

Editorial

Promises, Promises

Some time this year the Gazette promises to write a sunny editorial, a glowing, optimistic piece of prose praising the student council, taking our hats off to the Faculty Association and offering a stuffed pig, apple in mouth (no Henry Hicks jokes attached), to the Administration.

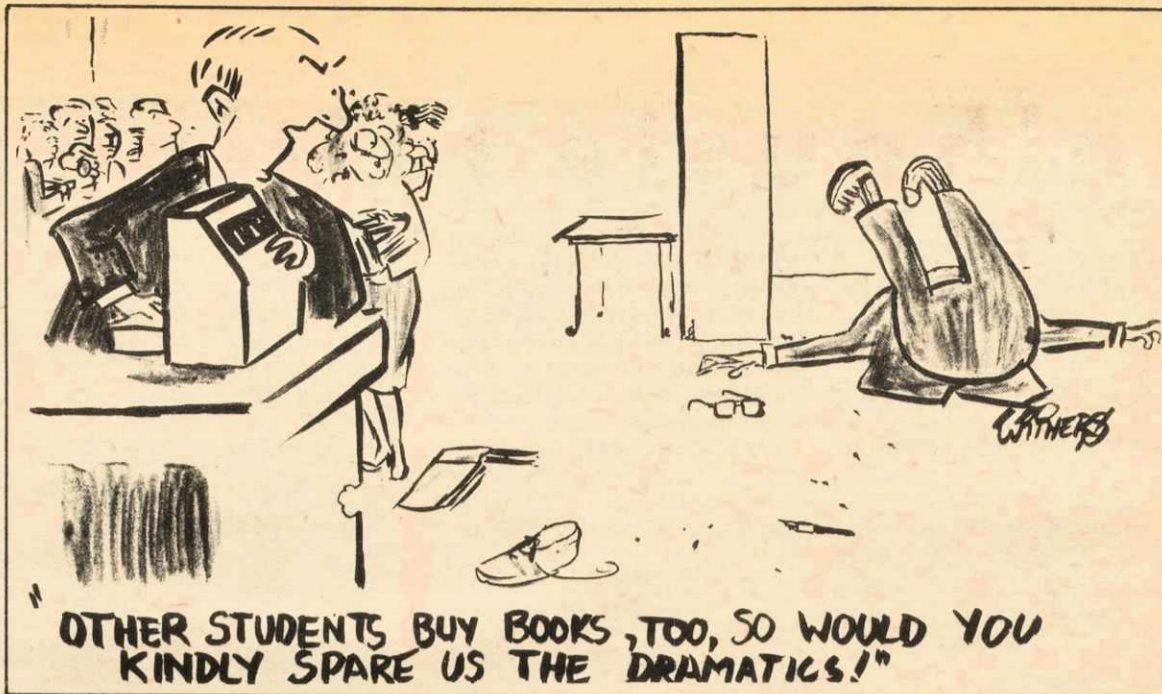
Dalhousie's venerable institutions, its longstanding traditions of honour and freedom, probably deserve fairer treatment from its principal critic. Further, it might benefit the Gazette's soul to imbibe some of the unflinching faith and idealism eminently present in other Halifax publications. It's high time the Gazette ceased to distrust and dissent, that, like Noah's mired elephant, it quit rocking the boat. Isn't it?

Well, we intend to keep our promises. Sometime this year there'll be peaches and cream and panda bear dolls for everyone. (We're also looking for G.I. Joes for the more macho faculties.) In the meantime, however, we expect to kick up a storm about a host of issues affecting the Dalhousie community.

Already there is a lot to shout about. The men at Howe Hall are back to their age-old antics, pillaging SMU and hosting initiation sacrifices on Citadel Hill. The administration is flexing its new muscles, politely asking departments to remit portions of budgets given them six months ago. (No one is saying why their new expenses weren't planned last spring.) Dal women are being frustrated in their attempts to make this a safe campus, where a woman can walk at night without fear of physical molestation.

Situations like this force us to postpone our sunny editorial past the first issue. But, overcast and gloomy, as you may find us at times, you'll definitely find there is something here for you, in this and subsequent issues.

We try to be broad based in our coverage, looking at campus news, entertainment and sports, straying off University Avenue to the Nova Scotian, Canadian and international political scenes, chatting about education philosophies, music trivia, tight underpants or business, and continuing an avid search for departmental innovations. No doubt as the year progresses you'll acquire special interests in particular departments, but we urge you to be broad-minded and keep an eye on everything. At the very least it will hold you over until we hand out the kudos.



Freedom of the press...but

Dear Dalhousie Gazette,

Freedom of the Press has been one of the main pillars in our democratic society, which has allowed our Canadian society to progress to its present state.

I do feel, however, that it is time to hold newspaper management and its editors responsible for what they say or insinuate about people in their daily newspapers. I believe that incorrect or false information which leads to deformation of a person's character should be (along with the editor) brought to a court of law and prosecuted. If the material printed is wrong,

then the editor should be sued for the damage done to that person's character.

If newspaper management or the editors had anything which they were holding over my head I would want them to prove what they think they know in a court of law or I would sue the editor concerned for the damage done to my character.

If your readers feel as I do, I hope they will make their feelings known.

I remain,

ed laPierre

P.S. The Contents of this letter does not reflect my feelings towards the Editors of the Dalhousie Gazette—whom I have always held in high esteem.

Security in question

Dear Sir,

I am writing this letter concerning the recent rape on campus at the Life Sciences Building. As a representative of a concerned group of graduate students I would like to express concern and consternation that such an event happened, given that Dalhousie has a security program. It seems time that the effectiveness of the security program be questioned. As well, students should be made aware by the

administration that such incidents could happen and care should be exercised. I do hope this issue is considered carefully and positive action taken.

Yours truly,
Linda F. Arsenault,
President
Dalhousie School of
Library Service
Student Association

Editor's Note—We received this letter last spring, dated April 21, 1980.

'In absentia' grad fee protested

Dear Editor,

Enclosed is a copy of a letter I have sent to the Registrar, Mr. Tingley, protesting the \$10 fee (\$15 if you're late) charged for **in absentia** graduation. This is the second letter I have sent Mr. Tingley. The first one merely asked for an explanation of why the fee is charged and what it pays for. Mr. Tingley wrote back saying, "All I can tell you is that this is a standard fee at this University." Considering this an inadequate reply, I have decided not to pay the fee. I would appreciate it if you would consider publishing the enclosed letter in your Letters to the Editor section.

Sincerely,
Signed
Audrey Samson

Dear Mr. Tingley,

Thank-you for your reply of March 31, informing me that the \$10 fee charged for **in absentia** graduation is a standard fee. However, this does not answer my original question as to what the fee covers and why it is charged.

I have spent two years at this university in postgraduate studies, and have satisfied all degree requirements. This is an extremely inconvenient time to discover that an ad-

ditional mandatory requirement is attendance at a graduation ceremony or payment of a \$10 fee. I feel that the least a degree-granting institution can do is absorb the cost of mailing out diplomas to its graduates. After all, the university absorbs the costs of mounting a degree-conferring exhibition.

When I graduated from

U.B.C. two years ago, **in absentia**, I was not required to pay extra.

Please consider this to be official notice that I will not be attending convocation. In view of the \$10 fee, I will not be taking out my diploma, either.

Sincerely,
Signed
Audrey Samson

Announcing:

The Annual General Meeting
of The Dalhousie Gazette
Publishing Society

in Room 314,
8 p.m. Sept. 29.

All students invited.

the Dalhousie Gazette

The Dalhousie Gazette, Canada's oldest college newspaper, is the weekly publication of the Dalhousie Student Union members, and is a founding member of 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 on a 64-character line and double spaced. Local Advertising is handled by DAL-ADS—the advertising department of Dalhousie Student Union: Tel: 424-6532. Ad copy must be submitted by the Friday preceding publication.

Our office is located on the third floor of the Dalhousie Student Union Building. Our mailing address is the Dalhousie Gazette, Dalhousie University, Halifax, N.S. You can reach us by telephone at (902) 424-2507.

The subscription price is \$9 per year (26 issues) and our ISSN number is 0011-5819.

Editor: Paul Clark, Circulation Manager: Joe Wilson, Advertising and Business Manager: Sandy MacDonald Tel: 424-6532, Staff this issue: Glenn Walton, Paul Creelman, Arnold Mosher, Nancy Ross, Marlene Peinsznski, Paul Withers, Elaine Frampton, Michael McCarthy, Rob Cohen, Elizabeth Jollimore, Charles Spurr, Cathie McDonald, Daphne Ross, Gretchen Pohkamp, Judy Pelham, Tom Regan, Alan Christensen, Deirdre Dwyer, Sandy Smith, Andrew Sinclair, Elliott Richman, Gisele Marie Baxter, Kevin Ellis, Bruce Rae, and a few others.