

# the Dalhousie Gazette

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

As a founding member of Canadian University Press, the Gazette adheres to the CUP Statement of Principles and reserves the right to refuse any material submitted of a libelous, sexist or racist nature. Deadline for commentary, letters to the editor and announcements is noon on Monday. Submissions may be left at the SUB Enquiry Desk c/o Dal Gazette.

Commentary should not exceed 700 words, letters should not exceed 300 words. No unsigned material will be accepted, but anonymity may be granted on request.

Advertising copy deadline is noon Friday before publication. The Gazette offices are located on the 3rd Floor SUB. Come up and have a coffee and tell us what's going on.

The views expressed in the Gazette are not necessarily those of the Student Union, the editor or the collective staff.

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## So the students should know ...

It's easy to get snowed under at university, especially if you take your education seriously. Students are faced with an endless stream of readings, papers, labs and other class-related work so that often we don't have the time to sit back and look at the quality of education we're receiving.

So when your professor admits to you the equipment you're using is ten years out of date, it's too bad but that's life.

When sixty people show up for your friend's class requiring student-teacher communication, you hope enrollment goes down next year when you have to take that course.

Another friend bombed a half-credit course because they have to work twenty hours a week at some store to cover what their student loan doesn't. Or is it you?

Then there are the people that you've never met at university, because they didn't feel that going ten grand in debt, with no sure job at the end, was a gamble worth taking.

You could say these are all isolated events, but you wouldn't be doing yourself justice.

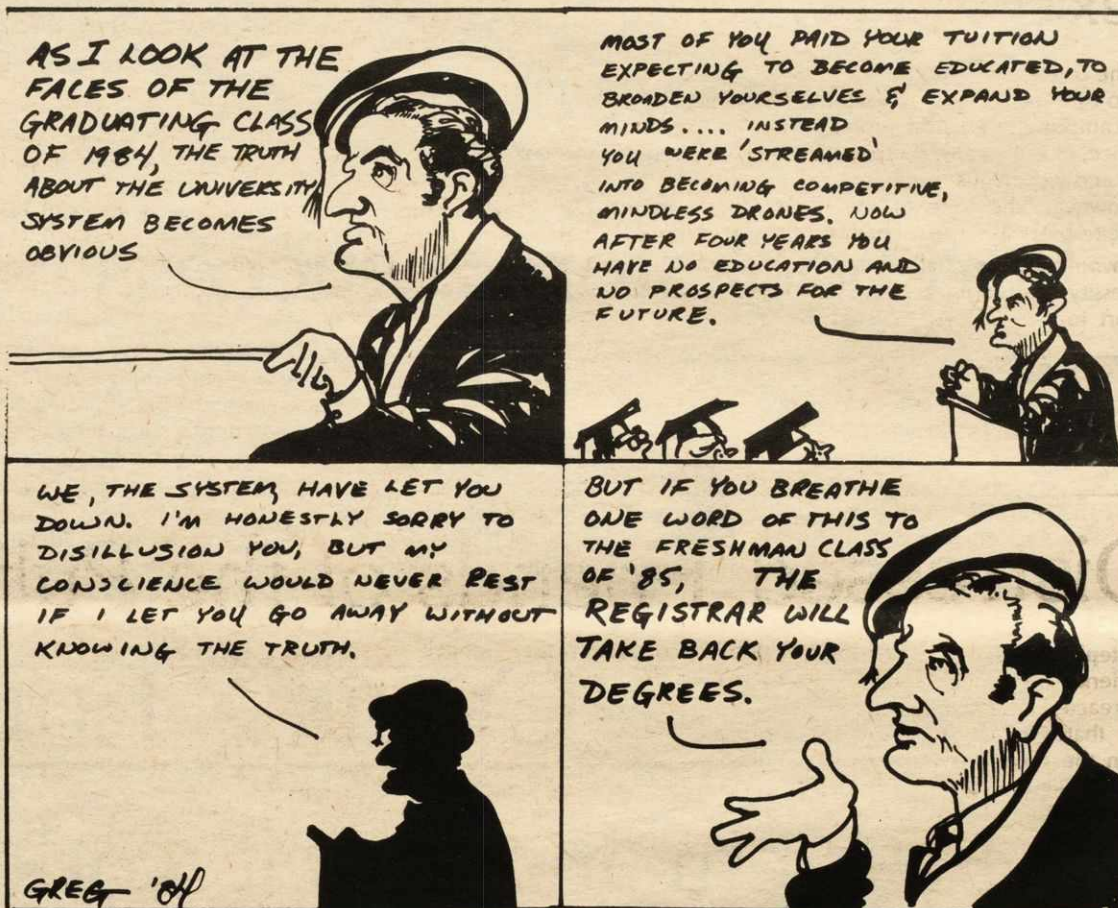
No, the examples above are just a few symptoms of a much larger illness. Universities are in trouble. Not in the next five years, not sometime in the 1990's, and not just for some people in some departments. Universities are in serious trouble—now.

There's no safe ground anymore. If all you want from university is a quality education, look again—that quality is declining everywhere, despite bigger and bigger tuition fee increases. If all you want is a quiet atmosphere for reflection and study, look again—cutbacks in security mean women either plan their lives around escort services or risk being hassled or assaulted.

It's a complex issue. It relates to the growing perception of university as either a neat but useless toy given to rich kids or a glorified upper-middle class training course the greedy buggers should pay (more) for anyway. How many businesspeople, parents, taxpayers, government officials think that? More to the point, how many students, profs, and university officials believe in those ideas?

We're asking you to take a breather with us and look at the problems and see what can be done. **What's happening now is not inevitable.** Class back-ups and limited enrollment are not like traffic jams during rush hour. For one thing, they don't go away if you wait an hour.

K.B. and S.B.



## commentary

### Newman conference a success

by David G.C. McCann  
(Conference Chair)

The Dalhousie Newman Society was privileged to host the 1984 Atlantic Regional Newman Conference in the Henson Centre on Seymour Street during the weekend of January 13-15. Over 100 students and Chaplains from three of the four Atlantic Provinces were in attendance, making the conference one of the largest Newman Regionals in recent memory. There were delegates from MUN (both St. John's and Cornerbrook campuses), UCCB, St. FXU, Acadia, SMU, Mt. St. Vincent, St. Thomas University, UNB (Fredericton), and 40 Dal and King's students.

The theme of the conference, "Open the Doors to the Redeemer," was chosen to coincide with the theme of the 1950th

Jubilee Year of the Redemption by Jesus Christ, proclaimed by Pope John Paul II to be celebrated from March 25, 1983 (the Annunciation) until April 22, 1984 (Easter Sunday). University President Dr. Andrew Mackay and Student Union President Tim Hill welcomed delegates Friday evening. The opening session, "Preparing the Way for the Redeemer," was given by Dal Chaplain Fr. Joseph Hatte OMI. This talk illustrated Salvation History from the time of Abraham (1900 B.C.) until the time of Christ and explained why mankind needed a Redeemer. After the session, a cold buffet was served by the Dal Newman Society.

Saturday morning began with Morning Prayer at 8:30 a.m. followed by the second session, given by Ms. Sharon Harlund, entitled, "The Door Opens—

Prayer and Mary." Ms. Harlund's talk centred on Mary, the Mother of God, and her role in the modern Church. Afterwards, there was some discussion followed by Mass, celebrated by Bishop Faber MacDonald of Grand Falls, Nfld. The first afternoon session was given by Fr. B.A. MacDonald, Professor of Moral Theology at St. FXU and a prominent member of the pro-life movement. The talk was called: "Conscience and Objective Reality." After some discussion and questions, a second session followed entitled: "The Church and the Holy Spirit." This talk was delivered by Bishop Faber MacDonald who is the Canadian Bishops' liaison to the Atlantic Newman Conference. There was a dance that evening at St. Thomas Aquinas Church Hall on Oxford Street.

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## THE CRISIS

For the rest of this term the Gazette will be running a special series of articles on the state of university education here at Dalhousie, and elsewhere. To some of our readers, the reasons why we're doing this are self-evident. To others it may be something they don't want to hear about. We thought it would make sense to let you know why we feel it is important enough to spend our time writing the articles and stressing their importance.