

the Dalhousie Gazette

Volume 113

Number 5

October 16, 1980

Candidates raise complaints about Dal

by Paul Creelman

Candidates for the Ward 2 aldermanic elections have made Dalhousie University an important part of their election platforms. A variety of complaints concerning Dalhousie, ranging from parking problems and noise from fraternities to soot generated by Dal's power plant, were addressed by the candidates.

Speaking at the "Thank God It's Friday" aldermanic debate held in the SUB's Green Room last Friday, candidate Jon Goldberg said:

"You'll be surprised at the animosity some people have towards Dalhousie. Dal has been viewed as a wolf in the ward, swallowing up property, purchasing homes and removing them from the tax roll."

The other candidates, Ron Cromwell, Clyde Mason, and Michael Simms echoed Goldberg's viewpoint about Dalhousie. Two candidates, Cromwell and Simms, made strong comments about parking problems at another debate held Tuesday night for the Ward 2 Resident's Council.

"There are about 7200 cars at Dalhousie. This is a huge mass of traffic and parking problems," says Simms.

"There are about 200 parking spots on campus, and another 250 parking places immediately surrounding the university. The rest of the cars end up parking on our streets. We've only been lucky that to no critical accidents have been reported."

Ron Cromwell also referred to parking problems in the ward, and added:

"We all know the reason for it. Dalhousie must be encouraged to show some responsibility for the problem."

Another issue in the surrounding community is the problem of soot from Dalhousie's power plant. Complaints from several neighboring residents prompted several of the aldermanic candidates to speak about this problem. Jim Sykes, director of the Physical Plant at Dalhousie, stated at the debate on Friday (sponsored by CKDU, the Gazette, Sodales and Community Affairs) that adjustments have not yet been completed to the oil supply in the burner of the power plant. The soot problem, which has been a continual nuisance to the surrounding community for many years, was abruptly made worse several months ago by a switch in the type of heating fuel in the plant.

Disturbances of the surrounding neighborhood by the residences and fraternities was another problem addressed by the candidates. At the written question period for Resident's Council on Tuesday night, one of the questions was "What do you plan to do to ensure the safety of drunken students returning home late at night to the residences?" This question was immediately turned around by Cromwell, Goldberg, and Mason, who stated that it was difficult to tell who should be protected, the students from the population of Ward 2, or the popula-



From left to right, Simms, Mason and Goldberg sing sour notes about Dalhousie.

tion of Ward 2 from the students.

Cromwell was especially forceful on this question, addressing himself immediately to the problems of noise from the residences.

"A number of people have become very annoyed at loud parties til five in the morning. The problem is what should be done about it. Maybe we should pick them up off the streets as John suggested. However, a better solution would probably be to move the

residences into the center of Dalhousie, rather than have them on the perimeter."

Other candidates also brought up the idea of moving residences and fraternities away from the perimeter of the campus.

The detailed area plan, which is a detailed set of zoning specifications for the ward were also brought up in the debates. Because of the presence of Dalhousie University and the presence of the Quinpool Road business area,

Ward 2 has been regarded as a "soft" planning area. In order to prevent encroachment on the residential areas, the Resident's Council of Ward Two has spent the past 2-1/2 years preparing a document which will shortly be submitted to the City Council in order to limit expansion by the university of business district. All candidates expressed their support of the detailed area plan.

Student presidents form new group

by Sheila Fardy

The Council of Student Union Presidents for the Atlantic Region held its inaugural meeting on the weekend of Oct. 4th and 5th at the Dalhousie student union building. Fourteen out of a possible nineteen presidents attended the meeting of the council, which Dalhousie student union president Gord Owen described as "an information exchange system".

A prominent topic of discussion was the internal structures of their student unions, such as the degree of control they have over their student union buildings. Dalhousie is currently the only institution with substantial control over its student union building. This is because it has entered into an agreement to purchase the SUB from the Dalhousie administration.

There was also a lot of interest shown in Dalhousie's ar-

angement with Beaver Foods, whereby the student union gets 10% of the gross profit made in the SUB.

Owen denies president's council would strip power from councillors.

When asked whether there was any danger of the new council becoming more powerful than the elected student union representatives, Owen said "No". The council will simply raise issues which "must be brought back to student unions for ratification", he said, "They elect whether to use the ideas or not, and make changes."

Owen said a student union president's purpose is "to provide direction and leadership for student organizations". Students pay and get service back. "They deserve the broadest range of services they can get", he said, "and the more people in top level positions to talk out ideas and issues, the better you can

develop ways in which to provide this service." There is one representative of each university in the council, and Owen said the student union president is theoretically the best informed.

The council was originally the idea of Perry Thorburn, ex-student union president of UNB. Last year he sent letters to universities in the Atlantic provinces, offering to host a conference of student union presidents in July. That fell through because of a potential faculty strike at UNB.

The response was 100% in favour of continuing these conferences, Owen said. They are planning to meet four times a year from now on. The next conference is tentatively slated for Nov. 15th and 16th at UNB. Since different universities have student union elections at different times of the year, old members will be able to initiate new members, providing some continuity.

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