

# All hail the electoral battle

## editorial

It's that time of year again, and in the proverbial political back-rooms, the top secret meetings go on. Worn copies of Theodore H. White's "The Making Of A President 1960" in hand, aspirants to the mantle of Dalhousie Student Union President plan their pitch for electoral support. Votes to be bartered for, rumors to be planted, promises to be made - and the race is on. Only one ingredient will likely be missing in the upcoming campaign for next year's Dalhousie Student Council - clearly defined alternatives which would allow the voters to provide direction and a framework in which the new Council can define its roles and responsibilities.

Although only the first faint sputters of political activity have been generated to date, it appears virtually certain that Council elections will continue to be, in the words of Arts Representative Nick Pittas, merely "high school popularity contests". Each candidate will continue to run his own little campaign in

his own little faculty, promising his own little promises, and when its all over precious little will have been accomplished. The individual promises do not add up to a collective responsibility, and nothing of any importance is likely to be done in Council chambers again next year.

But the absence of a definite stance, political, or otherwise, on basic issues is characteristic of the student body from which the candidates arise. No issues exist only because reptilian complacency and creative dissatisfaction are incompatible and mutually exclusive. Issues must be created. In this sense, all spheres of political activity are alike; all depends upon the electorate to whom candidates for elected office must necessarily cater.

It seems that we are once again doomed to suffer through yet another inane and inconsequential campaign, filled with the irrelevant electoral rhetoric to which we are, by now, so thoroughly accustomed. So be it.

### APOLOGY

The GAZETTE apologizes for the misrepresentation of remarks attributed to Mr. Randall Smith concerning Mr. Hugh Cowan, in the editorial "Council's Lowest", which appeared in this space in our last edition (Vol. 101, No. 21, 23 Jan. 69).

We apologize also for the implication of the story, that Mr. Smith and Mr. Cowan were in any way contemplating an abuse of legal process by threatening Mr. W. N. Offley with criminal proceedings if he did not refrain from asserting his possible rights, in connection with his recent suspension from the position of Arts Representative on Council.

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