

No referendum, no decisions

BY MONICA GILLIS

A bungle by the Dalhousie Student Union council may cost students extra cash in referendum fees.

The Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) was unable to include referendum questions with this year's elections. As a result, council will spend an extra \$4,500 in student fees to address referendum questions in a by-election.

The failure was the result of council's inability to come to a clear understanding of the referendum question process.

The Union's Election Committee faced a number of problems in its attempt to include the referendum questions in the DSU elections. The referendum questions were not given to Chief Returning Officer (CRO) Jenny Riordan until after the nomination period had opened for the candidates. This meant that there was not enough time to advertise that there would be referendum questions.

"Nominations were never opened for the referendum questions. There was no chance to run a YES/NO campaign," said Lewis Jacobson, a member of the Elections Committee, at the council meeting on March 4th.

During this meeting councilors tried to push for the referendum to happen during the regular election period. However, it was

pointed out that if the questions went through with the regular election period they could easily be overturned by the Judicial Board as constitutionally unfair.

Another problem concerning the proper wording of the questions also held up the process.

Jacobson said that he felt Riordan had the ability to run the referendum questions. He said that council could have given the CRO an idea of what the referendum questions would have been

a day into the nomination process. Riordan said that she did not want to run any questions until she had them in from council. Council did not give her the completed questions until March 11th, the second day of voting.

The cost of running the election was around \$5,000 with candidate reimbursement. Had the referendum question been added to the ballot during the regular election period, the cost would still have been \$5,000.

AGM called off

BY MARK REYNOLDS

For the second time this year, the Dalhousie Students Union annual general meeting has been called off. The meeting, scheduled for March 19, could not come to order last night because the minimum number of students were not in attendance.

The annual general meeting (AGM) is the only time Dalhousie students get a chance to vote

on Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) issues. A minimum attendance of seventy-five students is required for the AGM to take place. After waiting an hour, only sixty-eight students were in the Shirreff Hall cafeteria, where the meeting was to occur.

"I think that people were too busy, or just not interested," said DSU president Brad MacKay.

MacKay said the DSU will not attempt to hold another AGM. He added that although the AGM held in February was adjourned before all the motions before it were considered, the constitutional requirement to hold the meeting had been met.

"These motions today were essentially just housekeeping," said MacKay.

"It will be up to next year's executive if they want to bring these motions to another AGM."

Carman Barteaux, vice-president community affairs and communications said that the low attendance was not due to a lack of advertising.

"[This meeting was publicized] more so than the last one," he said. "We put up 400 posters, and ads in the Gazette."

Government not keeping green promises

BY SAMER MUSCATI

OTTAWA (CUP) — Making environmental promises is easy for the federal government but keeping them is a different story, according to a new report by Canada's environmental commissioner.

One of the government's main problems is implementing their green objectives and meeting targets for key programs, says environmental auditor general Brian Emmett in his inaugural report released March 5.

"As an employer, landlord and purchaser, the federal government is the largest single enterprise in Canada. How it manages its day-to-day operations has significant implica-

tions for the environment," said Emmett, who was appointed to the position during the summer. He is responsible for monitoring and reporting on the implementation of environment strategies now being prepared by 24 government departments and agencies.

After reviewing 42 existing federal audits, Emmett found 70 per cent of them had problems with the implementation of environmental measures.

He says Canada faces significant environmental problems including new toxic chemicals, urban smog, ground water contamination, high energy consumption and a high output of pollution and waste.

He also says Canada will fall "far short" of meeting its target for reducing greenhouse gas emis-

sions which contribute to global warming. During the 1992 Earth Summit, Canada promised to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases to 1990 levels by the year 2000. And in their election Red Book of 1993, the Liberals promised to make the reduction an "immediate priority."

But instead, emissions have increased 6 per cent since 1990.

The Liberals have slashed over \$1 billion from the environment and natural resources department budgets.

The report comes on the heels of a new poll that found nine in 10 Canadians were troubled by the state of the environment, with most expressing concern over global warming.

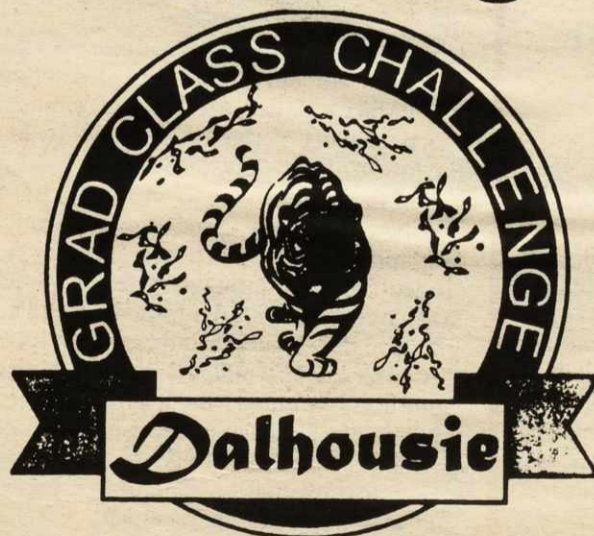
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LYDON & MENGUAL

Chris and Rose wish to thank their many friends, co-workers, and supporters for their great effort during the recent DSU Elections
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