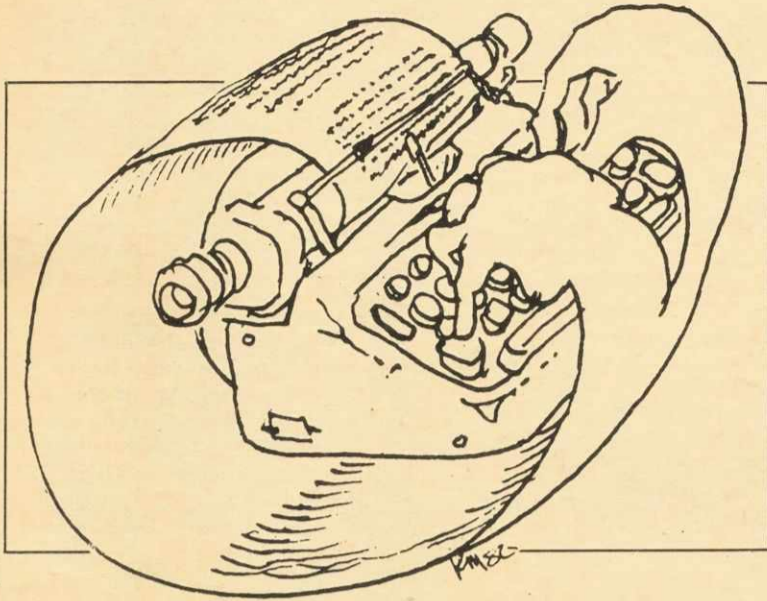


Challenge '85 Challenged



THE GAZETTE NEEDS YOU

WE NEED BLOOD. FRESH blood.

The Gazette is beginning its annual search for talent far and wide across Dalhousie campus.

If you're looking at this professional, exquisitely written and produced newspaper you may be saying to yourself, "This is really great. But how can I become involved with such a slick, professional group as the people at *the Gazette*?"

First, let's get a few things straight. *The Gazette* might look good and read well, but it comes from the efforts of a group of dedicated amateur volunteers, just like you.

Some people on campus seem to have the idea that you need special credentials or qualifications to work for *the Gazette*. On the contrary, we rely on the work of ordinary students from all walks of life with a few hours to give and a desire to keep this campus informed about what's going on in the world.

This paper is not made up of a bunch of artsy-fartsies or intellectual snobs. We'll welcome you with open arms because, frankly, we're always looking for more people to share some of the workload.

Maybe the best argument for joining *the Gazette* is because it's your paper. A portion of the student union fees of every Dal student goes to *the Gazette*, and every Dal student is a member of the Gazette Publications Society. If you want a say in how the paper is run, all you have to do is become an active member by making three contributions during each term. We need your ideas, your input, your active participation

to make *the Gazette* the best paper it can be.

Don't worry about being swamped, though. We're students too, and we know the time constraints you're under. No matter how much or how little time you have to give, there's a job for you at *the Gazette*.

We can't promise to make you a great writer. But if you've come as far as university, chances are you have enough of a grasp of the language to make it in this business. And if you're worried about your writing ability, the best way to improve is practice, and practice is definitely something *the Gazette* can give you.

What we can promise is one of the best learning experiences of your university career.

Plus it can be a lot of fun. Joining *the Gazette* gives you a chance to participate in pot-luck dinners, film shows, staff retreats, and regional and national conferences.

Some of the best people you will ever meet may be at *the Gazette*. (And then again, they may not.) You can become aware not only of what you are able to accomplish but what students around you are accomplishing. You will become familiar with the university environment and feel more at home. It's easy to meet people through *the Gazette*. And after all, isn't that what university is really all about?

So come on up and see us sometime. We're open all regular business hours (and then some). Staff meetings are Thursdays at 5 p.m. and editorial meetings are Mondays at 3:30 p.m. Drop in, have a coffee, and tell us where you're at.

It's as easy as giving blood.

FLASHBACK.

Page Six. *The Dalhousie Gazette*. April 4, 1985.

"Stay tuned. . . *The Gazette* may be back sooner than you think."

The operative word there, folks, was 'may'. As it turned out, we weren't.

It would be an easy thing to turn these words into a major expression of sour grapes (or sour gripes). Sure, the staff of *the Gazette* was pissed off when the federal government turned down our Challenge '85 program application for funding to put out a Summer Gazette. But beyond the basic gut reaction to chastise and complain, we feel the experience of *the Gazette* points out very nicely the inherent problems of the Challenge '85 program.

Granted, the program has been a limited success on the national scale. The unemployment rate for returning post-secondary students across Canada in July was 14.4 percent, down from 14.9 percent in July, 1984. Particularly in central Canada, Challenge '85 seems to have been of some benefit in relieving the youth unemployment crisis.

But the story in Atlantic Canada, particularly here in Nova Scotia, has been very different. Our student unemployment rate hit 20.3 percent in July, 4.4 percent higher than a year before. And while Nova Scotia's was the worst case of any

province, it leads one to wonder why Challenge '85 didn't work for us. (Or why we didn't work for Challenge '85.)

The answer lies in the structure of the program. Challenge '85 was, essentially, a program of government subsidization of the private sector, sharing with businesses the cost of hiring students for the summer.

The federal Tories made it clear from the beginning that the program was to be geared toward the private sector. Splitting costs 50-50 with corporations was deemed preferable to paying the bulk of the costs for public sector or non-profit institution jobs.

The theory behind this sounds good. Given 'X' number of dollars, the government can create twice as many jobs by splitting the costs of each job 50-50 with someone else than it could by paying the full cost of each job.

The theory falls apart, however, when the "someone else" won't come across with the required bucks.

In central Canada, the private sector is large enough and strong enough to make such a program work fairly well. In Atlantic Canada, as we know all too well, business is simply not in very good shape. Participation in Challenge '85 was low, and students suffered as a result.

Once again, as it has for the last hundred years, the lesson comes home: the economic solutions for the rest of Canada are not necessarily the solutions for the prob-

lems of the Atlantic.

The feds should have modified Challenge '85 to suit the special needs of the Atlantic region. They failed to do so. How many Nova Scotian students are going to suffer this year because of the government's inability to understand basic economic realities?

The Gazette is, essentially, a small business. We employ four people full time and have an annual operating budget of nearly \$100,000. But we are a marginal business. Our advertising and typesetting revenue cover two-thirds of our budget; the rest comes from you, the students of Dalhousie. In exchange you get a newspaper that you can participate in at any time, and as many free copies as you want.

For \$32,000, the federal government could have employed nine students on the Summer Gazette. In addition to the jobs, Dalhousie would have had nine issues of its community newspaper, and those nine students would have gained additional experience for the day when they enter the job market.

The Gazette is a business. But, as a marginal business, like so many others in the Atlantic region, we couldn't go 50-50 on the cost of those nine jobs. We asked for more. Challenge '85 turned us down.

For one out of five returning students in Nova Scotia, Challenge '85 didn't work. And neither did they.

OPINION

Letters



THE DEADLINE FOR LETTERS to the editor is noon, Monday before publication. Letters must be signed and include a telephone number where the author can be reached (although telephone numbers will not be printed with the letters). Letters are subject to editing for style, brevity, grammar, spelling and libel and are to be no more than 300 words, please. Letters can be dropped off at the SUB enquiry desk, mailed to our address (see page 2), or brought up to the *Gazette* offices, third floor, SUB.

Canada needs a royal person

To the editors,

HRH The Prince Andrew honoured the Maritimes in June with a successful tour of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

The constitutional importance of the Crown to Canada was emphasized when PC Frank Miller advised Ontario's Lieutenant-Governor that the PC's hoped to govern when the Legislature resumed. On that basis, Lieutenant-Governor Aird permitted Mr. Miller to meet the

Legislature.

When Miller failed to win even the first vote of confidence in the new Legislature, Mr. Aird accepted Miller's letter of resignation and asked Liberal leader Peterson if he could command the confidence of the House. The lieutenant-governor has a clear duty to see that the Legislature has a chance to function.

The need for a politically neutral captain at the helm of state is imperative for the maintenance of our democracy. The Queen of Canada and her Family have been raised from birth to be an integral part of state affairs but they have never set foot in the political arena. Her Majesty is in a unique position to determine which party — if any — is able to muster the necessary legislative support, and to permit that party to govern.

Doubtless our apolitical Queen is a shared Commonwealth resource but she is completely Canadian in the constitutional and legal realm. Her governors-general may be Canadian-born but they are prime ministerially chosen and thus begin their duties by owing their positions to a partisan prime minister. We have a former viceroy — Mr. Schreyer who cannot rule out the possibility of returning to politics in the future. Governor General Sauve still wanted the Queen to visit Canada after Liberal Prime Minister John Turner had announced plans for an election. By touring with Liberal Cabinet Ministers before an election, Her Majesty would have been unduly favouring one party over another and thus she declined the visit as planned.

Let us consider petitioning our parliamentarians at both federal and provincial levels to ensure that our Queen of Canada has the right to choose a member of her family to represent her here instead of former politicians who are prime ministerially chosen.

Ron Welker
Waterloo, Ontario