LETTERS TO THE



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## The Gazette Asks You

This week when College newspapers throughout Canada invade their respective campi, a familiar, if un-inspiring routine will once again begin. Too—the student—will carefully open the paper, read the jokes, glance at the news features, briefly scan the editorials, leer at the picture of feminine beauty, laud the athletic accomplishments, and then . . . drop the bundle of pages into the nearest ash can or garbage unit. To you, another week of journalism has transpired.

But we ask . . . has it served its purpose?

The Gazette queries . . . What is the objective and purpose of a College newspaper? To many, the answer is obviouly simple—to report the student activities, remind you of student meetings, praise and athletic and intellectual achievements of your Alma Mater, soothe your frustrations with humour or words of prophetic wisdom. If this is the case, your newspaper has accomplished its purpose admirably;—no regrets—no recriminations and quite probably—little or no response. But is this enough? Has the greatest medium of communication achieved its true goal? If not, what then should the true purpose and objective of a good College newspaper be?

The true aim—the Gazette suggests—should be "to enliven, or rekindle the flame of interest and enthusiasm within a student in current campus views"! In more undignified and concise terms, to CREATE A RESPONSE. "What nonsense is this, you ask? Surely this can't be a novel idea; college papers have been trying to do this for years." With this view, we heartily concur. They've tried and they've failed miserably, and we feel it high time that something was done about it. What, then, do we suggest?

The solution lies, we maintain, in a complete departure from the "tred the fence" conventional policy college newspapers have pursued in past years. Impartiality may be a great virtue—but only when applied in certain circumstances. There comes a time when a definite stand must be taken on issues. In this way only, can problems be resolved. So we suggest the birth of a new column—the "As I See It" Column.

In this column, the most controversial issues on this campus and other campi throughout Canada will be aired. The student, for the first time (in many instances) in college history will be given an opportunity to directly air his griev-ances to the rest of the student body. Even the most controversial and powerful questions on this campus will be given the 'dissection treatment.' We will sift out student and fac-ulty opinion and present what we feel to be the complete picture and general trend of sentiment on the campus. In this way, a definite step will be taken to relieve conditions that in past years were considered completely intolerable. Students are cautioned to remember that the Gazette staff is taking this issue seriously, and that only rational and reasonable issues of concern will be considered. No one will occupy the 'preferred position.' In this way we feel that nothing will be hidden from the eyes of the student. All matters of concern are to be mailed, or delivered in person, to a member of the Gazette staff. In this way we are positive that the campus will become a living issue to the entire student body, and that herein will be accomplished the true objective of college newspapers.

The Gazette knows this is a novel idea—its ramnifications may be extensive—and so it asks—for your opinion.



Downtown Halifax, where a great number of Dalhousians past and present are employed, often knows more about the university activities than the actual campus itself. This week's interesting info from that section is that a Dalhousie Dean has resigned or is planning to do so in the near future. Downtown Halifax has been wrong before but it does appear to have a few ears cocked toward university goings-on.

Is it possible for the Rink to be opened on Sunday afternoons? I am not advocating Sunday sports but rather recreation. Students, especially those from out of town, are at a loss for recreation on a Sunday afternoon in Halifax. One may attend Church in the morning and the evening and study in the Libraries on Sunday afternoon.

However, many students, most of them in Medicine and Dentistry, are prevented by labs and concentrated studies from enjoying weekday recreation. Sunday skating would provide the opportunities now denied these students. Favorable comment on this proposal was received from several Alumni executives last year. Could the matter be furthered by Council - Alumni co-operation?

The Council has moved to clarify relations between Pine Hill and Dalhousie, and to re-examine the DalKing's agreement. These steps have not been taken too early. For several years there has been complete confusion as to the rights, if any, of Pine Hill students to partake in activities here and whether they are legally entitled to pay Council fees. Meanwhile King's students have been getting much more than their four dollars worth in some instances. The campus will eagerly await the findings of this important committee headed by Alan Fleming and Wally Turnbull.

The Council has not yet taken any steps to further the realization of a Student Union Building on this campus. To many of us this is a dream which will not culminate until we have departed. However, the machinery has been set in motion by the setting aside of a sizeable amount of Council funds for the construction. What has been the reaction of the Board of Governors which received the details last spring? What are the plans of the Council for the next few months?

Is it possible for the Rink to be Have the Alumni and Faculty reppened on Sunday afternoons? I am resentatives been appointed to the advocating Sunday sports but Advisory Committee?

Every male has watched goggleeyed while Lana Turner, Marilyn
Monroe or Liz Taylor has taken a
sizzling bubble bath, on the screen,
of course. Dalhousie, too, has a
bubble-bather. Not quite as curvaceous, not quite as sexy, but certainly more bubbly—Gunga Gardner, hefty footballer qualifies. Seems
Gunga was undergoing treatment in
the whirlpool in the training room.
Some kind soul slipped some soap
flakes into the water and in a few
seconds Gunga had disappeared into
the clouds of suds. In fact the entire training room was a la mode.
Informers say that preference is still
for La Munroe, with Gunga a close
second.

Thursday last brought to the campus an exciting new project of Sodales—a debate between Students and Professors. The participants were excellent, the audience large, including a fair sprinkling of Meds and Dents, and the initial debate was a success. Hats off to Alade Akesode whose enthusiasm sparked the project. We look forward to more of the same this year.

Odds and ends . . . a local radio station has plans for a program appealing directly to the University student . . Dave and Carol Bryson are proud parents — a future Dal Tiger we hope . . . Plans are afoot to make Saturday night Intercollegiate Hockey Night in Halifax.. Sounds excellent. . . The desks in Room 231 of the Arts Building remind one of the days of the Little Red Schoolhouse. . and where, oh where, are those left-handed desks, promised three years ago? . . I would appreciate and in fact request your comments and contributions to The Periscope. News and opinions from the Meds and Dents are particularly welcome . . .

# EDITOR

#### More on Little Rock

54 MacLean Street, Halifax, N. S., 17th October, 1958.

The Editor, Dalhousie Gazette.

Madam

The article entitled "Little Rock Justified" in the last issue of the Gazette helps to show how little many students derive from their years of university attendance.

Here is a striking example of a person who has nothing to say and not enough sense to realize that the Gazette is probably not the best place to say it.

The author, whoever he or she may be, is obviously an avid segregationist. Well, that is his or her affair—as long as it is directed along the proper channels.

Not only is the Gazette a poor place to revive such ideas, which are hardly of the greatest importance to Dalhousie, but the article is nothing more than a rehashing of other articles published in some of the popular magazines as the views of "Caucasians" — whatever that means—from the deep south.

If the editorial column is to be used as a vehicle for the propagation of personal prejudices—based probably on sad experience—this individual could, I venture to suggest, at least do her own thinking.

I wonder what is supposed to be the point of the editorial, except perhaps to appeal for monetary aid for Governor Faubus' drive to finance segregated schools.

The reference to Christian doctrine I find quite misplaced and a trifle embarrassing.

Sincerely,

A Clinton Browne

## **Apathy**

Dear Madame,

Campus spirit . . . it's true we have none! Of the several hundred girls on this campus only 69 voted in the by-election for the president of DGAC, hardly an encouraging figure.

It is disgraceful, I feel, that for a position as important to all girls on campus, only 69 girls could spare two minutes to mark their ballot.

The male population is by now saying "What can you exepect of girls. They should never have been given the franchise anyway." I ask you to save your smugness, gentlemen until you have all marked your ballot in the by-election for NFCUS Chairman to be held October 28. I think that unless everyone has a change of heart the results will be equally small.

Let us begin to exercise our rights at university so that we can take up our positions as responsible citizens of the future.

> Yours truly, HOPEFUL

### . . .

## DEBATING

The Editor, Dalhousie Gazette. Dear Madame:

Congratulations to Sodales and especially to Alade Akesode for the job it is doing this year in interesting students in debating and public speaking. Students at university, who are going to take their place soon as world leaders, should be trained in this field.

Starting public speaking classes is a major step in this direction and I hope that many students will avail themselves of the opportunity.

The usual inter-faculty debates, which have been successful in the past years, will continue, I hope, with even more success.

And yes, even the students-professors debate was good as it showed campus interest in vital topics and helped to publicize Sodales' cause on the campus.

Yours sincerely,

A SODALES SUPPORTER.



