

asking for miracles

Council's decision to continue with the present system of complimentary tickets is nothing short of an outrage. Though certainly not all of the Council members are abusing this privilege (and perhaps on this year's Council no one is) it is a system that simply asks for trouble.

Council members can obtain approximately \$800. per year in complimentary passes to SUB and non SUB events. These tickets must be asked for at least several days in advance but should a Councillor decide that he/she is unable to attend the particular function at the last minute he/she is free to dispose of the tickets any way he/she wants. That means folks that our honorable Council members are free to sell the tickets they have obtained as compensation for 'working' on Council. The tickets issued to Council members do not have "Complimentary" marked on them and are identical to those issued to the general student body. There is no way of checking at the entrance to an event whether or not the tickets were duly purchased by the person holding them or whether they were sold to that person by a member of the Students Council who obtained them for nothing.

The Gazette sees nothing wrong with Council members getting some form of compensation for their efforts on behalf of the Students Union. However, \$800. is rather a large amount of compensation for what is supposed to be a voluntary job. We are not advocating that their privileges be stopped altogether but

certainly a limit of around \$100. - \$200. should be set. Once a limit is established the Council members would have to be absolutely certain that the event for which they are getting tickets is one that they really want to attend.

A further and almost certain way to curtail abuses would be to stamp the tickets issued to Council "Complimentary". Certainly the Union could afford to buy a rubber stamp that could be used to mark these tickets. The cost of the rubber stamp is far less expensive to the Union than the cost of issuing tickets that Council members either don't use, give away or sell. All tickets designated as "Comps" could be checked at the entrance to the event by the security police or whatever. If the holder of the tickets can't produce proof that he/she is a Council member then the tickets would not be recognized as valid.

Possibly the second alternative is a more plausible one than the first. It is hard to imagine any Council voluntarily limiting its own privileges - certainly the present Council has not seen fit to do so. The present system does not truly compensate the Council members for the time and effort they put into the Union - it overcompensates them. The system has got to go - hopefully very soon. Our present Council has one meeting left in their term and it would be no sweat off their backs if they limited their privileges at this meeting - but that may be asking for miracles.

Canada's Oldest Newspaper

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 university administration, the editor, or the staff. We reserve the right to edit or delete copy for space or legal reasons. Deadline date for letters to the GAZETTE and outside contributions is Friday preceding publications. No anonymous material will be accepted, but names may be withheld on request if there are extenuating circumstances. The Dalhousie GAZETTE is a founding member of Canadian University Press.

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Subscription Rates: \$5.00 per year [26 issues]

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it's that time again

It is once again time to remind students that within two weeks we will be voting in a new set of Council members.

This will be one of the most important elections in several years. The main reason is that the new Council will sit for fourteen months, not twelve. This is the result of changes in the term of office rules that are designed to permit more experienced and efficient decision-making.

The new Council will also be the first one to pass the annual budget in the spring, instead of half-way through the fiscal year. Due to the streamlining of Council administration the 1975-76 Council will be the only one in 112 years that will pass two annual budgets. A year from now it will be preparing the 1976-77 figures.

A third cause of this election's importance is that this will be the Council which sets the pattern for spending the increased fee revenues resulting from the October referendum. The new President and his Council must be vigilant to ensure that the funds are spent on projects of general advantage rather than getting swallowed up in SUB bureaucracy.

The final element is that locally and nationally pressure is being applied to reduce the government funds available to students and to universities. Every student leader in Nova Scotia and Canada must be prepared to study the issues involved and work so that five years from now Canadian education has improved, not deteriorated.

The usual rumours and trial balloons make it clear that there will be no candidates or applicants for President, Vice-President and Treasurer who can offer the years of previous experience that O'Connor, Richardson and Ward brought to the jobs a year ago. This is not to say that there will be no one worth voting for. On the contrary, the candidates for all positions are likely to offer a variety of strengths as well as weaknesses.

What we should all do during the campaign period is try to ignore the slogans and posters while discovering the abilities, ideas and plans that the candidates offer. More than usual, it will make a difference what kind of Students' Council Dalhousie has after March 1. The GAZETTE urges you to talk with candidates, read the platforms, consider the proposals and vote on Wednesday, February 19.

And remember . . . it's preferential voting!