



Dalhousie Gazette

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Except for \$40

Grant fund broke

by Jimmy Olsen
Cub Reporter

\$400 now, \$400 later
Council aids food Co-op

In a late season orgy of philanthropic deeds, Student Council last week all but cleaned out grants committee coffers leaving several applicants for funds out in the cold.

At its second to last meeting Nov. 30, the Council gave \$400 to the North End Food Co-op, \$434 in additional funds to DGDS and subsequently had to put off requests from a North-End Free School for drop-outs and the Health Professions conference organizers.

The grants, coupled with a recent \$400-plus donation to the Law School Bash fund, reduced Grants Committee holdings to a paltry \$40, although nobody, including Union Treasurer Don Cherry, was really sure about how much money there was in the first place, let alone how much

remained.

No further requests for financial assistance will be entertained until the Grants fund succeeds in "regenerating" itself. That's the way the head table explained the re-birth of the Grants piggy-bank, but once again nobody was really sure just where the new money would come from.

Northern Co-Op in Trouble

According to Neighbourhood Centre worker Jackie Barclay, the fledgling North-End food co-op needs at least 200 new members (as of Nov. 30), if it is to survive and begin operating on a non-profit no-loss basis. In keeping with the original intentions of the community group who founded the low price food store, membership is limited to low income families. Food is sold at wholesale prices to the members, who pay a two dollar week service charge to cover costs of heat, electricity and other overhead. The co-op is administered entirely by members from the low income families themselves.

In asking Council for an \$800 grant, Mrs. Barclay explained that the money would enable the co-op to operate for two more weeks while recruitment continued, and would eliminate the necessity of admitting families with higher incomes.

Council decided to make \$400 available immediately, and to keep another \$400 on hand in case the membership drive and other fund raising plans were unsuccessful.

No Bread for free school

A request from John Shuh of the "NEW OPTIONS" free school for a \$1,000 grant was put off indefinitely since by this time there was no money left. The school for drop-outs tries to provide financial aid to students as well as free high school equivalent education. The school, located presently in the George Dixon Centre on Gottingen St., currently has about 40 full-time and prospective students ranging in age from mid-teens to late twenties.

In other Grants Committee action, DGDS spokesman D. Ray Pierce wheedled \$435 out of the ol' bank account to send delegates to the Canadian University Drama League festival.

Medics charge:

Gazette a non-paper

The Gazette is a non-paper not worth wrapping garbage in, according to Dalhousie medical students and the Halifax Mail Star.

At least the Halifax newspaper reprinted an editorial from VOX MEDICA, the newspaper of the medical students society which made the original statement.

The editorial, which was unsigned, was headlined at the top of the Mail Star editorial page.

The apparent dissension on the Dalhousie campus was later picked up by Canadian Press and distributed to local radio stations by Broadcast News, a CP radio subsidiary.

The VOX MEDICA editorial indicated that its writer thought Gazette staffers were "incompetent". It said the paper's left-wing position was not vital "... but the blatant incompetence and insensitivity of the Gazette staff. ..." were important to the medical students.

"Any group that insists on leaving entire pages blank, that pads an already skimpy paper with full-page poems week after week, that reprints pages of poorly written drivel from questionable news sources, to our mind is incompetent," the VOX MEDICA said.

The blank page referred to by the VOX MEDICA editors was left blank after the Gazette's printer deleted copy dealing with the federal government's War Measures Act and the crisis in Quebec. The material was reprinted from the Montreal Star. (The issue has not yet been paid for, said Gazette Editor, Neil Harrison.)

The editorial did not pinpoint its reference to "questionable news sources". Nor did it describe the basis for its value-judgement about "poorly-written drivel."

The medical students described the students' council as "weak-kneed" for not quashing the Gazette and proposed five alternatives to remedy the Gazette's present "non-paper" status.

The editorial said the first possibility would be to kill the Gazette entirely and function without a newspaper.

Another possibility would be to cut the Gazette's budget and force the staff to sell their paper to continue publishing. (That alternative was rejected three weeks ago as a method of controlling the JOURNAL at Saint Mary's University. Students voted 9-1 to retain a student newspaper without budget cuts.)

The editorial suggested that strict guidelines might be enforced on the Gazette staff. The regulations would cover size, content and viewpoint.

The fourth alternative would be to amalgamate the Gazette with other student newspapers in Halifax. The others are the JOURNAL, the Mount Saint Vincent PICARO, and the Nova Scotia Technical College TECH NEWS.

JOURNAL News Editor Mike Smith indicated that alternative would not be acceptable to his paper. "I don't think either the Gazette or the JOURNAL would benefit," he said.

"While there may be criticisms of both papers which are valid, amalgamation would simply remove the staff even more from their campuses," he continued.

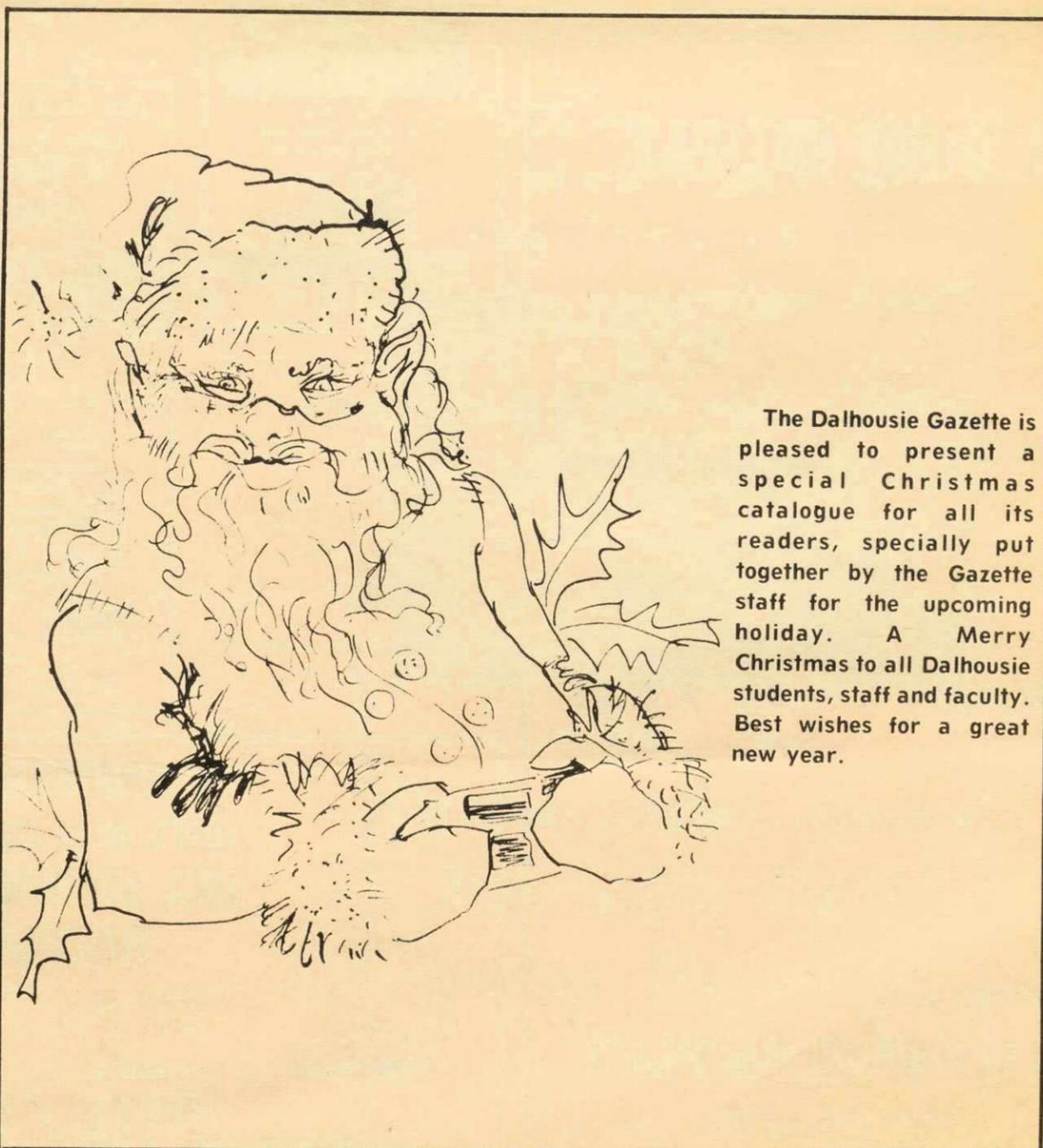
Smith had criticisms of the VOX MEDICA editorial. "If

that's all they have to do with their space, they shouldn't really be printing," he said. Smith said he thought student newspapers should spend more time defending their constituents' interests vis a vis education and less time in fighting with other groups of students.

The VOX MEDICA also suggested that the Gazette budget be withdrawn and distributed to faculty-oriented newsletters and newspapers, like the VOX.

VOX MEDICA editors Ken Murray and Rudy Hyles were unavailable for comment as was News Editor Jack Sommers, who reportedly wrote the editorial.

Murray's telephone number is not reported in the Halifax telephone directory and Hyles was working on press night. Sommers did not answer his telephone.



The Dalhousie Gazette is pleased to present a special Christmas catalogue for all its readers, specially put together by the Gazette staff for the upcoming holiday. A Merry Christmas to all Dalhousie students, staff and faculty. Best wishes for a great new year.