

## Nice try

"Average students got really mad this week, for a few minutes, then went back to work.

Average administrators listened, calmly waited for the commotion to stop, then went back to what they were doing."

Newspapers wasted a lot of ink this week on what could have a straightforward, two-paragraph summary of life at Dalhousie.

The fact is, "Students complain" has ceased to be news. "Administrators ignore student demands" doesn't fly as a headline either — everybody knows it just like they know textbook prices will go up next year. It's frustrating as anything, but nobody has the energy to do much about it.

Trying to rally students is a thankless job. Every year, a new batch of keen student organizers turns up, beaming about how this year is going to be the year when students take their fate into their own hands and demand quality for the education money they pay. Each September a new group of elected politicians, earnest and reeking with a sense of mission, announces their plan to finally get the Board of Governors to listen to students.

And every year these ambitious intentions slam headlong into a particularly stubborn piece of reality. It's called student life in the '90s.

I grind my teeth every time I hear some self-professed student mobilizer rage about student apathy. It's asking a lot to expect that anyone would take the time out of their packed schedule these days to show up at a rally or attend a public forum. Students do not live the carefree lives they may have lived even a few years ago. Where once they might have studied part-time in order to enjoy student life, they now take courses full-time simply because the longer they stay in school the more they'll have to pay for it. Or if they aren't taking a full course load, they're working to pay for their education because they can't get a big enough loan anymore, and their families are feeling the crunch and can't support them. Or they're saving because they know they won't get a job after graduation, but will still have to pay off their loan. Or they're trying to raise a family.

And what difference does it make anyway?

Despite the fact that the vast majority of students have no idea who they are and what they've been up to, it just so happens that this year's crew of sickeningly optimistic student representatives has done a decent job. More than a decent job, in some cases. And that's not the norm, as anyone who's been here more than a couple of years knows. They came in talking about frank, honest communication with the suits who run Dalhousie and have stuck to their word. They spend more time than they get paid for doing their best to insert a student perspective in decisions that affect this university.

At Dalhousie, none of this makes a bit of difference. This week Howard Clark gave an emphatic veto to the suggestion that there be a student — ONE student — on the university's budget advisory committee. When the student-less committee released its report in September after an entire year's work by paid professional number crunchers, they told students they'd consider alternate suggestions if they could kindly have them ready within a month (or sooner, please, we're in a hurry). Clark has spoken to the commercial media (who don't help pay his salary) but has refused, on no less than a dozen occasions, to return calls from Dalhousie's student newspaper.

Let's face it, kids, you're here to get educated, but in the meantime they don't respect you enough to treat your simplest ideas seriously.

Might as well hit the books.

Ryan Stanley



## LETTERS

The Dalhousie *Gazette* welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should not exceed 300 words and should be typed and double-spaced. The deadline for letters is Monday 4 pm before publication. Letters may be e-mailed or submitted on Macintosh or IBM-compatible 3.5" disk.

## Who's to blame

To the editor:

Women, to be equal, must bear equal blame. A woman who enters a man's room, without considering the possible risk, is being naive. I'm not going to argue the rightness or wrongness of rape; rather this letter is intended as an acknowledgement of its existence.

There is a fine line between the nudge of seduction and the push/come/shove of rape. It's a line that grows hazy in the rented hotel room, or the back seat of the second-hand Toyota. It's here that a woman can find herself being forced to judge between an accompliceship of rape as opposed to going against what she might believe is 'expected' of her.

Upon entering a man's room a woman must acknowledge the existence of rape, as well as the existence of men who are either stupid or cowardly enough to invoke such an act. It is akin to entering a roomful of high explosive while carrying a lit candle. This concern with fault-finding is the anal-retentive action of hindsight, or wishful thinking.

Fact is, men are built for rape. They are bigger, stronger, and hormonally more aggressive. It is an illogical but undeniable fact that when faced with frustration, physical force is always a temptation. How many of us have slammed a piece of machinery that refuses to cooperate? Is it that amazing that a man, when frustrated in his attempts at seduction, might resort to force?

Don't get me wrong. Rape is a crime, and punishment by castration is not going too far. What I'm criticizing is the irresponsible search for a scapegoat. To absolve women from their rightful share of the blame is an act of denial, a social victimization, and a general disempowerment of the gender as a whole.

Steve Vernon

## Bull meal deal

To the editor:

I have a gripe about both our SUB cafeteria and our Grawood bar. First off the cafeteria. Not long ago I went down to our cafeteria and ordered a submarine sandwich. While the order girl was making it I asked if I could have extra hot peppers on it. She mumbled something incoherent that I took for a "yes" and she put three 'rings' of peppers on my sub. Big wow! For maybe three bites of my sub I'll have the taste of hot peppers. I hesitate to think what a regular order of peppers consists of.

Plus is it me or does anyone else think that the size of the subs has gone down from last year? I certainly can't prove it but my stomach tells me they are a bit smaller.

Next, the breakfast orders. Is it too much to ask that your bacon not be cold and stiff? I realize bacon takes longer to cook than the rest of the stuff but is it too much to ask for them to at least touch it to the grill for longer than one second? I'm not exaggerating, I've actually ordered a breakfast

there where they placed the bacon on the grill, waited a best a heartbeat and removed it. My bacon was cold, crunchy and stiff. Mmmm!

Now I should be fair and say the tall, slender fellow who sometimes cooks breakfast is excellent. He talks to you (not mumbles) and seems to be concerned with your order. Bravo!

The Grawood, the real scam on campus, second only to tuition. On almost every occasion I go there, busy or not, the service and the food are completely unacceptable. I generally have to wait about 15-20 minutes before someone comes around, and after the order is taken it's another 15-20 minutes for the food. I expect a wait when it's busy, but when there's maybe five tables being occupied I don't enjoy sitting and watching the ordertaker chatting with the cook or mulling around.

Once the food arrives it only gets worse. The caesar salad advertised to come with garlic bread doesn't. The nachos that once had cheese, and then had cheese and 'liquid cheese' now just have 'liquid cheese' (What is that stuff anyway?). The fish I ordered was still cold in the centre (I'm talking from the fridge, below room temperature cold), the fish on another occasion came with a slice of orange not lemon (picky, but hey, you try it). The list goes on and on. Any single problem is pretty trivial, but combined and because they are so frequent it amounts to crappy service to me. There's no excuse for not getting simple good service it doesn't cost them any extra, just a little care. That's my two cents (which I shall endeavour to spend some place else then our campus eateries).

Garth Sweet

# the Gazette

Vol 126 No 15

January 20, 1993

### contributors

Mike Graham  
Mike Devonport  
Robert Currie  
Tara Gibson  
Jason Blakey  
Colin MacDonald  
Garth Sweet  
Sam McCaig  
Kenneth Kam  
Tamara Dinelle  
Jason Silver  
Mary Deveau  
Firdaus Bhatena  
Andrew Smith  
John Yip  
Joe O'Connor  
Marie MacPherson

### women's liaisons

Julie Sims  
Meg Murphy

### queer contact

Rita Baker

### editor

Ryan Stanley

### a&e editor

Leslie Furlong

### copy editor

Richard Lim

### CUP editors

Judy Reid  
Geoff Ineson

### news editor

Crystal Levy

### science editor

Steve Tonner

### sports editor

Frank MacEachern

### dalendar

Lilli Ju

### photo liaison

Lisa Wamboldt

### production manager

Shannon MacAulay

### typesetter

Tammy Rogers

### ad/business manager

Connie Clarke  
494-6532 phone  
494-1280 fax

Student Union Building, Dalhousie University  
6136 University Ave., Halifax, N.S., B3H 4J2  
(902) 494-2507/email GAZETTE@ac.dal.ca

Founded in 1869 at Dalhousie College, *the Gazette* is one of Canada's oldest student newspapers. With a circulation of 10,000, *the Gazette* is published weekly through the Dalhousie Student Union by the Dalhousie Gazette Publishing Society, of which all Dalhousie University students are members. • *The Gazette* exercises full editorial autonomy and reserves the right to refuse or edit any material submitted. Editorial decisions are made by staff collectively. Individuals who contribute to three issues consecutively become voting staff members. • Deadline for commentary, letters to the editor, and announcements is 4:00 pm on Monday before publication (Thursday of each week). Commentary should not exceed 800 words. Letters should not exceed 300 words. No unsigned material will be accepted, but anonymity may be granted upon request. Submissions may be left at the SUB Enquiry Desk c/o *the Gazette*. • Advertising copy deadline is noon on Monday before publication. • *The Gazette* offices are located on the third floor of the SUB, Room 312. • The views expressed in *the Gazette* are not necessarily those of the Dalhousie Student Union, the editors or the collective staff.