

Gazette finances poor ?

Council says no more issues

The Dalhousie Student Council has refused to fund the final two issues of the 1977-78 **Dalhousie Gazette**.

At an emergency meeting March 16, council voted to stop the **Gazette** from printing due to alleged finan-

cial problems. Council treasurer Gail Rudderham said she believed the **Gazette** would incur a \$5,000 deficit at the end of this year—a claim disputed by both the **Gazette's** advertising manager, Anita Lathigee, and the editor, Valerie Mansour.

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They say it's even better than lanolin, but jeez, I don't know.

Regan crowned

Nova Scotia Premier Gerald Regan has joined the list of distinguished victims of the country-wide pie throwing craze.

Regan received what amounted to a creamed toupee, during a forum with Dalhousie students in the Student Union Cafeteria, Friday.

Dal Student Union President Robert Sampson was also creamed at the head table. "The Dalhousie Gazette was obviously behind this", said Sampson. "I've worked hard

for the students all year, and all I get is a pie in the face."

The **Gazette** says the pie-throwing was not a move of the paper.

One of the pie throwers informed **The Gazette** that the act was a gut reaction to "pussy footed Liberalism."

"Regan was giving us a line about limited portions of the economic pie and we just decided to give him his," he said.

Allain elected editor

Marc Allain has been elected editor of the **Dalhousie Gazette** for 1978-79. Allain, a graduating arts student, has been working on the paper since September.

Allain would like to see more emphasis on the operations of the university administration and more extensive community coverage. He also feels the paper should have more humour and "more better grammar."

Allain says he plans to continue the work toward independence, and hopes that a new arrangement with council can soon be made whereby the paper will control its own budget.

Allain, who was unopposed in his bid for editor, will begin May 1. Outgoing editor Valerie Mansour said, "Too bad, he's such a nice guy."

"We have not gone overbudget," said Mansour. Our expenditures are in line with what was allocated for the year. Council has an accounting system which includes debts from the previous year, which naturally makes us look like we've spent more money than we actually have."

"The **Gazette** has printed 100 pages less than last year, has used colour less often, and has run fewer supplements. I don't really think that can be considered over-spending", explained Mansour. "As well, we cancelled two previously scheduled issues, January 5 and April 13.

Rudderham also says that the **Gazette's** advertising revenue will be lower than anticipated. However, the **Gazette** staff contends that the only section of revenue which is lower than it should be is student union advertising. "We will receive more money in national advertising than expected this year, and we are coming close to expectations in local ads, said Lathigee. The student union was budgeted to spend \$3,000 with us, but they have yet to do it."

The **Gazette** approached council at their regular meeting Sunday night to reconsider their decision. Council members at first refused to discuss the matter, but after the **Gazette** staff stormed out of the meeting and returned with a written statement on their position, the issue was dealt with. A motion to rescind the closure motion lost when it failed to garner the necessary two-thirds affirmative vote.

Rudderham insisted the **Gazette** would go over budget and that the two final issues could not be printed on a break-even basis as proposed by the paper. Mansour said, "even if we did spend all our money we are capable of printing the final two issues with advertising revenue covering almost all costs. Council refuses to believe that by cutting back the number of pages we run, a very small, if any, deficit would be incurred."

"This is exactly the reason the **Gazette** needs autonomy", Mansour added. The paper lost a bid to form a publishing corporation independent from student council during a student referendum only a day before the closure motion.

Student Council had unanimously supported the **Gazette's** proposal to become independent. "This is precisely the situation an autonomous paper would avoid," said Mansour.

Council's move is in direct violation with the statement of principles for Canadian University Press, of which the **Gazette** is a member. It reads that "The student newspaper should be free from outside financial control and that once its budget is granted no holdup, decrease or discontinuing of funds should be made by financial administrators unless the paper desires such change." "It is likely that a CUP investigation commission will be called in to Halifax," said Mansour. The commission would consist of a person chosen by the CUP national executive, a person chosen by the regional executive, and a representative of the local commercial media.

"The investigation commission has only the power to make recommendations about the relationship between council and the **Gazette**", Mansour added.

"In the meantime we will continue to publish. We said we can exist on our ad revenue, and that's basically what we'll do. It's an important time of the year in terms of student activities regarding decisions in funding post-secondary education. A lot is happening all across the country and it is vital that students at Dalhousie not be denied important information.

"The student council and the **Gazette** have a duty to the students of this campus to continue publishing. Council doesn't seem to understand this but we certainly do. We're not letting them stop us," Mansour concluded.

Students will march

Nova Scotia students will march on province house March 30 to protest recent funding cutbacks to post-secondary institutions in Nova Scotia and the maritimes.

The demonstration, called by the Nova Scotia caucus of the Atlantic Federation of Students, will demand university funding at the level recommended by the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission, a component to offset tuition increases, an end to all cutbacks that affect the quality of education, and faculty and staff wages, benefits and working conditions that are equal those in the rest of Canada.

AFS secretary-coordinator Tony Kelly said the Nova Scotia govern-

ment doesn't seem to care what happens to the quality of education it provides. "They have been cutting back for a couple of years now and the results are really starting to show".

He said students are being forced into larger classes, facilities are becoming inadequate, and many courses are not available any more. He added faculty and support staff salaries are well behind those in the rest of the country.

Students are expecting support from other sectors of the university community and similar protests are planned for the Université Ste. Anne at Church Point and in Sydney, Cape Breton.

The press lives on!

This is the last issue of the **Dalhousie Gazette** to be funded by the Student Union this year. The **Gazette** staff, through their own resourcefulness and with the assistance of friends, will continue the publishing schedule. The **Gazette** staff will fulfill its responsibility and obligation to the student body by printing two more issues.