

parting shots

The end of the year is upon us and Gazette will be closing its doors for the next few months. This is the last Thursday this illustrious publication will be on the stands and we'd like to take this chance to say thank you to all those who have devoted long hours and hard work in the interest of improving Canadian journalism. Despite arguments with Council, budgetary cuts, overexpenditure of Student Union funds, missed deadlines and lost copy we have (against the wishes of some) survived the year. All that remains is to convince our profs that we really do deserve to pass despite overdue term papers and overslept classes.

Before we end all this on a mushy sentimental note, however, we have a couple of axes to grind. At various times throughout the year we have received anonymous phone calls dealing with everything from homosexuality to faculty unrest. Despite many phone calls and much legwork on the part of our overworked Gazette staff we were unable to get stories together on faculty unrest and several other issues that deserve our attention.

The problem at Dalhousie seems to be FEAR of the powers that be. Unfortunately, though we have often been able to get our suspicions confirmed verbally and only to a slight degree, the Faculty at Dalhousie is unwilling to discuss the very real problems they often have about tenure and contract disputes. We contend that there are many cases where the faculty have been treated unjustly by the Administrators of this institution.

Promises have been broken and expectations unfulfilled but no one will talk about this to the students, or to anyone else for that matter. Rumours abound in the Faculty Club but they cannot be substantiated and are left to die an unnatural death. It seems that anyone found telling the truth and found telling it in public is effectively slitting his/her throat.

The problem is not limited to only the faculty however. It has recently come to our attention that in one of the graduate programs the students are being grossly mistreated. The students are overworked and accused of laziness by members of the faculty. The system of grading in some courses has been arbitrarily changed half way through the term and students have been subjected to needless harassment. We investigated this story in some detail and even went so far as to have the copy typeset. Unfortunately one of our information sources was told by his fellow students that, though they agreed with the story, they would not support it and if questioned would reveal his/her identity. The student's degree would have been endangered so the story was killed.

There have been rumours that in at least one department where well researched papers are passed in some profs are having the work published under their own names. Now students accused of plagiarism are immediately brought before a disciplinary board but faculty who do the same thing can get away with it. As with other touchy issues on this campus fear has made both students and faculty remain quiet. We can scream all we want about freedom of the press but without evidence to back up our stories we can't print them. What's the point of freedom if you can't use it?

Though all may not be well in Dalhousie's never-never land we suppose it could be worse - not much maybe, but worse. We'd like to provide a solution to the fear problem that runs rampant on our campus but short of giving courage injections through Student Health our hands are tied. Maybe the summer will bring about radical change but we doubt it. Hope can only spring eternally for just so long.

Have a good summer and keep in mind we'll be back on your local newstand in September. We hope you can stand the wait.

Canada's Oldest College Newspaper

The Dalhousie GAZETTE is the weekly publication of the Dalhousie Student Union. The views expressed in the paper are not necessarily those of the Student Union, the university administration, the editor, or the staff. We reserve the right to edit or delete copy for space or legal reasons. Deadline date for letters to the GAZETTE and outside contributions is Friday preceding publications. No anonymous material will be accepted, but names may be withheld on request if there are extenuating circumstances. The Dalhousie GAZETTE is a founding member of Canadian University Press.

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Ms. Biz

To the Gazette,

I have been trying to find out what English word is abbreviated by the letters "Ms." when used before women's names. In that position, of course, it cannot possibly mean "manuscript".

There is no one to ask about this. It is only used in the public prints. Guessing is the only way, and I think I have made a rather intelligent guess. The symbol must stand for the word "mystery". The only difficulty is that I know only one place where the word is used like that, and that is in Revelations 17:5.

"And upon her forehead was a name written:

Ms. Bolezlon the Great, the mother of harlots and abominations in the earth."

One example is not much, and I am beginning to experience fresh doubts. Please tell me - for you are a public print - whether I am right. Do not tell me I am wrong, for that would make me give up in despair - unless you know the right answer yourself.

And don't tell me that it's "mistress".

Yours truly,
Ron Norman

Women's Oppression

To the Gazette;

Let me say first that I am not a student but do have access to the GAZETTE. Usually the only article I read on a weekly basis is the Outdoor column.

This week March 13, two headlines attracted attention, and the articles have actually stirred me to comment. "Basis of Women's Oppression" proved to be comprehensive in that it followed a topic, and made some discussion on it. Which, for a GAZETTE article, is remarkable in itself. But let me warn the author that International Women's Year is a difficult topic for the uptight conservative Dal campus to digest. You had best be well prepared to back Marxist - Leninist statements with fact. It would seem that you quoted verbatim their propaganda. All the same, it is a topic that would well be debated. I liked the article.

"Chile, Allende and Canada" seemed to be a report on some meeting. It would also seem that the discussion at the meeting took place in a

language foreign to the reporter. The report was muddled, had no topic nor depth. The reporter appears entirely uninformed of the socio-political situation in Chile or any Latin American country for that matter. The report was even grammatically incorrect; (try to make sense out of paragraph seven.)

Canada was the second country in the world to recognize the Chilean Junta. By March 1974 Canada had accepted six hundred Chileans when thousands had applied. Of these six hundred, only about ninety were granted refugee status. The rest were tied up in the bureaucracy of Canadian Immigration, threatened with deportation and, if they returned to Chile, death. The RCMP sent agents to Peru to interrogate all applicants regarding their political affiliations. Canada Immigration does not refuse immigrants on a political basis; or do they? Compare the ninety Chileans to the thousands of Hungarian refugees accepted in the fifties, or the Ugandans accepted in the sixties.

Yes, Canadians should take a long hard look at the government policy to the Chile of today. The cheap copper is worth more than the sweat and blood of the Chilean people.

Let Mr. Metcalf examine his topic more thoroughly. For the uninformed (as most Canadians prefer to remain) the article was confusing. For those of us who have seen some of the Chilean situation, the report was distasteful.

The printers at the GAZETTE have a clearer understanding of Chile than do the editors or the author. They printed a military ad with the article.

Sincerely,
Ms. J. Fiss-James
Halifax.

Ed. Note: The staff of the Gazette is responsible for all placement of ads in the Gazette. The printers have nothing to do with the layout of the paper.

Author's Note: Ms. Fiss-James makes several mistaken assumptions about the article "Chile, Allende and Canada". It was the report of a discussion not a socio-political analysis of Latin America; It assumed that readers, as well as those at the meeting, know what happened (including Can-

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