

Contribute— or else...

"The Dalhousie Gazette is Canada's oldest college newspaper. Published through the Dalhousie Student Union, which also comprises its membership, the Gazette has a circulation of 10,000."

What does that mean?

For starters, it means that the Gazette is celebrating its 120th anniversary this year.

More importantly, it means the Gazette is *your* newspaper. As a student of Dalhousie, you are automatically a member of the Dalhousie Publishing Society and *you* can join the Gazette.

This is about participation and its effect on the content of the Gazette.

Every year, for decades, the Gazette has received letters complaining about the horrible things they read in the paper. "Naive," "biased," "propaganda." Stuff people don't want to know about because they don't agree with it (so it must be biased, right?)

And more letters about what is *not* in the paper. "Why aren't there more sports in the paper?" "Why didn't you cover our event (after all, we support the Gazette with part of our student fees)?"

Simple. The Gazette is staffed by volunteers. No one is told, "Do this story." People write about things that interest them (most of the time).

Example: Most of last year's sports stories were written by one person, Brian Lennox. (30 years ago, the Gazette had 14 sports writers on staff.) Result? Relatively little in the way of sports — no offense, Brian.

(Of course, there is a lot more to do at the Gazette than just writing. More about that later...)

Back to what goes *in* the paper.

University papers are different and not simply because they are run by volunteers.

A founding member of Canadian University Press (the oldest university newspaper association in the world), the Gazette is not subject to editorial control by the administration, the student council or advertisers.

Editorial policy is determined by you, the staff, democratically.

As for 'campus content,' the editor, in conjunction with the news editor, is responsible for covering all events and issues of importance to students. If they can't find someone to do it, they have to do it themselves. They do not have easy jobs.

Arts and sports editors (presuming such individuals exist) have similar responsibilities for their respective spheres of interest. But without help, they can only cover so much, so well.

As for the oft-repeated whine that the Gazette is not 'representative of the student body,' WAKE UP!

The Gazette is staffed by humans, who have this annoying tendency to be individuals. They each have their own body, and it is not a cross section of the student body. When I, for one, have a thought it is not the distilled essence of the Cuisinarted opinions of my 10,000 fellow students.

(At this point, I should remind you that you are human and can join the Gazette too.)

A person's interests obviously influence the type of stories he or she chooses to write about. But if a story is 'news,' it should be written clearly and simply, and be both accurate and fair.

This is where editors come in. It is their job to help out first-time writers (and others) and make sure biased stories end up on the opinion page where they belong.

If they don't, let them know.

And remember that if there is no story on your pet issue, that's because you didn't write it.

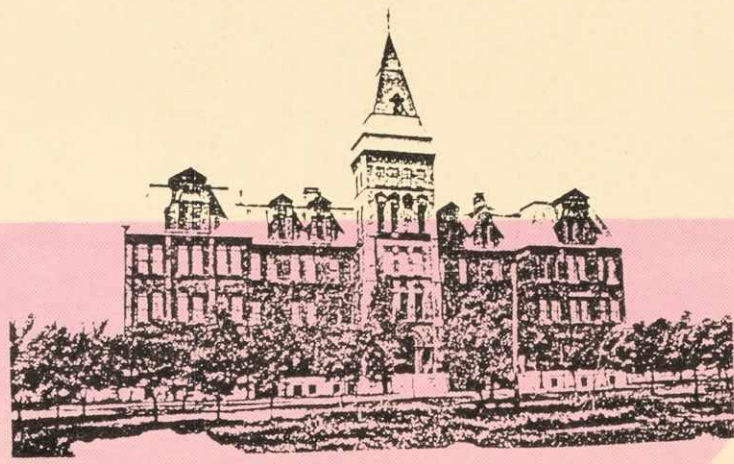
Please, don't be shy. Don't believe the popular fallacy that the Gazette office is a nest of commies of questionable sexual orientation. It's bullshit. *Anyone* of any racial, political or sexual stripe is welcome, anytime.

The Gazette needs help. The new editor, in particular, needs a great deal of help.

So anyone who yearns to write, edit, photograph, draw cartoons, do layout/production, search out graphics, mail papers, play with a computer, review concerts, albums, books, whatever, please drop by. Third floor of the SUB, no experience required. Save Sandy the price of an analyst.

And if you decide to sit on the fence, do continue to write us those wonderful nasty letters. We love 'em.

- Jeff Harrington



Ron Wallace lives here now.

May, 1913



Fun times and funnier hats in the Gazette newsroom...

early 1950s

Controlled as it is by the ruling class of society, this university serves their needs (at the expense of the needs of the people) and as such is an instrument of oppression. What could be more obvious?



A little bird about to be blown apart... Sept 17, 1970



Plus ça change, plus c'est la meme chose...

Mar. 15, 1966