

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.

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

Editorial

Power, how to get it

One of the most ballyhooed and bungled-up ideas ever to arrive in our society has to be that catch-all phrase - *student power*. Most of the time, it's waved about like some tattered tricolour by student politicians attempting to get students out to some poorly organized event for a good cause. But student power can be more than a slogan. It can be an art.

There are basically three things politicians understand - public opinion, votes, and money. I'll leave "money" out of this for one good reason - students don't have any. The cash funds aren't there for students to pave a highway or subsidize a Michelin plant, let alone do anything as crass as contributing to parties in and out of power to curry favour. That leaves votes and public opinion left for students.

Public opinion and votes are kinda the same thing, because politicians are most worried about being unpopular on election day. And if students can influence public opinion so the politicians have to begin listening to what they've got to say - *that's student power*.

It means a lot more than just getting students riled up. It means students have to work at making *everyone* understand why underfunding is bad - why 900 computer Science students shouldn't be limited to 20 terminals, why making it difficult for students to get bursaries is unfair, and why Universities should be accessible for all to attend, regardless of how much they or their parents make. The reason is the votes.

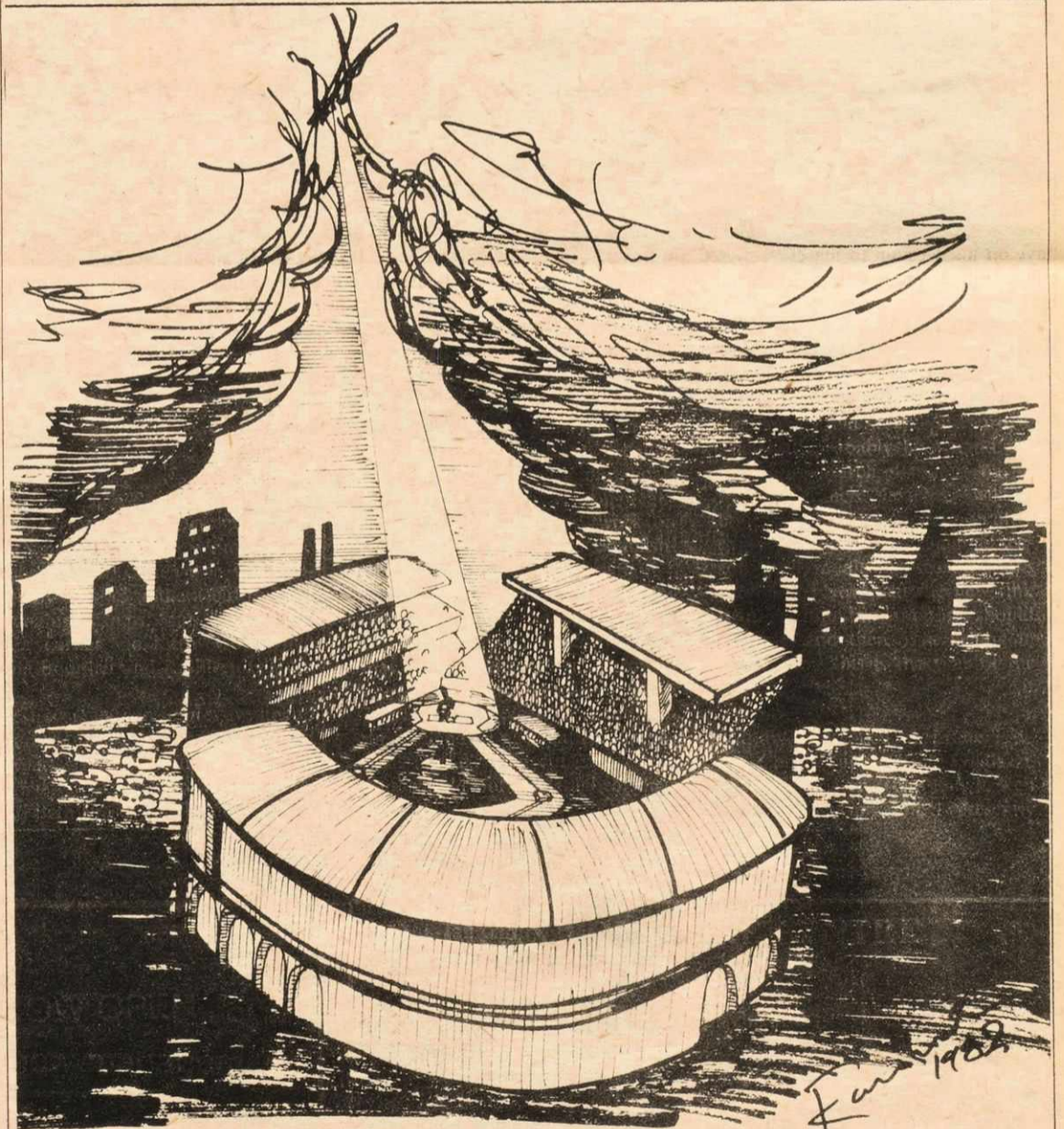
You see, most students can't vote as a group. Elections are almost never called at a time when students can vote where they are attending University. That would mean a Spring election, and Canada is famous for its Fall elections. So in elections, either students can't vote at all due to residence requirements or they have to vote in their summer place of living (home, wherever). That means instead of thousands of voting students all bottled up in Halifax, it's difficult for students to vote at all, and if they do, there isn't any one place they can make their voice heard - not even in the ridings of Ministers of Education and Secretaries of State when those ridings take in several universities like Dal and SMU.

So students have to begin proxy voting - but not in the usual way.

Everybody should try to convince those privileged members of our society who *can* vote to support our founding Universities and pocketbooks from more cutbacks. It's not that difficult - every student knows at least a few voting humans - Ma Fa, others, your fellow workers (if you're lucky enough to have any), etcetera. No matter what colour shade they claim as their party badge, we have to make more than students aware of what's going on and how proper funding will help everyone. That's how students should proxy vote, drawing in support for something we don't have the clout to achieve on our own.

Any student who wants to can start this *real* student power moving by walking to the Legislature this Friday, bringing as many non-student friends, relatives and concerned humans as you can muster. Hey, nothing's going to happen if we don't force it. Most politicians know a bit about science when it comes to the force of inertia. They've got that down to an art.

(WORLD SERIES MODEL) SPITTOON



"Where's Reggie?"

Note: We welcome letters. A few ground rules: Space limitations force us to reserve the right not to publish letters exceeding 300 words, those which we consider racist or sexist, or letters which have been anonymously submitted. Finally, letters must be typed and submitted to the Gazette office before Monday afternoon.