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The views expressed in the **Dalhousie Gazette** are not necessarily those of the Dalhousie Student Union, the editor, or the collective staff. We reserve the right to edit material for space or legal reasons, or if it is considered offensive to our readers.

The deadline for articles and letters-to-the-editor is noon on Monday. No unsigned material will be accepted, but anonymity may be granted on request. Letters should not exceed 500 words and must be typed double-spaced. Advertising copy must be submitted by the Friday preceding publication.

Our office is located on the third floor of the Student Union Building. Our mailing address is the **Dalhousie Gazette**, Dalhousie University, Halifax, N.S., B3H 4J2, telephone (902) 424-2507.

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The Gazette's weekly staff meetings are now at 5:30 every Thursday.

Editorial

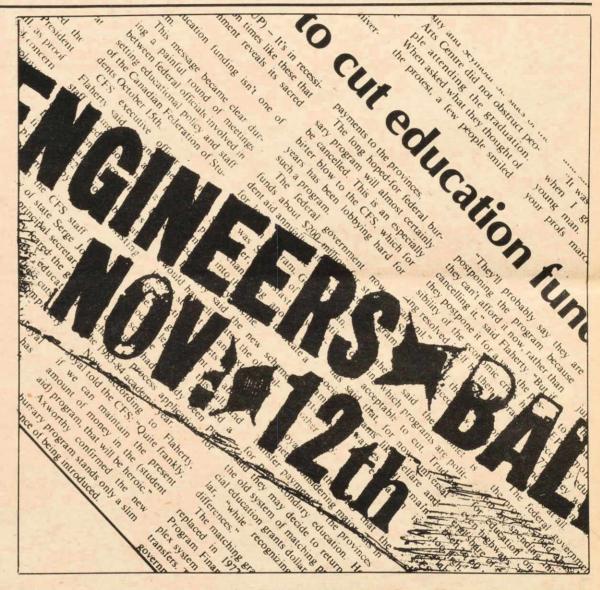
Reasoning with Engineers

The story that's in the Gazette this week on the Engineers' stamping may make us seem a humourless bunch'a geeks (who...us?), so some more explaining may be in order.

When engineers stamp the paper, they generally just dump the Gazette in the SUB & Killam Libraries - nowhere else. If we want to get the papers to locations where they're picked up and read, that's up to a hundred extra bucks cost for us to get someone on short notice if we can't get our own distributor. If we do use our own distributor it's still extra money as they already distributed the papers once before the gears picked them up.

Since we never know when it's gonna happen, we never know what to put on the cover, either. Generally an article someone worked for eight or nine hours on is trashed because of the stamp. And if it's on the front page, it's (theoretically) important news. Last year the stamping destroyed a big article on the President's house costing near a half-million bucks to renovate. That story could have had some impact - got some-body upset, rallied public opinion, or caused MacKay's pet lemur to have a heart attack - but the stamping caused the story to go unnoticed.

People who work on the Gazette don't like to see something they give a lot of time and fail tests for treated like a piece of garbage or a convenient billboard. Other Societies advertise in the Gazette - through the normal means - without causing this friction and hostility once a year. We don't want this dumb 'tradition' to continue for another nineteen years. That's why we billed the Engineering Society for the money it's cost us. We don't want to bash engineers or call them innovative names they've never heard before - We just want this mess to stop.



Commentary

Israel on the table; taking a look at the facts

by Caroline Zayid

Israel's invasion of Lebanon was purportedly intended to bring peace to the Galilee by "cleaning out" a 25 km cordon in South Lebanon. Despite the fact that all non-Israeli observers have testified to the fact that there had been no violations by the Palestine Liberation Organization of the 11 month old Habibnegotiated ceasefire, North Americans generally accepted this reasoning. Ironically, this so-called Peace for Galilee brought about

death for thousands of Palestinians, the truly indigenous people of the Galilee. As the Israeli invasion, in clear violation of international law, proceeded with considerable brutality to the edges of Beirut, we became more alarmed. Eyewitness reports came out of indiscriminate destruction of cities and refugee camps of mass arrests of, amongst others, doctors and nurses (in violation of the Geneva Convention), and of the bombing of hospitals, and homes, including the use of

cluster and phosphorous bombs. Finally, the daily bombardment of Beirut, and the siege, keeping out medical supplies, food and water, forced the world public to recognize that this Israeli war was not necessarily "a just war".

The climax of alienation from Israel's action came with the news of the barbaric massacres at Sabra and Shatilla camps. Evidence accumulated suggesting that the Israeli army command, under the direction of General Sharon, had

planned and coordinated the Phalangist troops' entry into the camps, and had watched the massacres

In the wake of the news, a very vocal opposition erupted in Israel which eventually forced Prime Minister Begin to call an inquiry. Somehow, time and statements from Israeli spokesmen have left us with the impression that these massacres wre not Israel's fault, that it is inconceivable that Israelis would have tolerated the massacres had

they known, and that even if they did know it is an aberration and not at all part of Israel's way of doing things.

Are these impressions true? Certainly they conform to Israel's media image as a "democratic and humane society", but do they conform to the facts? Actually, Israel's creation and history have been marked by many brutal massacres

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