

Letters

Students' health status low?

To the Gazette,

I am writing in response to your article in last week's paper regarding Dalhousie's Drug Plan. Being chairman of the Health Plan Committee I feel it is necessary to offer an explanation as to reasons for delays, and other problems.

In order for Mr. Ingles to cover students he must first receive a computer print-out from the university which gives a list of all registered students. Unfortunately, this list is not printed until late October, early November, because of inaccuracies in earlier printing. Subsequent monthly print-outs are sent. Students registering late, or awaiting loans to pay registration fees were not included on the initial list. Also, graduate students on fellowships and/or scholarships were not included. This former deletion was discovered early and the student's names were added, but not until November. Finally, part-time students who do not pay student fees are not included. One obvious reason for delay is due to the postal strike, which created a backlog of claims.

In regards to other universities dropping out of the Ingles & Co. Health Plan, it is our understanding that Acadia dropped out, as, being a much smaller university, they could not afford to support it.

The reason council passed acceptance of the Health Plan

so quickly was not so much due to the executive's recommendations, as the need for prompt and proper health coverage which could not be provided until an agreement had been reached with an insurance company.

We are presently preparing for next year's health plan, and as we now know many of the problems, we can anticipate them before many of them occur.

One final comment—at this time, insurance companies are reluctant to insure university students at a reasonable rate because, apparently, their health status is below that of the general public!! Please think about that.

Sincerely,
Elva Hammarstrand



Yay
Yay
Gazette!

To the Gazette:

In regard to the January 18 issue of the Gazette, I have only one comment. . . That's ENTERTAINMENT!
Keep up the good work!
Mary Dixon.



The Dalhousie Gazette is the weekly publication of the Dalhousie Student Union. The views expressed in the paper are not necessarily those of the Student Union, the editor or the 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 advertising is the Friday noon preceding publication. Articles and letters are due Monday noon. No unsigned material will be accepted but anonymity may be granted on request. Letters should not exceed 500 words and must be typed on a 64 character line.

The Dalhousie Gazette, Canada's Oldest College Newspaper, is a founding member of Canadian University Press. Our office is 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. The subscription price is \$9 per year (26 issues). ISSN 0011-5819.

Editorial board: Danièle Gauvin, Alan Adams, Matt Adamson, Elissa Barnard, Nigel Allen

Entertainment coordinator: Eric Simpson

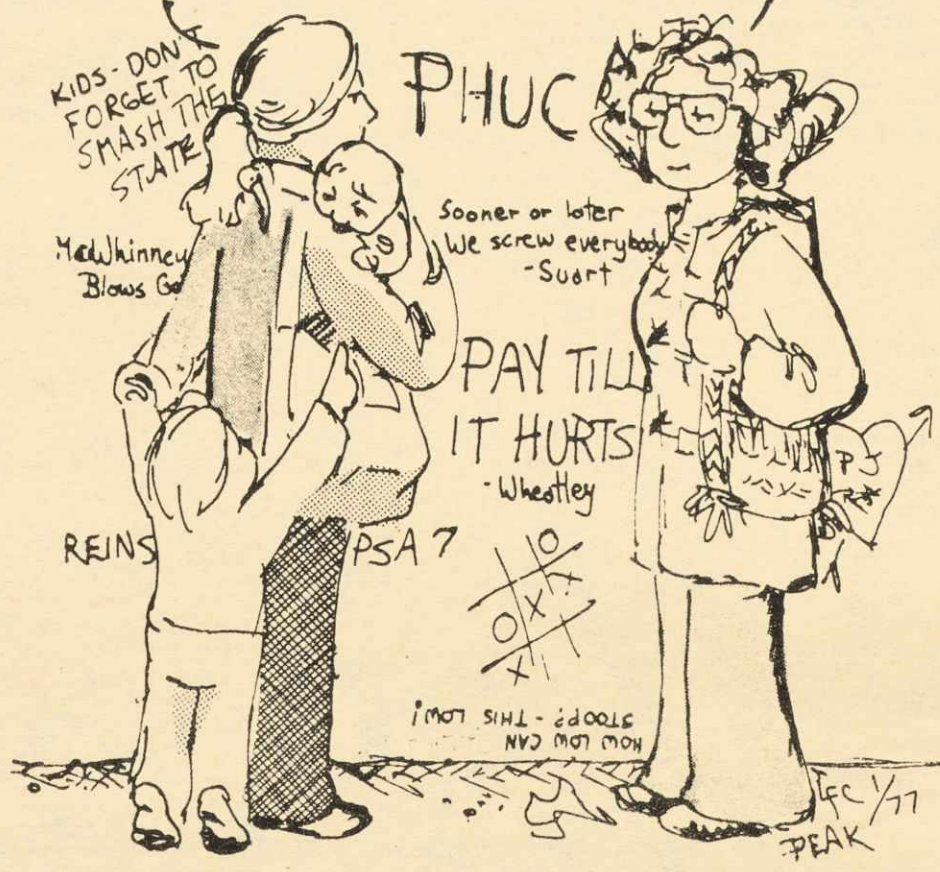
Sports coordinator: Micki Martinello

Advertising and business manager: Matt Adamson

Staff for this issue: Gail Picco, Mark Simkins, Valerie Mansour, Murray Kingston, Brent Melanson, Glenn Walton, Barry Sinervo, Maria Rey, Leo Jacobs, Michael Cormier, Kyle Jolliffe, Marc Allain, Ron Stang, Sheena Masson, Susan Johnson, Chuck Piercey, Denise Soucy Roberge, Bill Dodge, Margaret Little.

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO
IF THEY CUT YOUR T.A. PAY 38%?

I'M THINKING OF BECOMING A SCAB,
IT'S THE ONLY FINANCIALLY STABLE
PROFESSION AROUND HERE.



Neutrality serves needs

To the Gazette,

The Board of Directors of the Dalhousie Student Union, Inc., (Council) has decided to remain neutral on the strike issue, in our view, because taking a stand would seriously hamper the operations of the SUB. Keeping the building open is the priority; as it provides a place to study, relax, dine, drink, and otherwise provides a forum for social gathering and discussion for students and others. It also provides a place for striking workers to have a cup of coffee and to generally discuss the strike with students. Furthermore, the Strike Support Committee has been able to meet regularly, and the build-

ing has also served as a centre for information distribution. All this and more, right down to the weekly publication of the GAZETTE, has been made possible by Council's neutrality stand. The SUB is the only building on campus to be recognized by both sides as being neutral, and therefore serves the purpose of providing people with a place in which to express their opinions.

It should also be noted that Councilors must respect the wishes expressed by their constituents. A case in point is the Howe Hall Residence Council, which months ago passed a neutrality motion as the only reasonable response

to the unique and incredibly difficult conditions they have endured as a consequence of the strike. At the time, both the Student Council and the Howe Hall Council urged both sides to go back to the bargaining table.

Under the circumstances, Council actions have been both reasonable and practical methods of dealing with the situation. The first concern of Council is the needs of the students, and the decisions made so far have respected those needs.

Sincerely,
John Murphy, Treasurer
Dick Matthews, Howe Hall Rep.

Neutrality impossible for students

To the Gazette:

I would appreciate it if you would allow me to use the space in your letters column to address the students that you serve.

The students that I would really like to communicate with are those who have chosen to remain 'neutral' in

the present labour dispute at Dalhousie. I would like to ask them a few questions.

First of all I would ask them just what they are doing at University? What is the purpose of a University Education? Is a University not a place where individuals will gain more information about

the world around them? A place where people's ability to think critically becomes sharper? A place where people can, or at least be encouraged to, question what is happening around them? Is a University not a place where individuals will acquire the tools necessary to determine their own future?

Gaining information and thinking critically about that information is, needless to say, applicable to the current situation on your campus. The information you have is that there are people employed by your University who are trying to keep their heads above water while earning a wage. Many of them are unable to do so on what they earn. In addition to not providing them

Anyone interested in sitting on the **SUB Operations Committee** of Student Council please attend the Council meeting on Sunday, 28 January, beginning at 7:00 pm. Two positions are open.

continued on page 5