

March Wednesday

Next Wednesday the people of Halifax will have an opportunity to protest the increasing unemployment crisis.

A march will begin at 11:45 at Victoria Park, and continue downtown to the main Unemployment Insurance Commission office on Spring Garden Road.

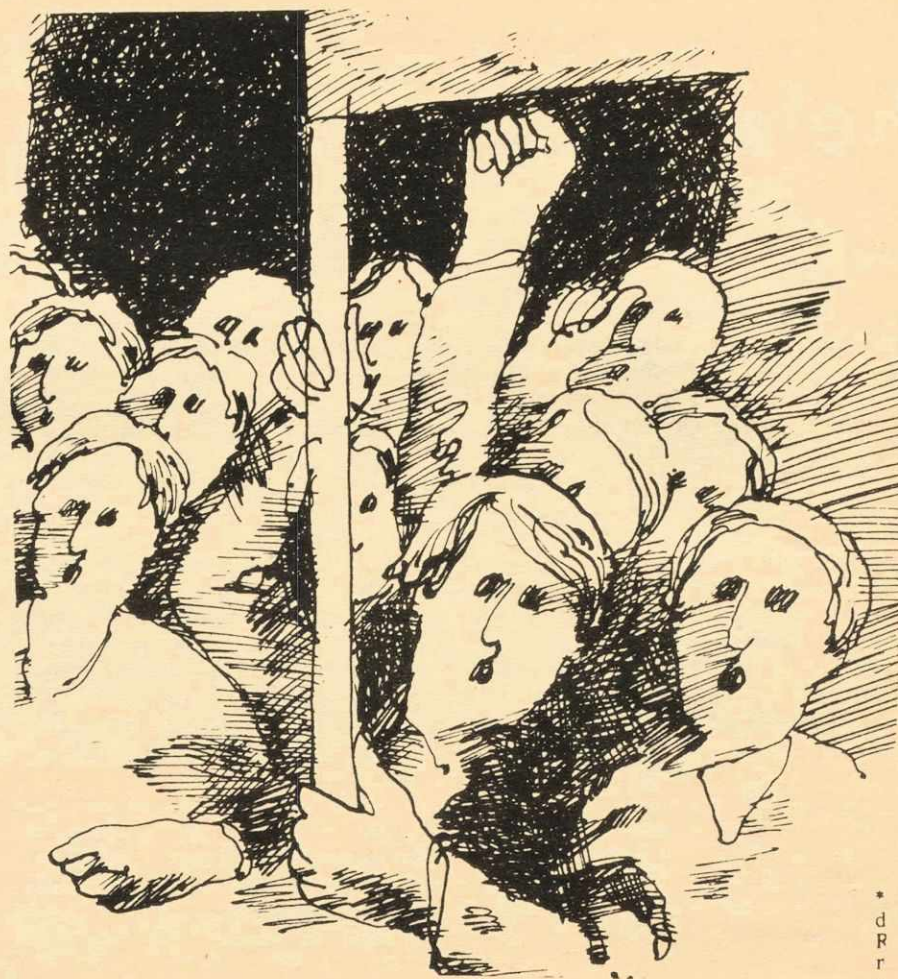
The unemployment coalition which has been working most of the summer on plans to fight unemployment, urge the support of students in this protest march. Students are hardest hit by unemployment.

The unemployment rate in August for returning students of both sexes between the ages of 15 and 24 stood at 15.1 per cent. For those students of both sexes aged 15 to 24 who attended school in March but are not planning to return to school in September, the unemployment rate was 20.7 per cent.

A similar story for youth in general: for men 15 to 24, the unemployment rate was 15.2 per cent, and for women, 14.4 per cent.

With decreasing accessibility to higher education, the increasing unemployment crisis is more of a problem than ever. We must act now to make the government do something about unemployment.

Be at Victoria Park on Wednesday.



Fiscal (mis?) management

Dalhousie's move to hold back funding from the Atlantic Federation of Students (AFS) until they "see a financial statement" is understandable.

Over the summer, representatives of the member student unions in AFS were not aware of the organization's financial

state because of difficulties in obtaining the books from the federation's treasurer. However, Dalhousie received the financial statement on Tuesday, and as expected, AFS has a loan to pay off.

Dalhousie students have already paid their dollar towards AFS, and the Student Union has a duty to give the money to the organization. Although President Robert Sampson says that he does not plan to hold back the money for ever, it will be interesting to see if the council, at its next meeting, passes a motion to keep the money longer.

Last Sunday's motion, although completely legitimate, seems a convenient stalling tactic. Sampson has said that he wants to "straighten out" AFS before Dalhousie's money is invested in it. The organization has lost its staff person, and as well, has a treasurer who seems reluctant to do his job properly.

When asked if he is using the motion for the ulterior motive of letting the more "moderate" fringe in AFS gain control, Sampson replied, "I'm the only one in AFS who will challenge Don Soucy (secretary-co-ordinator, and external V.P. of the student union at the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design) our disagreements are good for the organization."

Their conflicts appear to have been useless. There is an obvious split in the organization. A group of Halifax people (not including Sampson although he was invited to attend) have formed an action committee to fight unemployment. It is unfortunate that AFS as a whole could not work together for similar aims. Little has been done over the summer, mainly because of the internal differences.

It's about time that the separate factions in AFS stopped their bickering and got together.

Remember, the money that is laying around unused is the dollar that you gave to AFS at registration time. Last February you approved membership in the organization trusting it to represent your interests.

If Dalhousie chooses to withhold its fees any longer, the organization will suffer. If the various representatives in AFS don't start to work together the organization will suffer. And above all, you the students will not have your interests defended.

by Valerie Mansour

The letters column of the **Dalhousie Gazette** is open to anyone wishing to write to the paper. Letters should be written "To the **Gazette**" and if over 100 words must be typed.

The **Gazette** thanks Cam Mustard of the **Halifax Loyalist** for coming to our rescue by doing our headlines late last night. Since the **Gazette's** headline machine is broken, the staff may have had to face an extremely long lay-out night.

the dalhousie gazette

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The deadline for advertising is the Friday noon preceding publication. Articles and letters are due Monday noon. No unsigned material will be accepted, but anonymity, if necessary, will be granted. Letters should not exceed 600 words, and must be typed if more than 100 words.

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Editor: Valerie Mansour
Advertising Director: Anita Lathigee
Circulation Manager: Joe Wilson

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