax payer, and therefore the type of demonstration that is apt to annoy the tax payer would be destructive to our purposes. The only thing we can do is to add our protest to that of the administration — add our pressure to the government.

Q7

DO YOU THINK THAT DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON ISSUES OUTSIDE THE CONFINES OF THE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY IS WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF COUNCIL?

Phil Goldring:
I would say yes but not only for Student Council but for the student body as a whole. It doesn't do one damn bit of good for Council to pass a resolution condemning or approving anything unless there is some attempt made to see that the student body as a whole has some kind of interest in it. I think to condemn a strike 60 miles away regardless of which party you condemn is a classical example of marshmallow pushing. On the other hand to use this as a starting off point for some kind of public discussion on unionism, or labour problems as a whole is both valuable, instructive, and in the long run I think may be in some ways productive of the type of goals you're trying to achieve.

Eric Button:
If it can benefit Dalhousie students directly or indirectly, then it should be Council's responsibility.

Kim Cameron:
From time to time issues arise which are community issues, but which also affect students. If the provincial government holds back on university money and tuition fees go up, students automatically become involved in provincial politics. In these cases, then, where students feel that their

interests are being served by participating in political issues, they should participate. Student meetings would determine for once and for all what political issues students feel affect them.

Personally, I don't think that the university exists in a vacuum — we are all affected by society, and should exert pressure to protect ourselves.

However, I cannot stress too much that when the union participates in political issues, it obviously must have student support, and therefore these decisions must be made by the students themselves. We must remember that the student union is the students, not a bureaucracy.

Bruce Gillis:
I definitely think that it's within their jurisdiction, and very beneficial, to discuss matters like this. Not only should they be taken to Council, but also to the student body in Student Forums and things like that. This is how you create awareness. On the other hand, I do not think that motions on these matters should be presented in Council, because, in effect, that's taking a moral stand on a personal issue. If the Council takes a stand, after a close vote, then the community in general thinks that the Student Council is speaking on behalf of some 4,000 students at Dalhousie, and I don't think they have the right to do this.