

Who needs independence?

Student council control of the student press is a detrimental situation that must be avoided. This we argued in our presentation to council for autonomy. How ironic that our arguments would fulfill themselves less than twenty-four hours after having lost the autonomy referendum.

Yet this is precisely what happened. At last Thursday's special council meeting a motion was passed which prematurely ended the **Gazette's** publishing schedule.

The atmosphere at both Thursday's emergency meeting and Sunday's regular meeting was tense. Emotional debate between council and **Gazette** seemed to end in confusion. Many people, by the end of Sunday's meeting, still did not completely understand the situation.

The simple fact of the matter is that the **Dalhousie Gazette** is not over budget. In all major areas the **Gazette** has remained within the amounts budgeted. We have not been extravagant and have not overspent.

According to the Student Union treasurer the **Gazette** has already exceeded the amount allocated for printing as well as other areas in the budget. This is misleading. A cursory look at the **Gazette** books shows that over \$4,000 in expenditures from last year have been credited to this year's budget. This in itself accounts for the supposed deficit.

Council also believes that the **Gazette** has fallen short of its projected revenue. This is again misleading. Our national ad revenue is in fact greater than what was budgeted for, while our local ad revenue is only slightly lower than projected. However, the student union has not advertised as much as expected.

The treasurer's stance on the **Gazette's** finances defies rational explanation. We've kept within budget on expenditures and met our commitments on revenue and yet she persists in her arguments for closure.

The most distressing aspect of the argument is that she refused to consider the possibility of the **Gazette** completing its publication schedule on a no deficit basis.

We at the **Gazette** have reason to believe that the Student Union is facing a possible deficit situation. If this is the case a rationale for ceasing publication of the **Gazette** prematurely comes into focus. The treasurer may be attempting to balance the Student Union budget by cutting expenditures. The **Gazette** has obviously come under this category.

The Dalhousie Gazette considers it a duty and obligation to continue the publishing schedule for this year. The students of this university are not to be deprived of a newspaper because of a decision by a group of student politicians. During a time of educational protests across the country, a time when tuition is rising and the quality of education is being compromised, it is vital that students are kept well informed. Council did not seem too aware of this. As one observer noted, "council seems to be discussing this matter based on 'we must close down the Gazette' rather than 'how can we get the paper out of this mess?'"

Even if there is a deficit, the deficit would not increase substantially with two more issues. It is possible to decrease the number of pages and let advertising pay for the issue. That's what we are doing. We are here to publish a student



newspaper and we do not plan to stop prematurely.

"Were it left for me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."—Thomas Jefferson.

by Valerie Mansour and Marc Allain

Political pies

A recent issue of the **Chronicle Herald** devoted editorial space to last week's pie throwing incident in the SUB cafeteria. Entitled "If they can afford pies . . ." the editorial condemns the incident as "thoughtless and ill mannered . . . too serious in its nature to be dismissed as a youthful prank."

One can't help but agree with the latter part of the statement. The pieing of the province's premier is indeed a serious act that shouldn't be dismissed lightly. The editorial however fails to put the incident in its proper perspective and instead uses it as licence to disparage students in general.

The editorial in fact gives a rather distorted account of the whole proceedings. It suggests that students were unable to support their positions with "intelligent and cogent argument" and that by stooping to pie throwing it was "obvious" that students "have no case at all."

It is important that a distinction be made between the actions of the pie throwers and the cogency of the arguments put forward by students on the questions of both the quality and accessibility of education at Dalhousie University.

Those present at the forum will agree that the premier was confronted with concise and articulate positions on these problems. The premier was told in no uncertain terms that Nova Scotian students are in a crisis situation. He was told that the cost of our education is approximately double that of other regions and he was given ample evidence of how the quality of this education has deteriorated in the last two years. He was told that high costs, scarce summer employment, and unattractive and inadequate student aid policies were directly affecting the composition of the province's universities.

The premier was debated point by point by serious and informed students concerned with the effects that his government's policies are having on their education, and was taken to task several times on the implications these policies hold for post secondary students in Nova Scotia.

Those involved in the pie throwing however represent a different political perspective. They are part of a growing number of dissatisfied and disgruntled individuals that are expressing their frustration with what they see as hypocritical and unresponsive authority. Their actions are designed precisely to flout their irreverence in the hope of undermining and discrediting this authority.

To dismiss them as "thoughtless", "illmannered", "childish" or "immature" is to miss the fundamental political nature of their actions. To confuse them with those who, at least, recognize this authority as legitimate and deal with it accordingly is to do an injustice to both.

by Marc Allain



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 staff. We reserve the right to edit material submitted for space or legal reasons, or if considered offensive to our readers.

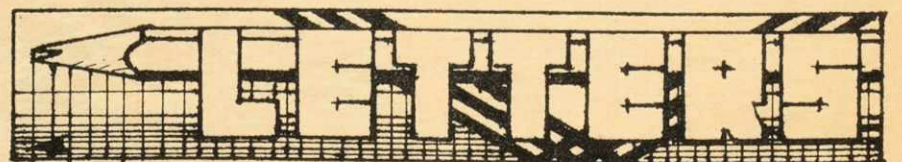
The deadline for advertising is the Friday noon preceding publication. Articles and letters are due Monday noon. No unsigned material will be accepted, but anonymity, if necessary, will be granted. Letters should not exceed 600 words, and must be typed if more than 100 words.

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 424-2507. The subscription price is \$7 per year (28 issues). ISSN 0011-5819

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Good job

To the Gazette:

I would like to commend the SUB Sunday night movie crew for their March 12 presentation of **FRENCH CONNECTION I and II**. Perhaps the nicest idea was the intermissions at

15 minute intervals, when the audience could speculate on what had just happened. In future maybe someone could go on stage and field questions, or explain the basics of lip-reading. Showing each reel twice really made it too easy, and much longer than I had planned for, and unfortunately I had to leave early. I enjoyed the French-spoken

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