

Council ignores students' views

The Dalhousie Student Council, by stalling the progress of the Atlantic Federation of Students, is not representing your interests. Last year during the February election 1,318 students voted in favour of paying \$1 each to AFS, while at the same time the executive team of Sampson and Mancini received 1,186 votes as their mandate for student council. Now they have taken it upon themselves to lead a "responsible" decision to hold back the student funds because of the "undemocratic" nature of AFS.

AFS is undemocratic mainly because Sampson and Mancini did not get their way. The pair, along with Sandy McNeill, tried desperately at the recent AFS general meeting to amend almost every part of the new constitution. Sampson attempted to have the secretary-coordinator renamed "executive-director" to eliminate "leftist" connotations. Rather than announcing to all conference delegates that work was being done on the new budget, the trio, along with a St. F.X. rep and the former treasurer, met together while other important seminars were going on and came up with their own version.

One of Sampson's main protests was that the college of Cape Breton was holding two proxies and controlled much of the vote since they "always listen to Don Soucy" (NSCAD rep). When asked if he didn't also influence voters on the other side of the issue Sampson replied, "my ideas don't need lobbying."

For a while at Sunday night's council meeting it looked as though AFS might come out on top, but the executive continued their influence over council members and managed to sway the undecided.

Claiming lack of stability as a reason for dropping out of an organization which has yet to have a full year of operation on a decent budget is an unrealistic attitude. Granted, AFS has had troubles and there is an obvious split in the organization with neither side showing any compromise, but if Dal council had respect for the decision of last February made by students who believed in the cause of AFS, council would certainly continue their support. They would put their money into the organization and begin to concern themselves with real issues, rather than playing games while post-secondary education becomes less and less accessible.

Dalhousie's funds to AFS make up a third of its budget. Without Dal AFS cannot hope to operate as intended. In order to have an influential student organization with impact on government, it is vital that it have the full support of the Atlantic's largest institution. You, the students, realized that last February. Now is the time to tell the Dalhousie Student Council that you still mean it.

by Valerie Mansour

the dalhousie gazette

The Dalhousie Gazette is the weekly publication of the Dalhousie Student Union. The views expressed in the paper are not necessarily those of the Student Union, the editor, or staff. We reserve the right to edit material submitted for space or legal reasons.

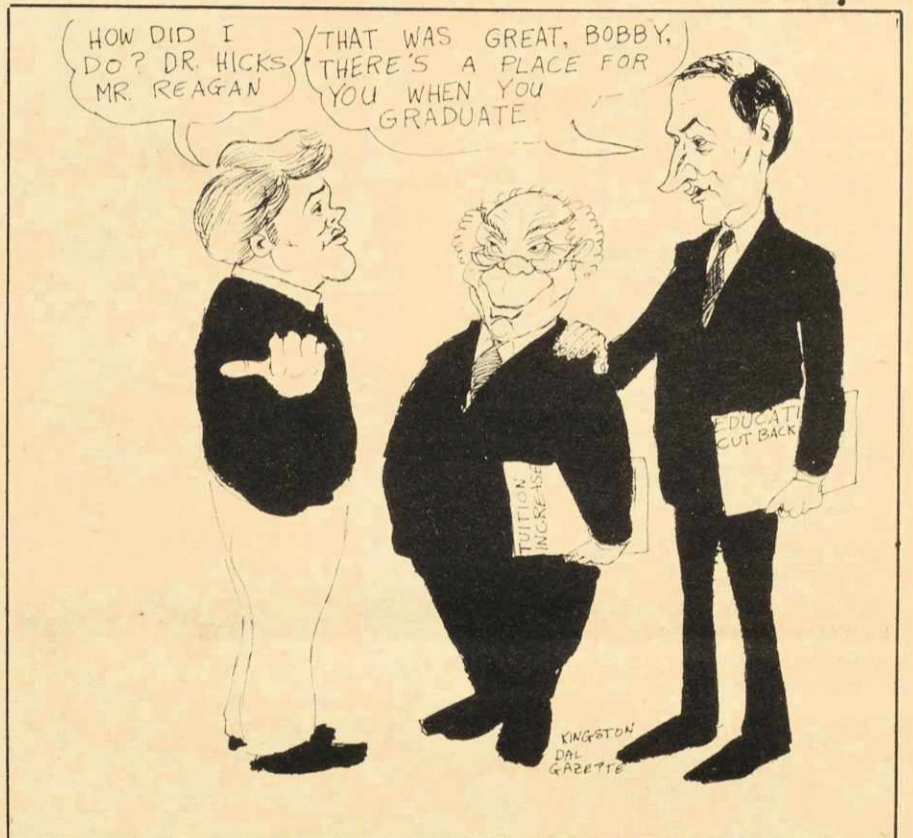
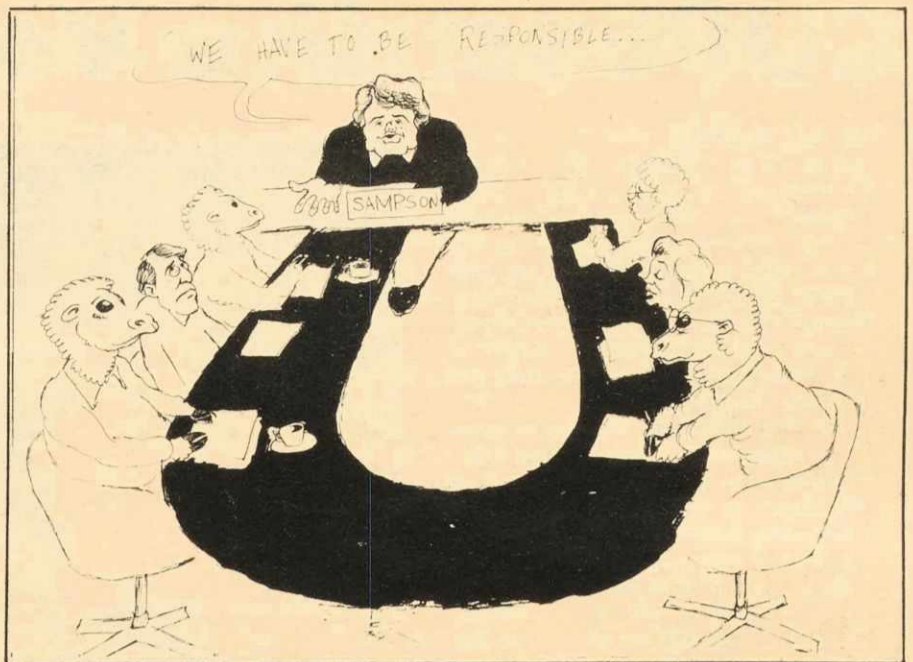
The deadline for advertising is the Friday noon preceding publication. Articles and letters are due Monday noon. No unsigned material will be accepted, but anonymity, if necessary, will be granted. Letters should not exceed 600 words, and must be typed if more than 100 words.

The Dalhousie Gazette, Canada's Oldest College Newspaper, is a founding member of Canadian University Press. Our office is on the third floor of the Student Union Building. Our mailing address is The Dalhousie Gazette, Dalhousie University, Halifax, N.S., B3H 4J2. Telephone 424-2507. The subscription price is \$7 per year (28 issues). ISSN 0011-5819.

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This issue was brought to you by:

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Letters

Mancini misguided

To the Gazette:

It has come to my attention that Mr. Peter Mancini, vice-president of the Dalhousie Student Council, is having difficulty realizing the facts surrounding the student rally held in Halifax last March.

Mr. Mancini is apparently under the assumption that Dalhousie, or more specifically himself and Robert Sampson, were the instigators, financiers, and driving force behind this rally. Perhaps I could jog Mr. Mancini's memory a little.

The rally was called for by Joann Davis, at a general meeting of students in March at Mount St. Vincent University. A week later, a meeting of Halifax student leaders was held at the Mount to discuss organization and action on the rally. Neither Sampson nor Mancini were present; in fact, the only Dalhousie representative in attendance was Janet Cameron.

The two weeks of hectic organization that went into the rally was NOT carried out by Dalhousie. People like Don Soucy, Miguel Figueroa, Susan Kenney, and Lou Ann Meloche deserve credit for the many hours (and dollars) that made it a success. Mr. Mancini needs to be reminded that Dalhousie did not get involved in this united student movement until during the last week.

This is just another incident in the egotistical fairytale of the Dalhousie

Student council. It's too bad they insist on deluding themselves.
Diane Wright
Vice-president External,
MSVU Student Union

Mancini confused

To the Gazette:

This is a copy of an open letter sent to Peter Mancini, student council vice-president. Whether or not he reads it to the council is his business. The students of Dalhousie should be made aware of what the facts are. It is also up to Miss Janet Cameron, who also received a copy, whether or not the true facts should be made public.

Whatever the case I thank you for listening to the facts.

Respectively yours
Todd Davis

Dear Petey:

The misinformation you supplied Dalhousie Student Council November 27, 1977 concerning particularly the AFS march and work prior to the march should be corrected.

Let us go back to the AFS Nova Scotia caucus meeting March 19, 1976 at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College when the Dalhousie Student Council president, Bob Sampson, pledged \$1500 of council contingency funds to the march. The first prevarication is that AFS saw only \$100 of the Dalhousie pledge, and that was after quite some hassling.

continued on page 5