

Dalhousie Gazette hit by two resignations

by Lisa Timpf

Not one, but two resignations were tendered at the Jan. 19 Gazette staff meeting.

Editor Catherine Ricketts and co-news editor Ken Burke both announced the termination of their involvement with the Gazette in those capacities.

Burke has been a staff member since September 1981. He began writing as a film critic, and was elected editor for the 1982-83 year.

Catherine Ricketts has been involved with the Gazette since February of 1981 and was elected editor in March 1983.

Ricketts noted that one of her reasons for resigning was that she was "worn out".

This year, Burke was elected as co-news editor with Samantha Brennan. "Samantha was relatively inexperienced at editing when the first term started," noted Burke. "But she was such a fast learner and a hard worker that by the end of the term I felt that I had become redundant."

Burke was involved in the inner turmoil problems of the Gazette mentioned earlier this term. However, he added that "my resignation has nothing to do with Cathrine's. I knew from

October on that I would be resigning in January. I wanted to be able to concentrate on my classes in second term."

Ricketts is satisfied with the way the things are progressing at the Gazette.

"I accomplished what I set out to do as editor," she added. "This is the ideal opportunity for the rest of the staff to develop, because everything is in place."

Like Burke, Ricketts wants to return to her studies. Her future plans include, first of all, "taking a rest", and then finishing her degree in philosophy and political science.

She noted, "Being involved with the Gazette has cost me academically and personally, but if the chance were offered I would repeat it all over again. At the Gazette you learn what your physical and mental limits are."

"I regard the university community as a microcosm of the world at large," said Ricketts. "Anyone who gets involved in the community life of the university can really benefit from that experience."

Burke plans to continue writing for the paper, probably doing review articles. "I still think the Gazette is one of the best papers

in Atlantic Canada, and always has the potential to be one of the best in the country," he said.

Although Ricketts' byline won't be appearing in the Gazette after her resignation, she retains a concern for student issues as a result of her involvement with the paper and the student movement.

"I am appalled at the lack of concern people have about the status of post-secondary education," she concluded. "If people don't start demanding that their right to an education is inalienable, in a few years it won't be available more, or if so, only for a select few."

UCCB administration tries to stifle student voice

by Rick Janson

for Canadian University Press

SYDNEY, N.S.—A careful minuet is taking place at the University College of Cape Breton over the institution's highest decision-making body—the board of governors.

Faced with crowded conditions as a result of a 70 per cent increase in enrollment over the last three years, the university-college needs to expand.

But around Nova Scotia's post-secondary educational institutions expansion is a dirty word these days.

At schools like Dalhousie University administrators eye their budgets in sacrificial terms like an army in guarded retreat.

Despite this, the university-college is bracing itself for a boom into the post-secondary

education big leagues. To ensure this boom happens, the board of governors wants to fill its ranks with the right people, the people who matter when hard decisions have to be made in Halifax.

And this doesn't mean students.

At a recent meeting of UCCB's board, a motion was passed giving a mandate to administration president Dr. William Reid to negotiate with students to relinquish two of the four seats they presently hold on the 36 member body. The board is also looking to retrieve seats from faculty and from St. Francis Xavier University, formerly affiliated with UCCB.

These seats would be redistributed to increase the number of "high profile" appointees on the board and also to give alumni representation.

"For the long term financial development (of UCCB) I'd like to see at least one bank president sitting on the board," says Reid. "Right now if we had someone lined up we just wouldn't have the seat available."

Reid says he'd like to see an intensive campaign for endowment funding started for UCCB.

"We'd be ready to launch it if we had the personnel on the board," he said.

Out of the 36 member board only eight are presently allocated for distribution by the board itself for attracting so-called "high profile" candidates.

"What is a rational student representation?" Reid asked. "It's not the volume that determines representation but the quality of that representation."

Therein lies the problem for student union president Bob Katzko.

Katzko doesn't want to give up student representation, but at the same time has trouble making a convincing argument for retaining the seats amid a student body more at home organizing winter carnivals than political movements.

"Students have been pretty mute this year," said Katzko. "The interest in the board is abysmal. I can't even get the four of them (student board reps) to meet together."

Katzko blamed much of this apathy on the closed door nature of the board itself.

"There's such a cloak of secrecy around the board everyone seems intimidated by it," he said.

Katzko's big fear is that should "negotiations" fail the board will simply take the seats.

If the students fail to budge, the "board would likely press on," confirmed Reid, but added "it's not popular to so-called 'steal' student representation on the board."

Presently alternatives are being examined and position papers are being drafted. Both Katzko and Reid seem eager to avoid confrontation.

The final decision will have to be ratified by the provincial legislature.

Student VP at SMU resigns to protest break-ins

By Canadian University Press

Alleged break-ins of student union offices at St. Mary's University have generated a splashy resignation in protest.

Student union vice-president Cynthia Otto resigned from her position Jan. 17 charging that she

could no longer work in a situation where council tolerated break-ins of council offices by union president David Hendsbee.

Otto told the St. Mary's student newspaper, the *Journal*, that Hendsbee broke into the office of council administrator Lisa

Menchion via the ceiling tiles over her office door. Missing from the office were personal papers belonging to Menchion and student union files.

On Jan. 16 council executive met to discuss Hendsbee's

actions and decided to suspend him for one week. When informed of the decision, Hendsbee refused the suspension and called for an emergency meeting of council that evening.

"The councillors laughed and

said that they had better things to do with their time," said Otto.

"They said his (Hendsbee's) actions were unethical but they felt the president should have access to whatever he wanted, regardless of the method.

"Council is moving in the wrong direction and they are wrong if they feel that breaking into offices is something they can live with. Council has no direction and the employees are not being treated properly," she said.

The *Journal* called for Hendsbee to be "stripped of his job" in a Jan. 19 editorial.

The paper complained that Hendsbee had broken into their offices on numerous occasions with what they describe as Hendsbee's "CFS key"—a plastic CFS-services student saver card.

Hendsbee said he would reserve comment on the situation, although he said he was surprised at the methods Otto employed in her resignation.

Hendsbee became student union president after the resignation of Bruce Cook last fall. Cook resigned after it was discovered he was not technically a student.

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