

1975

1974 has been gone now for more than a week and the year 1975 is upon us. Though we cannot forecast events for the new year there are certain things that we can look forward to with some anticipation — or trepidation.

1975 has been declared International Women's Year by the United Nations. All over the world governments and citizens will be looking at the progress, plights, etc. of women. The Canadian Government has set aside large sums of money to further women's study groups, projects, etc. in each Canadian Province. Properly used and divided this money could be a tremendous asset to various women's groups throughout the country. Unfortunately it is far more likely that it will be used to fund projects that will die at the end of 1975 without really improving the situations Canadian women find themselves in. International Women's Year must not be used merely to celebrate motherhood and marriage. Women should take advantage of this year to closely examine themselves as persons, their lives and their futures. Together with all the other nations of the world we should use this year to establish once and for all that women are full and equal members of the human race.

Halifax will probably see more development problems arising this year. The Quinpool Road Citizens Organization has shown us all that a Citizen's group can make a difference. Though maybe not permanent members, all of us here at Dalhousie are members of the Halifax community and should take some responsibility in the future of the metro area. The city now owns the notorious property on Quinpool Road but the future of that property has yet to be determined. Rent Control is likely to become a hot issue in civic circles. Rent control is certainly a topic that should be of interest to the students in the Halifax community - if implemented it could make an enormous difference in the housing situation that awaits returning students every September. The Dalhousie Sports Complex is another area where our interests are closely entwined with civic politics. We must be certain that our voices are heard in community circles and with our help perhaps traditionally apathetic Halifax could become a more activist, exciting place to be in 1975.

Not only are development problems likely to come up in the metro area - they will certainly be visible in provincial circles as well. The Shaheen Refinery may or may not die a natural death. The Wreck Cove project is certain to become a heavily debated topic that as Nova Scotians we must take a stand on. The Provincial Government is on a new European tour to bring more industry and investment to Nova Scotia. Mistakes can and will be made but a knowledgeable, active university community could help keep the mistakes to a minimum.

It would be very nice at the end of 1975 to look back and say "It was a constructive year. I learned a lot." Now is the time to start making that statement possible. A little activism never hurt anyone and it is quite possible that if you try it you'll like it. Happy New Year.

Canada's Oldest College Newspaper

The Dalhousie GAZETTE is the weekly publication of the Dalhousie Student Union. The views expressed in the paper are not necessarily those of the Student Union, the university administration, the editor, or the staff. We reserve the right to edit or delete copy for space or legal reasons. Deadline date for letters to the GAZETTE and outside contributions is the Friday preceding publications. No anonymous material will be accepted, but names may be withheld on request if there are extenuating circumstances. The Dalhousie GAZETTE is a founding member of Canadian University Press.

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EVERYONE HELPS

To the Gazette:

Your article on the mentally retarded ("Please do not dehumanize", Dec. 12, 1974) was excellent in many respects but stands subject to correction in one vital point. It is stated that the Canadian Association for the Mentally Retarded (CAMR) is a "tight clique and they don't take anyone seriously who isn't at least forty and fraying at the seams", and that "college kids" shouldn't expect to "cut any ice" with CAMR.

This is neither fair nor true. The Dartmouth Branch of CAMR includes people from high school to retirement age, all working towards the common aim of providing services and opportunities to retarded people. The energy and vitality of the young people are much appreciated. Many of the members are parents of retarded children. For them there is no question of age or cliques; the business is too vital for such petty considerations. For the remainder, idealism is overlain by pragmatism, and there is precious little seeking after glory or reward. A number of those "over forty" have fought the battles of the retarded for many, many years, and they do not deserve to be sneered at as "fraying at the seams".

The Dartmouth Branch of CAMR cannot speak for the province or the nation, but we would be delighted to correct any misunderstandings as to our nature and role by inviting you to come and see for yourself. We are in the phone book.

Yours sincerely,
J.D. Brown

APOLOGY IN ORDER

To The Gazette:

In response to the letter by John Kitz in *The Gazette* issue published on December 12, 1974, I would like to violently oppose his inference that the present Dalhousie Student Council is arrogant, incompetent, unable to deal with financial matters, uncaring about de-

tail and policy, and acting as 'a dreamy old bitch'!

I would think that Mr. Kitz is writing off the top of his head and hope that he would consider apologizing to Council for his remarks.

Student Council Member,
Warren Meek

TWO GOODIES

To the Gazette:

As I listen to John Denver, I relax with the Dalhousie Gazette and a book entitled *Hellstrom's Hive*. Not having much time, with exams and all; to actually enjoy myself for several days, it was a welcome relief.

Never having had much concern for this paper in my first two years at Dalhousie, only ever writing one letter to it in those years, I hope that I've since made up my past inactivity by writing six articles, and one other with a co-writer this year alone.

Now, having established my relations with the paper, I would like to say that on the whole, it never impressed me. Mainly because there was too much involvement with politics, with which I have no use and "typical" sports of which I don't enjoy unless actually participating and not simply watching or reading about. Naturally there is at least one really good article per paper, and it stands out.

Finally, in getting back to my relaxation reading. I read in the last issue two articles that made up for all past articles that have been sweet fuck all. Neither article had the author's names, and so I can not give them personal credit but I'm sure they'll know who they are.

The first, titled, *ALTER-NATE LIFE STYLES*, gave a sense of well being in knowing that there are people that are doing important things like their farm and not simply staying in the city. Having read similar articles elsewhere, it was a welcome sight to actually see it in the Gazette.

The second was in the Literary Section. Simply called *THE PLAN*. I found it to

cont'd on pg.5