

Shape up or Ship Out

A suggestion was raised at a meeting, Oct. 16, of the Communications Board by the Chairman, that a communications crisis presently exists at Dal. Dal radio no longer exists and CKDU is not yet operating. The Chairman said that he believed that **Gazette** was on the verge of folding: there are tremendous shortages of staff; Peter Clark, the present editor-in-chief is resigning; there is little, if any, enthusiasm to revive the paper.



Peter Clarke

The fault, at least on the surface, seems to lie in the general apathy afflicting the student body as a whole. The President said that there is no sense for the average Dal student that anything he or she says or does will make any difference. The President added, however, that **Gazette** will not fold; it has survived crises equally as grave in the past, and if worst comes to worst it can persist solely on press releases, its regular columns, sports, CUP copy, and advertising.

Mr. Clark outlined the problems of **Gazette** as primarily relating to the shortage of manpower, competent or otherwise. He said that the paper's

editorial board currently has only two of seven spots taken and that of the current staff of fifteen there are few if any members he can rely upon. Mr. Clark explained that the inexperience of the current staff was also a severe handicap: few reporters know how to work a story from top to bottom. He related one incident where the story assignment he gave the reporter was longer than the story he eventually got back! Mr. Clark stressed that **Gazette** needs organization, particularly in assimilating new members and volunteers. He added that in his memory **Gazette** has never been a good paper, perhaps with the exception of the McDougall years when the then editor and his core of committed staff were able to get a good paper out "by the seat of their pants".

Ms. Johnson, who is a former editor of **Chevron**, the paper of the University of Waterloo, asked Mr. Clark why anyone should want to work for **Gazette**. Mr. Clark responded that putting together a newspaper is fun and that there is a large measure of satisfaction in meeting the challenges of the weekly deadlines. He said that the paper provides the opportunity for one to communicate what one believes. Mr. Clark added, however, that these rewards have evaporated for himself personally and this was a major consideration in his decision to resign.

Mr. Clark believes that **Gazette** can revive itself. The paper needs strong and energetic editor-ship and staff, competent or otherwise. The Chairman asked if a committee appointed by

Council would be appropriate as such has proved to be for radio. Mr. Clark responded that it would not, that **Gazette** presently has an organization which he believes will function if the positions can be filled; the structure is there but not the people. He added that a strong editorial board would be of considerable assistance because it would provide for a more even distribution of labour.

After Mr. Clark's resignation becomes effective the **Gazette** will be jointly administered by Mary Pat MacKenzie and Sue Monaghan. It is unclear if they will officially be co-editors or what will be the precise character of their authority. Both Mr. Hart and Mr. Steele endorsed Ms MacKenzie and Ms. Monaghan as aggressive and hardworking.

INFLATION

An application of the Halifax-Dartmouth Bridge Commission to increase its tariffs to tolls, rates and charges to users of the Angus L. Macdonald and A. Murray MacKay bridges, linking the metropolitan area of Halifax and Dartmouth, will be presented at a hearing of the Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities on Tuesday, Nov. 5.

Under the proposed charges outlined in the application filed on behalf of the Bridge Commission by W.G. Flinn, Chairman, single fares for passenger automobiles will rise to \$.35 per trip, up from the present charge of \$.25. A packet of 20 tokens, which now costs \$3 will cost \$4 under the charge proposed.

Participate in Part

by Roger Metcalfe

Part-time students play an important role in campus life at many Canadian universities. This has not been true at Dalhousie. Until recently there were few part-time students, and their education was not a major concern of the university.

The Student Union has also tended to ignore the part-time students and their unique situation. Until now it has shown no interest in having them as members, or in assisting them to gain a credible voice in university and student government.

The part-time students' referendum on Wednesday, October 30 is the first step towards equal opportunity. Basically, a "yes" vote is approval in principle

of compulsory paid Student Union membership for part-time students. Full-time students approved such a proposal in 1912.

If there is approval on October 30 the Student Union will work with part-time students to discover what level of service and representation they want. This will lead to a second part-time students' referendum, scheduled for February. Its purpose will be approval of the amount of their fee; election of a part-time students' representative on the Students' Council; election of officers of a part-time students' association.

The part-time students themselves will decide what the fee will be. The membership and fee may

well result in benefits such as participation in the Union's prescription drug service. There would be direct links with students members of Senate and the Board of Governors. If part-time students were members, the Student Union would be better able to fight to make full student aid (loans and bursaries) available for part-timers. If it is desired, the entertainment programme could include regular events designed for part-time students.

However, most of this activity is dependant upon a majority voting in favour of membership. Without that majority, there is neither mandate nor funds to adequately serve part-time students.

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