

the Dalhousie Gazette

Brian Cox
Ginger Elison
Geoff Martin
Chris Morash
David Lutes
Rusty & Dave
Jeff Kearns
Scott Owen
Charles Spurr
Susan Fullerton
Stew Murray
Stephen Conrad
Philip Doucette

Martin Tomlinson
Moritz Gaede
Chris Armstrong
R.F. MacDonald
Ken Burke
George Chalmers
Mike McAuliffe
Mike Robichaud
Charlene Sadler
Evangeline Sadler
J.P. Casey
Rob Gamblin
Elias Letelier-Ruz
Bob Morrison

Staff this week

Co-editors
**Advertising/
Business Manager**
News Editors

Arts Editor
Sports Editors

Copy Editor
Gazette/Dal Photo
Liason
Production Managers

Typesetters

Samantha Brennan
Elizabeth Donovan
Steve McGregor

A.D. Wright
Ralph English
Bryan Fantie
Mark Alberstat
Lisa Timpf
Siobhan McRae
Peter Kitsihtis

Elizabeth Donovan
Mark Walker
P.J. Wilson
Mary Lou Hendry
Fred Rowe

The Dalhousie Gazette is Canada's oldest college newspaper. Published weekly through the Dalhousie Student Union, which also comprises its membership, the Gazette has a circulation of 10,000.

As a founding member of Canadian University Press, the Gazette adheres to the CUP Statement of Principles and reserves the right to refuse any material submitted of a libelous, sexist or racist nature. Deadline for commentary, letters to the editor and announcements is noon on Monday. Submissions may be left at the SUB Enquiry Desk c/o Dal Gazette.

Commentary should not exceed 700 words, letters should not exceed 300 words. No unsigned material will be accepted, but anonymity may be granted on request.

Advertising copy deadline is noon Friday before publication. The Gazette offices are located on the 3rd Floor SUB. Come up and have a coffee and tell us what's going on.

The views expressed in the Gazette are not necessarily those of the Student Union, the editor or the collective staff.

Subscription rates are \$15 per year (25 issues) and our ISSN number is 0011-5816. The Gazette's mailing address is 6136 University Avenue, Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3H 4J2, telephone (902) 424-2507 or (902) 424-2055. The business office may be reached at (902) 424-6532.

Time for a Hero

Here's a little anecdote students at Dal should never forget after the events of Tuesday, March 20th, this year.

In 1980, a young science student joined council as Science rep. That same year, he decided he could best serve students by fighting through the fog in the University's Board of Governors (BoG), that closed-door group of people who make the heavy decisions about tuition and Dal budgeting. He was appointed by council, and began feeling his way about the scene. One thing was clear—a lot of the thinking which led to large jumps in tuition at Dal seemed to come simply from lack of knowledge about students. The Board members—mainly corporate execs following the lead of the administration—didn't know how hard it was to go to Dal with skyrocketing costs and limited resources. He began telling Board members. He joined many council committees, in which he was always an intelligent, key member.

He ran for Science rep the next year and lost.

Undaunted (well, maybe a bit daunted) by this, he ran for the council's appointed Board position again and got it. While still remaining active on council and several committees, he began to amass reports, and studies, and statistics, so he could speak to the BoG members in terms they could easily understand. Charts were done relating how university is quickly being populated only by upper-income Canadians, and expressing how raising tuition makes it impossible for many students to attend. He pointed to how the lack of summer jobs limited their ability to pay. But something was missing. He and other student reps still couldn't get through to the majority of the Board members. Maybe . . . He thought with the mandate of the students behind him instead of a council appointment, the Board might pay more attention.

He ran for elected Board rep the next year and was trounced, almost two-to-one. He was perceived as "radical".

For the third time he received student council's appointment to the Board and redoubled his efforts to win Board members over to the reality of students' financial straits. He now had a heavy workload as a scholarship Med student, but still spent many late nights writing, co-writing and researching voluminous reports to assist both the Board and the Provincial government in understanding students. Together with Peter Rans as President of student council, his work on the Board was unceasing. But in that year—last year—it wasn't enough. The administration was still committed to higher tuition than inflation, increases in student loans, or summer jobs could justify. Dal was one of the most expensive universities to attend in Canada, maybe THE most expensive. And tuition went up 14 per cent last summer, when there weren't many students around here to complain. The subject of our tale was, though—he was now chairperson of the Students' Union of Nova Scotia (SUNS).

What next?

He was appointed Vice-President (External) of Council for the '84-84 year. He worked closely with Council President Tim Hill and Board reps Karl Nightingale and Janine Saulnier on eroding the ignorance that blocked fair policies. Aside from writing the lion's share of SUNS (novel-length) report to the Royal Commission on Higher Education, he took part in an update and redraft of a report to the Board recommending linkage of any tuition hike with corresponding increases in students' resources. Caroline Zayid, Peter Rans, Susan MacIntyre and Tim Hill all helped with the research and Tim Hill wrote the document.

Meanwhile at Gotham U. students rejoice when learning that tuition fees will only increase by 7 per cent. They know who is responsible...



And on Tuesday, March 20, the Board voted unanimously for a seven per cent tuition increase, at the same time B.C. universities are looking at tuition doubling in three years, Quebec is charging differential fees to out-of-province students, and students everywhere seem to be losing ground.

The person we've been talking about is Atul Sharma, and it's safe to say none of the gains made this year would have been possible if he hadn't spent hundreds of hours fighting for Dal students with little or no recognition. Here's to him, and Tim Hill, and Peter Rans, and everyone else who helped win this victory for all of us.

Remember this the next time somebody says nothing a student can do will have any effect.

Gazette
layout



Wednesdays

K.B.