

EDITORIAL

The Gazette takes its picks

AS THE CIVIC ELECTION campaign moves to its Oct. 19 climax, many of you who are eligible to vote may be asking two questions: Should I bother to vote? Who should I vote for?

Let's face it, folks, this campaign has scored about eight out of ten on the dullness scale. Part of the problem is that Haligonians have no decision to make as to who will be their new mayor; Ron Wallace is going back in by acclamation. While Wallace has done a pretty fair job over the past five years and may have been the best choice anyway, it would have been nice to have had a choice. The Halifax elections, therefore, come down to votes for city councillors and school board members. Now, the composition of the Halifax School Board probably doesn't make much difference to the average Dal student, but the composition of council makes a great deal of difference to every one of us. Whether you're in this city for life or are just passing through, city council has the power to directly affect the quality of your life here.

A number of issues have been raised during this campaign which have direct effect on students. Bus passes: Do we get them or don't we? Housing: Will more city lands be set aside for low-cost housing? Will changes be made to by-laws which limit the number of students who can live in one house? Development: Will council continue to approve proposals in which developers tear down student housing to build condos? The list goes on.

If you live at or near campus, you will probably vote in one of the three south end wards; Ward One, Ward Two or Ward Three. After considerable research and

soul-searching, *the Gazette* has decided to endorse the following candidates in these races:

● Ward One — Doris Maley. Maley has had five year's previous experience on council and made an impressive showing during that time. She has a down-to-earth approach to the job, and is aware of just how much work the job entails. She is interested in improving the housing situation, but has pledged to do so within the framework of the Municipal Development Plan. Given her past record, we can be relatively sure she will live up to that.

● Ward Two - Brenda Shannon. Much of what has been said about Maley can equally well apply to Shannon. Shannon also knows the job, having served on council before. Her record on the development issue is very good. She has stood in favour of student bus passes throughout the campaign. All in all, we have no problem backing Shannon.

● Ward Three — Margaret Fekeshazy. Unlike the previous two, Fekeshazy is a rookie in politics, though she has an impressive record of community service. While her inexperience shows, Fekeshazy's heart is in the right place, including where student-related issues are concerned. And, frankly, the incumbent councillor Graham Downey seems to have lost some of his old spark. A change would probably do the ward good.

These are the picks of *the Gazette*. Maley, Shannon and Fekeshazy represent a nice blend of experience and fresh blood. They also represent change, and given the record of the previous council, change is definitely what this city needs.

By the way, we are *not* taking bets.



Illustration by Stephen Thrasher

Yes, you can vote!

THERE ARE THOUSANDS OF students in Halifax and Dartmouth who are eligible to vote on Oct. 19 and don't know it.

The present difficulty stems from last year's Nova Scotia Supreme Court decision on the challenge to Robert Levy's election in the provincial riding of Kings South. In the "Levy decision" the court ruled that university students living in residence in effect make a declaration of their intention to reside in the province or municipality simply by enrolling in the university.

This ruling overturned the old provisions of the provincial Elections Act which said residence students did not reside in the community where they were going to school.

Because the Civic Elections Act is a provincial law, it is also affected by the "Levy decision". However, the new ruling conflicts with some old provisions of the Act, and what we are left with

is something of a mess, to say the least.

So what does all this mean? Well, if you are a student living in Halifax and you want to vote, here's the deal.

1. You must be 18 years of age by or on voting day, Oct. 19.
2. You must be a Canadian citizen or a citizen of a member state of the Commonwealth.
3. You must have been registered as a student at a post-secondary institution in Halifax during the 1984-85 school year. If you began studying in Halifax within the last six months, you are not eligible to vote.
4. If you are not married, and your family lives in Nova Scotia outside Halifax, you may *not* vote in Halifax. If you are not married, and your family lives in Halifax, you may vote where your family votes. If you have received an enumer-

ation card in the mail in the past few weeks, you're all set; the card will tell you where you vote. If you did not receive a card, you have not been enumerated, but you may still vote.

Go to the polling station nearest your place of residence (see map in this issue). **You must have a valid student ID card.** When you present your ID you will be asked to fill out a short form called the "Oath of Student Elector as to Residency", in duplicate. Then, presto, you're a genuine student voter. Cast your ballots and make them count.

The system isn't perfect yet, and many students across the province will lose, for one reason or another, their right to vote this Saturday. Nevertheless, the "Levy decision" marks a major step forward in the struggle for student's civil rights.

See you at the polls.

OPINION

Letters

Smokescreen

To the editors,

I am appalled to see that *the Gazette* is accepting advertising from a cigarette firm, advertising that has to have a government warning attached because of the product's danger to health.

Smoking is a habit that is disgusting to some, unpleasant to others and dangerous to the health, not only of those who smoke, but of those around them. My own experience may serve as an example.

As a 'mature' graduate student, I have amongst my circle of friends and acquaintances a few who smoke and have done so for many years. At around the age of forty-one, five female friends developed breast cancer and con-

sequently, two died. Two of them had smoked, one heavily, and the others lived with a smoker.

Although all these warnings have very little effect on a smoker, otherwise few would be smoking, I think that a university paper has to show some responsibility and maturity in a matter of this kind and refuse all advertising for cigarettes.

Marian Regan

Disagreement with NORAD editorial

To the editors,

Re: "Get out of NORAD" (Oct. 3)

It saddens me to see university papers follow the same example as national papers by "brain-washing" their readers. I am referring to how the writer presents only one side (his side) of the story

and then builds on it so it appears that his opinion is absolutely correct.

I must admit that some parts of the editorial were informative and educational, but I believe your readers should know both sides of the story.

In the article you say that "bomber aircraft no longer form a major part of the Soviet nuclear strike force." If this is true then why must Canadian interceptor aircraft be scrambled several times a year to escort Soviet bombers out of Canadian air space? Do you think they are there by accident? On the contrary. They are testing the effectiveness of the NORAD system. I wonder what would happen if they tried it several times and no interceptors appeared? Perhaps they would land at Ottawa and ask Prime Minister Mulroney why. The Soviet Union has a similar system except with one major difference; our aircraft escort theirs out of our airspace while their

destroy their targets (including civilian airlines).

You also say that Star Wars or SDI is "the insane option". I for one would not mind having a system to protect me from hundreds of incoming ballistic missiles. What if it doesn't work you say? Well, if they can develop a reusable spacecraft that can land at an airstrip without power from 300 miles up then I believe that they can perfect SDI.

Don't get me wrong. Although my opinion is somewhat biased due to the fact that I'm in the military, I would love to put an end to the nuclear build-up and attain global peace. My reason for this is probably different than yours, however. You see, in the event of a war, I'll be the one in Europe amidst the nuclear explosions and radiation while you sit in Halifax and tell the public that Canada should get out of NORAD.

Stephen A. Larkin
Acadia University

Arts mag wins fan in Ontario

To the editors,

I have just received the Sept. 5 issue of *Arts Magazine*. It looks very impressive, and everyone involved should be very proud of themselves!

As a graduate of Dalhousie and NSCAD I am pleased with the commitment that you have shown to the arts community of Nova Scotia.

Hopefully with the help of publications like your own, young struggling artists won't naturally feel obliged to leave the Maritimes in search of that illusive artistic support. Keep up the good work!

Donna James
London, Ontario