

President, Summer 2007  
Andrew Shouldice

## THE REFERENDUM

I took over the responsibility of Elections Officer for the constitutional referendum that had been started in the previous semester. Votes trickled in slowly, and near the beginning of August we finally reached the threshold of 1/10th of the population having voted.

## BARBECUES

The Friday barbecues were fairly regular throughout the summer. These events generally saw a good crowd. None were free, but we tend not to turn a profit either. (See treasurer's report for details.) Be sure that supplies are kept in the freezer until the day before, when they can be moved to the refrigerator. Three volunteers is the recommended minimum: a runner, a griller, and someone working the cash. The runner can double as a second griller. Remember to buy vegetarian food. It's more expensive to buy, but we sold it for the same amount as its meaty counterpart.

We bought a new barbecue, which I assembled in the society office (the cage) on evening. Recommendation: if ever you buy a new barbecue, get some help putting it together; it would have gone a lot faster.

## TAG: THE ASSASSINS GAME

Early in the semester, it was proposed that we revive the old TAG game. (Summary: You sign up at the society desk and are given the names of people: your "marks". You must hit your mark with a nerf gun, etc. No playing during/in a class. Last one standing wins.) At the time this was brought up, the shooting at Virginia Tech had occurred about three weeks ago. As such, the project did not take off. When the climate is more appropriate for this sort of game, however, it's recommended that the council try organizing it.

## MAIL-OUT TO NEW STUDENTS

Near the beginning of the semester, we started thinking about what we would like to include in the frosh package to be mailed out to the new students that would be arriving in September. We had an excellent opportunity late in the semester to have our promotional material included in a flash drive distributed to the new students via the DSU. I put together a poster advertising the scavenger-hunt type orientation event we had been planning. Turnout at the event was greater than expected, and turned out to be a good success. Interest in the CS Society among new students at the beginning of September 07 has been impressive.

## TO THE NEW PRESIDENT: RATIFICATION AND SIGNING AUTHORITY

Two of the first things you should do as the new president are re-ratify the CS Society on TigerSociety, and arrange for new signing authorities on the Dal-Tech bank account at Scotia

Bank. You may have to contact the previous president to get the appropriate passwords for TigerSociety. Similarly, you will need a letter from those people who are being removed from the bank account.

## CONVERSATIONAL ESL GROUP

A popular society-run project in the past was the conversational ESL group. Nicholas Rajendram took it upon himself to try and get it started again in the fall. He located a few people who were willing to participate. The responsibility was passed to Timothy Mankowski, who agreed to operate as the organizer for this project in the coming semester.

## MERCHANDISE

Melanie Tupper and Amanda Myers headed up an initiative to get some CS Society merchandise (t-shirts, mugs, etc.) made up for sale at the Society desk.

Designs:

- the "8-bit Dal Crest" design on black
- the "Ted Stevens: The Internet is a series of tubes" design on brown, and
- the "Baby Tux: I'm cheap and fun: Linux" design on white.

So far, the Crest design has been very popular. More shirts should be ordered soon. Given the acceptance of the design, plans have been discussed to get hoodies with the crest printed/embroidered.

## CS SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

In the previous semester, efforts were made (Primarily by Amanda Myers) to create a newsletter for distribution among the CS population. The goal was to increase awareness of the society, and help provide entertaining content for the masses. After some number of planning meetings, it was decided that we should opt to create a website instead of a paper-based newsletter. One of the original main mandates of the summer council was to make such a website. When Amanda was away for a number of weeks, I attempted to carry the torch of this project. I soon discovered why such an enterprise was so difficult: Convincing members of the society, and even of the council, to obligate themselves to writing content is very tricky. Our faculty is very small, so finding enough people to generate fresh content on even a monthly basis may prove troublesome. However, at the beginning John Doucette and I created a very brief About-Us type pamphlet for distribution among the new students. The worked very well, and the effort required was not staggering. We will be continuing this, scaling the design to fit the amount of content we have for any given issue.

## CRESTON RUDOLF FROM CLASSIQUE CLASS RINGS

Creston approached me during one of our barbecues, asking about setting up a booth in the fall to showcase some class rings. We agreed, and said he would be contacting me early in the summer to set up a time. I will be forwarding such messages to the new president. Creston's email address is [crestonrudolph@classiquerings.com](mailto:crestonrudolph@classiquerings.com) .

## COUNCIL RETREAT

Early in the summer semester, a CS Society Council retreat was discussed. It would involve the council going camping, getting to know each other, and building a camaraderie that would help form a cohesive body. Discussion continued, and eventually it was too late in the semester for this original rationale to be relevant. It was recommended that we mention this idea to the next council, should they wish to do something similar. If so, remember to plan quickly and do it soon.

## GEEKBEER LUCKY 13

Social Representative Gilbert Rossignol resigned mid-semester during the summer. With no official GeekBeer organizer, Eric Snow and I took it upon ourselves to throw one large event to draw in the crowds. It was a 'Beat the Clock' event, and the crowds did indeed come. Financially, Beat The Clock was a huge loss, but this was known beforehand. The massive turnout labels the event as a success, but the combination of a large crowd and inexpensive alcohol made for some unfortunate circumstances. A number of people drank too much, and at that point the event shut down (~11PM). Also, security had to be called to have an individual removed.

Details of the events at GB Lucky 13 need not be discussed in this report, but the following points of advice should be heeded:

- Use a Kensington lock on the projector whenever it's used.
- Beat The Clock means you will have people drinking too much. Keep a close eye that nobody is going to hurt themselves.
- The bartenders are the ones who absolutely do not drink at an event. They are the last word on who must be removed from the event, and when an event should be shut down.

On a lighter note: The president should play an active role in throwing fun events. It's highly recommended that they read my previous social rep reports, and the Social Rep's Manifesto by Sean Smith.

## PROJECTOR

The society regularly borrowed a data projector from FCS Tech Services for use at Geekbeer. (Playing video games, watching movies, projecting BeatTheClock information, etc.) Tech Services noted that society really should purchase their own projector. Dave Green helped us select one, and it has recently arrived. I would like to note that Dave Green helped the society save a great deal of money by assisting with the projector.

## ELECTIONS FIASCO

Please read the Elections Officer's report for more details on this. I offer a summery here: After the nominations period of the Fall 07 elections closed, some concerns were raised about a) the constitutionality of who could be nominated, b) the integrity of the nominations period deadlines, and c) the security of the scripts being used. In a meeting of the council executive and elections officer, a more formal definition of "student" was agreed upon, and it was decided that the elections be thrown out for a fresh start. The unannounced re-opening and

re-closing of the nomination period was reason enough, but we also wanted to start over with a more secure script. The subsequent elections proceeded with far fewer glitches. Not all of the executive positions were filled, so a bi-election is being held currently. A new elections officer is running things, and has opted to use Mike Smit's web application for the election.

#### FRONT DOOR SECURITY

Occasionally, members of the society/council need to move large or bulky things out of the building. If this happens after 5PM, the security guard would be right to question them. For example: moving several computers out of the building, after having purchased them from an FCS surplus sale. I contacted Dal Security about this, and they simply requested that I inform them when this was going to happen: Who is moving what, and when. A single contact for this is necessary. Please contact the previous president (me, for example) to "transfer responsibility". I will email Security and inform them that you are the new contact person.

#### CSANNOUNCE MESSAGE

At the beginning of September, a message was sent via CSANNOUNCE to the entire FCS student body by an unknown party. The message constituted sexual harassment, and is currently being dealt with extremely aggressively by the Faculty and Dalhousie. As this issue is not yet resolved, and some information has not been formally released, I will not comment on it. However, the method for approving messages for CSANNOUNCE is being changed to something more secure.

#### A NOTE FROM MIKE PORTER

"The Chinese year 4706 begins on Feb. 7, 2008. Perhaps someone on the council should write that date down for the next next social rep."

#### A NOTE FROM LAURENCE J. PETER (1919 - 1988)

"Bureaucracy defends the status quo long past the time when the quo has lost its status."