

the Dalhousie Gazette

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The **Dalhousie Gazette**, Canada's oldest college newspaper, is a weekly publication of the Dalhousie Student Union members and is a founding member of the Canadian University Press.

The views expressed in the **Dalhousie Gazette** are not necessarily those of the Dalhousie Student Union, the editor, or the collective staff. We reserve the right to edit material for space or legal reasons, or if it is considered offensive to our readers.

The deadline for articles and letters-to-the-editor is noon on Monday. No unsigned material will be accepted, but anonymity may be granted on request. Letters should not exceed 500 words and must be typed double-spaced. Advertising copy must be submitted by the Friday preceding publication.

Our office is located on the third floor of the Student Union Building. Our mailing address is the **Dalhousie Gazette**, Dalhousie University, Halifax, N.S., B3H 4J2, telephone (902) 424-2507.

Subscription rate is \$15 per year (26 issues) and our ISSN number is 0011-5816. The **Dalhousie Gazette** is a member of the Canadian University Press and our circulation is 10,000 weekly.

The Gazette's weekly staff meetings are now at 5:30 every Thursday.

Editorial

Be reasonable!

To stay in power, the subjects must be kept reasonably happy.

Ignorance is bliss.

To stay in power, the subjects must be kept ignorant. Then ruler, subjects, both together, will live in ecstatic harmony. Except for one thing. Someone forgot the "reason" in "reasonably."

This is not just another tirade on the perilous state of post-secondary education at the hands of both the federal and provincial governments. Nor is it a grumble about the National Training Act which promises to employ us as automat on technicians. It's about the kids. When they start picking on them, you've really got to stop and re-evaluate the situation.

The City of Halifax has followed the provincial government's lead in thinking education is the fat part of the budget to be fried when times get tough. It is considering to detrimentally adjust its contribution to public schooling to balance the budget. Like the universities and other learning institutions, recent years have been successively leaner. Something is going to have to give.

Yep, that's right — the future. The only natural, renewable, infinitely fertile resource that we have left, the human mind, is going the way of clean air and fresh water. It's being wasted through negligence, when all it needs is a smattering of encouragement to come up with a myriad of new ideas and views and solutions to problems.

The mind is a human resource which must not lose its identity with humanity. Problem-solving is a unique human quality which is not the same as training. The two are not mutually exclusive. But with increasing emphasis on technology over liberal arts, it seems something organic is being forced to assume a mechanical role.

The results are plainly visible today. Look at the folly of the arms race, where military engineers get caught up in the intricacy of new technology and the politicians forget people are people, not pawns in a game of nuclear chess. Or look at the frustration of the workers on General Motors' assembly line.

With the onslaught of the computer revolution, more and more of the menial tasks are being taken over, properly so, by machinery. But what is to happen to the people displaced if they are unable to afford an education which will allow them to participate in society?

Education is a right, not a privilege, and is certainly not a right of the privileged as is becoming the case with repeated tuition hikes and government underfunding.

Who is going to go to the high schools and tell tomorrow's citizens they will not be able to go to university because they can't afford the price? Or worse still, they will be ineligible because education in the public school system was rendered impotent when its funds were used to balance the budget.

It's hard to understand the politicians and bureaucrats who make the decisions on our behalf. Nearly all of them have had some post-secondary education. Why don't those in power want anyone else to have an equal start?

Ignorance is bliss — for those in control. It effectively cuts down the opposition, and maintains the status quo with all its evident inequities.

It's a simple matter to manipulate the subjects when they have no idea of what is being done to them.

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Once again, the Gazette is beginning its annual search for a first among equals (Editor) for the 1983/84 publishing year.

Talent of several sorts are prerequisites to the job. Applicants should have an ability to pass on writing skills, copy edit, understand layout and design, work well with people, be responsible for the continuity and quality of a weekly newspaper, handle budgets, and possess and understanding of the student press. They must also be able to survive long hours without sleep, endure SUB food, absorb and thrive on controversy, and avoid freaking out when the bats circle.

Nominations are open until Friday, February 18 at 5:00 pm, and all resumes should be dropped off to the Gazette offices, room 312, third floor SUB.