

# EDITORIAL

Welcome to Dalhousie. I realize it's already been said about thirty times by various dons, deans, profs, reps and equally helpful folk, but hey, we (at *The Gazette*) really mean it. You're why we're here.

Walking over the sun-stroked campus today left me in such an excellent mood I almost exploded with excitement. I mean, here it is — the end of summer, a chill is playing comfortably on the breeze, Van Morrison's "Moondance" is looping as a permanent soundtrack in my head, Monday night football is back and yes — its time to start the paper again.

The *Gazette* is an alternative press publication which circulates 10,000 issues around campus and the city of Halifax once a week. It is Canada's oldest student newspaper, with a budget made up from advertising and a DSU grant combined. That makes it your paper, whether you want it or not.

We are dedicated to covering news, arts and sports stories which may be of interest to the university community. Our only specific restrictions are that we may not publish any materials which are libellous, sexist, racist or homophobic. Other than that, wow — the sky's the limit.

Contrary to popular belief, we do not publish anything for shock value. In fact, we are trying to provide you, the student, with information pertinent to your condition. We are trying to improve your experience at this school and in this city by offering (for free mind you) every one of our readers the power that lies wound in a sweaty, frustratingly sexy knot with enlightenment on this red hot bed of newsprint... but I digress.

O.K. — here's an interesting tidbit like many of the hundreds we'll be offering all year: did you know that any student who sits through the fall convocation (Sept. 4/10 a.m./Cohn) is entitled to a free lunch! How's that for useful information for the starving masses?

Our office is located high atop (well, the third floor anyway) the Dal student union building, and while it may sometimes be messy or slightly chaotic, it's almost always open.

If you're interested in writing, please come and talk to us. If you feel you have any talents, we want you. If you want to get involved, we need you. If you think you're a putz without either a modicum of talent or an erg of energy, come in anyway (maybe you could be editor next year). The point is — we want as much diverse input we can get, and if we don't get it, it's you who lose out. Ya see, it's like a wedding, speak now or forever hold your peace.

Come up with ideas, come up with art work, come up with or without a purpose, come up for free coffee, come up with a bottle of tequila (no, wait, we better come down for that)... hell, you can even come up empty handed, as long as you appear.

Be on top of the issues or get ground down by them my friends; it's as easy as 1-2-3 (ie. third floor SUB), we'll be waiting. **Chris Lambie**

# THE GAZETTE

AUGUST 29, 1991 • VOL. 124, NO. 1

## CONTRIBUTORS

ALEX BOSTON  
 MARY JANE HAMILTON  
 STEVE WADDEN  
 DAVE McSEVENEY  
 TIM CURRIE  
 MIRIAM KORN  
 BORIS NIKOLOVSKY  
 ROCHELLE OWEN  
 LARA MORRIS  
 RON THE PIZZA GUY  
 THE GUY WHO TORCHED BOGART'S  
 COVER: ANGEL FIGUEROA

## EDITORS

SHANNON GOWANS  
 CHRIS LAMBIE  
 MARIE-FRANCE LEBLANC  
 JERRY WEST

## AD/MANAGER

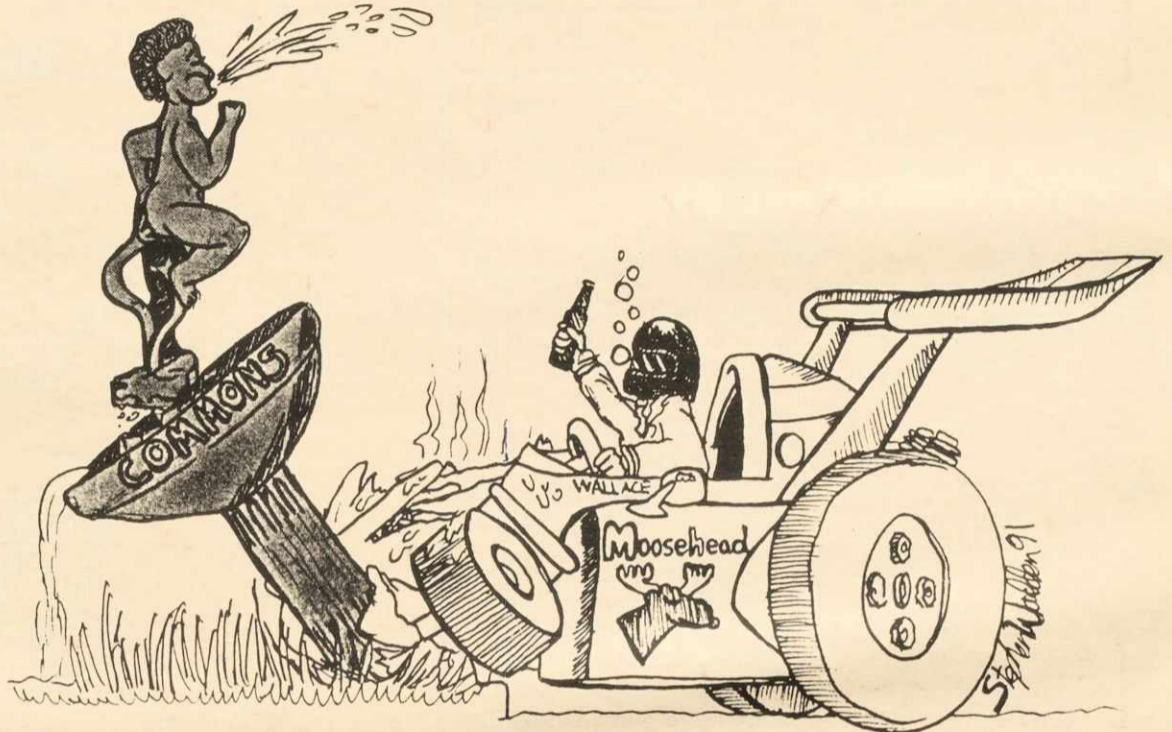
ALEX DOW  
 494-6532

## TYPESSETTER

ROBERT CARLSON

THIRD FLOOR  
 STUDENT UNION BUILDING  
 DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY  
 6136 UNIVERSITY AVE  
 HALIFAX, N.S.  
 B3H 4J2  
 (902) 494-2507

# Thanks for the race, John...



# OPINION

Opinions expressed in **The Gazette** are not necessarily those of the staff or editorial collective of the paper. We welcome opinion pieces; they should be typed, double-spaced and no longer than 500 words.

## Support the postal workers' strike

For the vast majority of Canadians, seven years of Tory rule has been devastating. Since Brian Mulroney came into office in 1984, the tax burden on working people has increased dramatically while public services have been dealt one hammerblow after another. The UIC program was slashed by \$3 billion, regional development programs by \$2 billion and several billion dollars was withdrawn from the funding of health care and education. These statistics, however shocking, cannot even begin to describe the tragic consequences of the cutbacks on the daily lives of average Canadians. Dissatisfied by the current level of social carnage, the Tory government is gearing up for yet another round of attacks on Canadian workers.

The Canadian Union of Postal Workers is conducting a rotating strike against its employer, Canada Post. This conflict has been deliberately provoked by the Tories. CUPW has been without a contract for three years and its members last had a wage increase in 1988. During this period thousands of jobs have been lost as Canada Post contracted out services to drug stores and corner stores that pay their workers minimum wage. The postal workers are therefore asking for decent wage increases and job security clauses to

gain back some lost ground. The current government has different plans, however, for the living standards of working class Canadians.

In the past year the Tories have introduced wage restraint programs for public sector workers while private sector wage earners have seen hundreds of thousands of jobs disappear. The Mulroney government's plan to continue making these people pay for the economic crisis relies on its ability to defeat CUPW in the current dispute. CUPW has been the victim of many slander campaigns and vicious back to work legislation in previous strikes, and this one is shaping up in much the same fashion. In 1987, Canada Post spent \$50 million in a successful strikebreaking effort, a victory for the Tories which gave them the confidence to carry out all the above mentioned cutbacks. By defeating the postal workers this time, the Tories hope to weaken the resolve of all workers to fight for their jobs and for a decent standard of living.

These observations are not an abstraction. Between 1965, when they won the legal right to strike for public servants and 1978, when the Trudeau government used RCMP raids to break their strike, the postal workers were at

the forefront of a struggle that saw the living standards of Canadians rise as never before. Their successful battles over wages, job security and benefits such as maternity leave set precedents and inspired others to demand the same. The Tories are determined that CUPW will gain no such victories this time, and understand that a strike that wins will give confidence to the millions of people who consider this government a cancer.

Solidarity with the postal workers and also with the upcoming strike of the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC) is therefore necessary activity for all those interested in turning the tables on the Tory cuts. For students, this means resisting the quick buck offered to scab labour by Canada Post. Though money may be tight for students these days (as this writer knows too well), helping the Tories bust CUPW only plays into their plan of an education system for the wealthy and an economy based on part-time, minimum wage workers. All campus unions and student groups should build active support for these upcoming strikes, and visit the picket lines as often as possible.

Only with this sort of solidarity can we begin to reverse the Tory attacks that have hurt us all so much.

R. Nugent

**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 racist, sexist, homophobic or libellous nature. Deadline for commentary, letters to the editor, and announcements is noon on Friday before publication (Thursday of each week). Submissions may be left at the SUB Enquiry Desk c/o **The Gazette**. • Commentary should not exceed 500 words. Letters should not exceed 300 words. No unsigned material will be accepted, but anonymity may be granted upon request. • Advertising copy deadline is noon Monday before

publication. • **The Gazette** offices are located on the third floor of the 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 Students' Union, the editors or the collective staff. •