

Candidates short-sighted on referendum

"No way, Howard. We won't pay more for tuition when this deal expires. Back in 1985, in return for contributing student dollars to your capital campaign, we got you to agree to keep our tuition indexed to inflation.

"But sure, we'll gladly hand over \$200,000 of our members' money so we can pay for budget items you're responsible for. And no, it doesn't bother us that the referendum which passed the \$25 fee was so rigged by the Dalplex administration that the Council couldn't stomach passing it for the original three years."

A logical position? Not really. But both candidates for DSU president support the referendum while at the same time vowing to keep the cost-of-living-indexed tuition agreement.

How can Dr. Clark take the DSU president, the strongest voice of students on campus, seriously when they tell him "the buck stops here" when throughout their campaigns they've been

gladly handing over all the bucks the starving administration needs?

As VP of the Students' Association of Health, Physical Education and Recreation (SAHPER), Shannon Hessian's support can at least be understood.

But what about Dave Shannon's platform of "logical process" and "strategic planning"? What about his and Terry Crawley's supposed anger over the nickel-and-dime incidental fees slapped on everything from re-reading exams to letters of permission? What would you call an extra \$25 fee tacked on to full-time students' fees just for coming to Dal?

Shannon and Crawley support the fee as a temporary measure to improve school spirit, but its success can only mean more user fees — maybe for the library? After all, students use the books the most, right?

As "No" campaigner Robin Hamilton said yesterday, the students are paying for the adminis-

tration's mistakes — for example, putting the fieldhouse floor over rubber.

Dalplex director Tony Martin's proposed distribution for 1989/90 includes about \$30,000 a year to meal and travel allowances for varsity teams, as well as making up for the 2.5% budget cutback that all departments had to absorb this year — all departments except athletics, which was far-sighted enough to engineer their personal referendum to provide a ready cash reserve. (And what is the proportion of varsity students to the rest of the 10,000-member student body, anyway?)

As for last year's referendum process, it was a bungled mess of administrative meddling and rumours of intimidation during the campaign which left students with an impossibly complicated array of "choices" on the ballot, resulting in the referendum's

squeaking through.

In a four-page letter to Dr. Clark last April, the-DSU President Caroline Zayid outlined the bad faith shown by administration negotiators. Apparently "impatient or nervous" at what they saw as slow process in the talks, administration officials organized the signing of a petition with the 10,000 signatures necessary to call a referendum. After listing several complaints she received from students about the campaign process, Zayid closed by telling Clark she could not "state too strongly the suspicion and ill will that has been created by the conduct of members of Administration regarding the student referendum . . ."

This is what the DSU president has to deal with. A firm stand on refusing special fees now would help Shannon with his stated

principle of "stating what your goals are and working by coalition". Hessian has said she'll raise campus spirit, ensuring that "not 1000 but 10,000" students will turn out for rallies to support the tuition agreement. Okay, okay, the figures are election rhetoric. But if she is basing this strategy on what worked for her during the strike, then the glow of a successful student protest may be clouding her vision. Students won't turn out in the same numbers for an issue like negotiations over what seems to them 'only' roughly a hundred-dollar yearly increase in tuition fees, if they're not being hurt by something as drastic as no classes and a possible delay in summer jobs.

Both candidates should rethink their stand if they really want to protect students' long-term interests.

Heather Hueston

OPINION

Elections plagued with apathy

by Scott Matthews

It's time for another round of student elections and nobody seems to care who is being elected. Surprise, surprise.

The people that get elected affect the daily lives of students as well as the overall image of the university within the community.

Every election in recent memory has had student apathy as one of its main themes. It is time we took a serious look at what student apathy has done to the operations of Dalhousie University. Since students are the

only ones who can bring about change in the university they have to be informed of what is going on.

The Commerce Society, who could be expected to implement the best accounting controls and management procedures seems to have the worst. Commerce students are currently paying the highest student fees and I (as a Commerce student) would like to know why. Renovations to the Commerce House last year were approximately \$40,000, but how

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You are the few, the chosen.
Gazette Staff. Determine the editor for next year.

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Screening of candidates

Thursday, March 16
4:00 p.m.

Voting

Friday, March 17
9:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Students still angry

I'm Nobody! Who are you?
Are you — Nobody — Too?
Then there's a pair of us?
Don't tell! they'd advertise — you know!

How dreary — to be — Somebody!
How public — like a Frog —
To tell one's name — the livelong June —
To an admiring Bog!

Emily Dickenson

by Paula M. Clark
Elizabeth A. Power

When the Dalhousie Faculty strike of 1988 is mentioned one thought that comes to mind is:

God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.

This paper evolved as a result of the lack of serenity in the lives of Dalhousie students. Is it lack of wisdom that has impeded them from speaking out on their own behalf? Or is it lack of courage resulting from fear of repercus-

The Administration put Dalhousie's image ahead of concern for students.

sion that has made it essential for me to guarantee the anonymity of student contributors?

Students at Dalhousie University have recently gained important insight into this poem by Emily Dickenson. Having examined the consequences of the Dalhousie Faculty Association (DFA) strike with respect to students, we could logically deduce that students have been treated as and, in fact, are "Nobody" at Dalhousie. However, contrary to

lack of effort on behalf of the administration to help students during the strike.

What students said about the administration:

- washed its hands of student responsibility, thereby leaving students to clean up the mess themselves.
- put Dalhousie's image ahead of concern for students.
- failed to make an across-the-board decision as to whether or not classes should be cancelled, thereby hurting students.
- created an ethical dilemma for students: cross the picket line and break the strike or miss essential material in ongoing classes?
- did not clarify potential repercussions either of these choices would have on the students.

What students said about the DFA:

- seemed to be concerned, but how concerned were they?
- was vocally concerned about student interests, yet was it any more than a patronizing "we'll do what we can for you?"

The head people of the DFA sold student souls to get what they wanted

- was concerned during the strike, handling student interests along with their own. However there came a point when the DFA put themselves ahead of student concerns.
 - was concerned, but the head people of the DFA sold student souls to get what they wanted.
- Student reaction to the Settlement**
- glad, and moreover, relieved that the strike had finally been

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