

**Before you vote, read this!**

The Gazette interviewed all the candidates for student union office, and asked them the same four questions.

1. What do you think is the main issue facing Dal students in the next year, and how will you approach that issue?
  2. What qualifications, experience and background would you bring to the position?
  3. Do you really think students care about the student union and student politics?
  4. Who is your favourite cartoon character and why?
- Here's what they had to say.

**Beth Owen**  
polisci/philosophy, third year  
Vice-President Academic

1. For Dalhousie students in general, it has to be the increasing in tuition that has been going on for years. What is different about this year is that now courses are competing against one another.

What I would like to see happen is that you pay for what you get. If I pay \$2,500 tuition, I can see how is broken down and I can see what I am paying for. If I take a voice lesson then tack on an extra \$300. This will let me see where my money is going instead of taking out a lump sum.

2. This year I was the student senator from the faculty of arts. I also sat on a few Senate committee which is where my keenness for the Senate developed. What I saw in the Senate this year is that this is where the day-to-day issues that students face are dealt with.

I have been on the arts society for three years. So I have good experience working on the council level. I am well aware of the issues that the DSU is facing.

3. Students didn't seem to care as much in the past because things seem to be going reasonably well. The student union as I see it is getting stronger. I believe as it gets stronger, the support for it get stronger.

4. I have always loved the Tasmanian Devil. The Tasmanian Devil is a great stress reliever. Whenever I get stressed up and I am alone, I like to shut the door and do to the best of my abilities whatever the Tasmanian Devil does. I then feel a whole lot better about it.

**Hal Maclean**  
political science, second year  
Vice-President External

1. The main issue is increases in tuition and the general lack of respect they get at the university right now. The VP External is always heavily involved in the tuition protests. There should be two groups involved. There should be a protesting pressure group that will focus attention on the issue. Along with this you to have a group that has earned the respect of the Board of Governors by being people they think are competent, people that they respect who can put forth a solution that they will accept.

2. The Vice-President External has two basic roles. First of all is its role as a representative of Dal with other university bodies such as CFS and SUNS. I've been to the CFS conference last May. I have studied it. I have never been to a SUNS meeting, but I have studied the issues and talked to past VPs External.

Government politics is something I have studied very closely. My other qualifications are two years on council.

3. There are certain people that do care, there is a much larger group that vote, and the largest group that don't care, but that's not really the point. The point is you're asking people to do a good job. The people that do care have to vote for you, and you also work on behalf of the people that pay their fees. Whether they come out and protest or not, we still have a duty to them.

4. I've got two. I've got Dilbert. I love reading him. He is so sarcastic. For the more serious stuff, I like a comic book character called Cyclops. Cyclops has a super power. His basic super power is he has one eye that can shoot a beam of light. He represents leadership to me. He is bold and courageous and that is everything I would like to be. Although I can't shoot beams out of my eyes.

**John Yip**  
biology, third year  
Communications Coordinator

1. Well, my job as communications coordinator is to take all this issues, not just one specific issue, absorb it, explain it to students to all levels whether it be the executive, or the council so that students in general are aware of the issue.

2. Well, I guess I'll start in first year. I took Biology 1000. I was so disappointed with the course that a friend and I decided to take a petition to the classes and see how the students felt. The Biology Department took us in and we went and sat on the curriculum committee and took our recommendations in hand and when we came back in the new year they had changed the program.

Second year I ran for DSU representing the Faculty of Science, so I know how DSU works. And this year as vice president of the science society I've been working hard in the past six months on David Suzuki. What I learned over the past six months has given me a base for next year. Writing up press releases, public service announcements, interacting with the ad people, the papers, the radio, the Gazette... So it's a very enlightening experience and it's taught me a lot, especially how campus works. Also I swim varsity for Dal. Not too many people know what goes on a Dalplex, with the teams and stuff.

3. Well I wouldn't say students are apathetic. It just seems the same issues keep resurfacing — tuitions hikes, Board of Governors meetings, and all that stuff. People are aware of the issues, but they know the outcome will be a 10 per cent increase or whatever. But I think they do have a great deal of faith in the student union.

4. I guess Coyote. Coyote, because he never gets Roadrunner but he keeps trying and keeps persevering. He's got a lot of guts even though he'll never get Roadrunner. I admire his determination.

**Patrick Keith/Heather Gibson**  
polisci, third year/science, second year  
President/Vice-President Executive

1. Keith: I would say the quality of education. For the past few years, you've seen tuition increases, and now we're getting differential fees. My concern is that we aren't getting anything with that — larger class sizes, cutting back on professors, cutting back almost everywhere.

Gibson: The students are not involved in the process. We're looking at being a stronger and effective voice for students.

2. Keith: For the past year, I've been Arts Rep for the student union. We've dealt with some really tough issues — the Arts Centre, the Art Gallery. Last year, I was the Political Science Society representative on the Arts Society.

I sit on the DSU Communications Committee. Also, I sit on the Advisory Council on Athletics, where we recommend policies to the Board of Governors.

Gibson: This year, I've been the president of one of the houses in Shirreff Hall. Living there and watching the girls, there's a diverse range of programmes and interests and needs. I think that I can bring that to the job, and help look at all the things within the Student Union, and work on all those things.

3. Gibson: I think that there are definitely students who are very interested.

But I do believe that there is large group of students, who really don't care. They're just not as interested as they maybe should be. I know that in residence, for instance, that I have heard the feeling that the DSU really doesn't do much for us.

Keith: I agree, there are a lot of students who really don't care about what the DSU does. The DSU has such a wide variety of resources to offer. And I think that as President, as VP, that would be the main goal — to get people involved.

4. Gibson: The immediate one that jumps into mind is the Road Runner. He doesn't say a lot and everyone knows who he is. And he flies off these cliffs, chasing things, lands on the bottom, then he gets up and he goes on and chases something else. And he's very persistent and gets his point across.

Keith: Ziggy. I was really sad when the Mail Star pulled him a few years ago. I like Ziggy because he's always being dumped on, but he handles it so well. But he's always such a happy person.

**Rod MacLeod/Tiffany Jay**  
economics, third year/music, fourth year (fifth year at Dal)  
President/Vice-President Executive

1. MacLeod: The first thing is the tuition debate. Externally, we have to continue with protests, we have to continue with media hype, we have to continue with news releases. But we have to build up the issue over time — it can't be a one-day affair. Internally we have to make presentations, make sure they're aware of where we stand.

Finally, we need a student on the Budget Advisory Committee. Howard Clark has said 'no', but we don't think that's the end of it.

Jay: We have to at least maintain the level of education.

MacLeod: The contract with Beaver Foods, who supplies the cafeteria and the Grawood, is up. What I've heard from a growing number of students is they're unsatisfied with the service that Beaver provides. If I'm elected, we are going to look very seriously at bringing in additional food services to the Student Union Building.

2. Jay: I've come up through the different levels, so I know the issues and the problems that these societies face.

I've lived off-campus all my life and as a woman I've had many uncomfortable situations walking home at night. Unfortunately the walk-home patrol doesn't go off-campus. So one thing I was looking at for next year would be a shuttle bus service, a van which would cover the areas that Tiger Patrol doesn't.

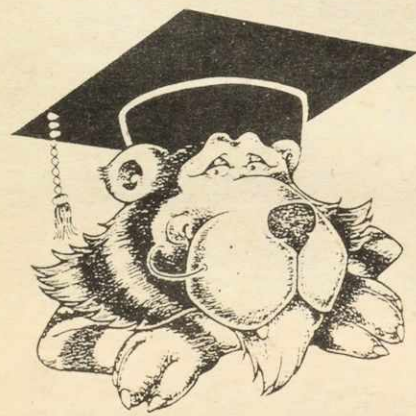
MacLeod: You have to run the building, and that takes a lot of knowledge and a lot of experience. I've gotten that over the course of this year sitting on council and going over very closely the books of the student union.

3. MacLeod: I think students would care a lot more about it if they knew a bit more about it. Over at SMUSA, they've had one student forum where they get the whole council to sit at a table and everybody can come in and air their complaints. I think that's excellent and I'd love to do that.

4. MacLeod: If it was character I'd have to say Calvin. He's so mischievous, and he's always getting into trouble. He's very clever and I like that.

Jay: I think my favourite now is Sherman. I like the spontaneous shark. I love how he jumps up and grabs Frisbees and everyone on the beach looks twice. I like that a lot.

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The first one may be yours.