

# the Dalhousie Gazette

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The **Dalhousie Gazette**, Canada's oldest college newspaper, is a weekly publication of the Dalhousie Student Union members and is a founding member of the Canadian University Press.

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.

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

## Editorial

### Radical Rans capitulates

At the beginning of this year, Student Council President Peter Rans was known as "Radical Rans."

One of the things — one of the *most important* things Radical Rans had to do this year was sit on Dal's Board of Governors and fight for student interests in things like tuition and user fees next year.

But something happened to Radical Rans.

He would always want to seem "reasonable" to the Board, satisfied to let student Board Rep Atul Sharma bring up the more contentious points. At times it seemed like some tragicomic game of good cop-bad cop Rans was forcing Sharma to play.

When the Board of Governors was planning next year's budget — including matters like tuition, residence fees, cutbacks in everything — they decided to do it in private.

Into the hands of Rans there appeared a Board document stating all the proposed cuts and scenarios for the upcoming year. It listed by each item, such as "tuition," "varsity sports" and "residence fees" the exact amount of money to be slashed, and hinted in places at how things would be slashed. It was, and is, a frightening document.

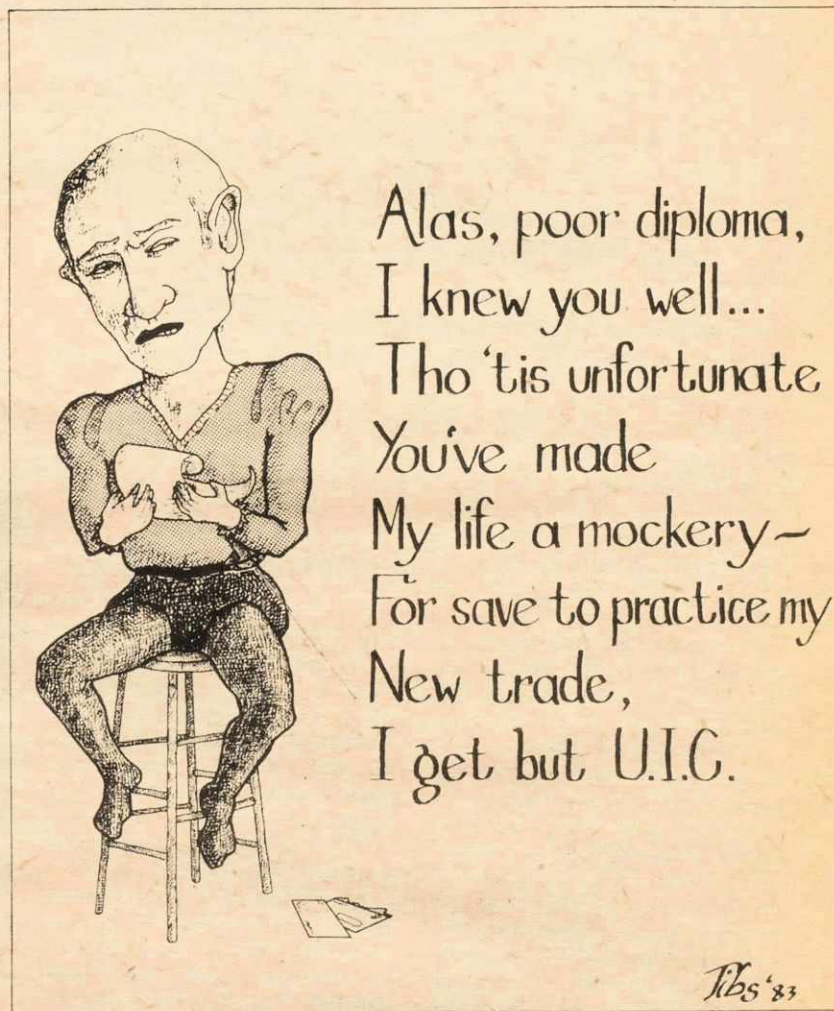
And it was clearly marked at the top that the document was public information as of March 28.

Come March 28, a Gazette staffer went to see Rans about the document. Rans refused to release it, saying that he wanted to check with Robbie Shaw (Dal's VP-finance) if it was okay first. He said he didn't want to cause next year's student reps to be less trusted with information by the Board. Rans reached Shaw late in the day, who said to hold the release until Wednesday, too late for the Gazette to report on the matter. On Wednesday, the document which Shaw gave the okay to release didn't have figures attached to it. It was a laundered document.

Rans had nothing to lose by releasing the document, as he was clearly free to do with it what he wanted. Nobody from the Board had suggested there would be any problem with releasing the document, and he in no way could have been blamed for releasing a document marked "public information."

But he held it back, to play it safe. Robbie Shaw took care of the rest. That means that the decisions made on tuition, Housing fees, faculty cutbacks, and program cuts will happen in secret, after or during exams, and Dalhousie students will have no say in the matter. We could have found out the scenario a week ago and acted on it, but now we have air to clutch at. Thanks to Peter Rans. Radical Rans.

In defense of his desire to not "offend" the Board, Radical Rans even went so far as to state that action could still be taken after exams if the worst happens — sweeping cuts, 20% tuition, huge residence fee hikes and the like "Student have a lot of pent-up energy then," he said. Perhaps Radical Rans has forgotten what happens to students after exams — they go home, to work or to rest. Perhaps Radical Rans has lost touch with students. He's certainly lost touch with their best interests.



Alas, poor diploma,  
 I knew you well...  
 Tho'tis unfortunate  
 You've made  
 My life a mockery—  
 For save to practice my  
 New trade,  
 I get but U.I.C.

## Commentary

### Big Brother watches over you in Howe Hall

by R.P. McMurphy,  
 dedicated to Pat Donahoe, who is  
 like a big brother to me

John Doe is glad to be back in Howe Hall, back in Cameron House. He worked hard in the summer, and now he is eager to put his energy to better use: studying. At least two or three times a term,

John goes out, being sure to get in before lights-out at eleven. But he doesn't worry; he's on good terms with the residence supervisors, and he even gets along with the Dal Security staff who patrol the building. They like him a lot, because he's the one who called them during initiation week and told him

who was smoking drugs. John gets along with the Dean, too, and talks to him a few times a week. He started during his first year in residence, telling the Dean what's going on . . . who's staying up after lights-out, and who's getting together and talking in the halls, or what's discussed when a bunch of

the guys get together in the room next door. John's also the one who let the Dean know when one of the guys managed to sneak his girlfriend in. Yes, the Dean is proud of John, and has shown his pleasure by giving John one of the nicest rooms on the second floor Cameron. It seems unfortunate that

nobody talks to John anymore — after John reported the names of the perpetrators of the first shaft of the year, even the first year students shun him — but John hardly notices, he's so involved in his work.

Yes, John loves his studying. Of course, he's never dreamed of stay-