

Caretaker editor?

The Gazette has a new editor.

As is the tradition with all new editors in a few words I should outline the direction in which I hope to take the paper. It is not a particularly new direction since it is basically just maintaining the strong areas and strengthening the weak areas.

The newspaper has a responsibility to keep students informed about what is happening that might interest them, through Update Calendar, public affairs announcements, press releases, and coverage of the events themselves. I will not be changing that.

In terms of news here is what we might do. We might start with a story of events on the national level and add to that information on the effect on the local area (Nova Scotia) and add to that more information on the Halifax-Dartmouth area. We did just that with our lead story in last week's paper. As you may have noticed the story was a CUP (Canadian University Press) story on how the federal government was eliminating the CYC (Company of Young Canadians) in its new budget. This story was beefed up with information from the Truro CYC office on how that would affect the region together with an account of the actual effect on the Halifax CYC projects.

The end result: a brief summation of the situation across the country and in Halifax-Dartmouth.

The idea is not to use CUP copy as filler (the Gazette has never done that, in spite of a thousand accusations), but as information. To tell students about the student aid sit-in in Fredericton, not with the slick gloss of television or newspaper reporters sniffing the wind for a story, but from the position of the students involved in the situation (again, a front page story last week.).

The number two story on the front page was the problem with the Slowpoke reactor, and its potential as a health hazard, local and newsworthy.

That is the news aspect, it is not the whole paper, I hope to emphasize it a little more, but it will not dominate the paper.

Dalhousie is not a university that is into sports in a big way, but we do need to add to our sports coverage, both to give a little boost to those teams that are winning and give a reason for persisting to those that are not.

We seem to be holding up well in our coverage of the music, movie and theatre scene; we will endeavour to maintain that strength and add to it as the occasion arises.

Of course, for any idea to be explored and utilized we need more staff, a few more (ideally lots more) people to each take a little of the work load and practise that skill universities are here to develop - thinking. Only a couple of hours a week by a larger number of people and we would have a better paper that would more closely represent the views of the broad range of students.

I am pushing for "staff democracy", to broaden the base of decision making on the paper; to give even the new staff a stronger voice in the operations of the newspaper. It also means I do not write all the editorials, I am responsible for them, but other people on staff have a chance to voice their opinion on current issues and events.

In the end the buck stops with me, because that is my job, to be the editor.

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 or the editor. We reserve the right to edit copy for space or legal reasons. The deadline for letters to the GAZETTE is the Monday preceding publication. No unsigned material will be accepted, but anonymity, if necessary, will be granted. The Dalhousie GAZETTE, Canada's Oldest College Newspaper, is a founding member of the Canadian University Press. The Dalhousie GAZETTE office is Room 334 of the Student Union Building, telephone 424-2507. The subscription price is \$5.00 per year (27 issues).

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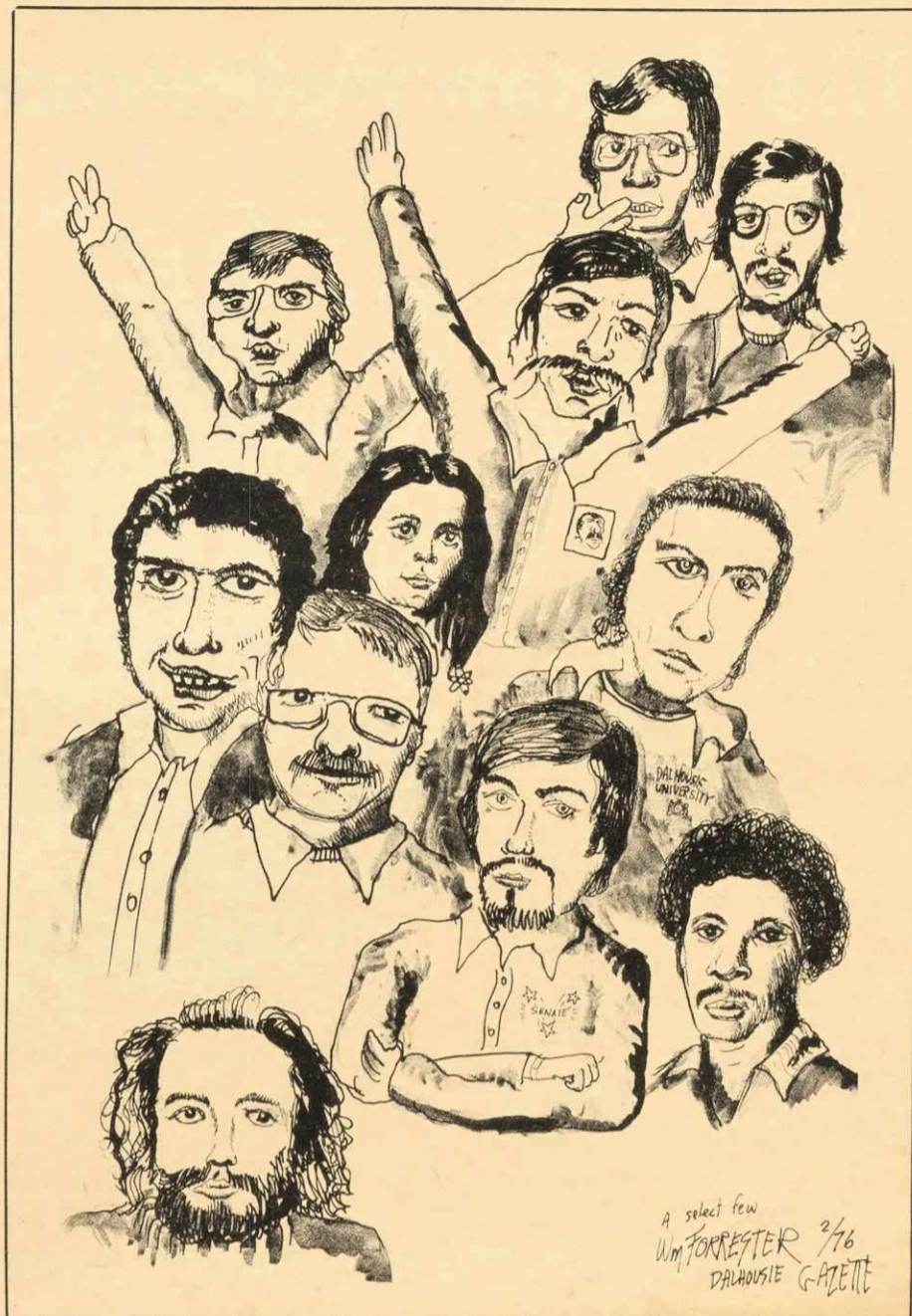
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Letters

Dal bookstore

This letter dated in early January was misplaced until now. Although the point the author is making is less timely than when written, it is none-the-less important.

To the Gazette:

The Dalhousie University Book Store has an unpleasant new policy. A customer needs a note from the Registrar saying he has changed courses if he wants to return books. Most stores in Canada gladly refund or exchange goods.

Mr. L. Vagianos is the initiator of this arbitrary and highhanded new book return policy and I would like to ask him to change it, and to show more concern for customer relations in the future.
Yours truly,
John Kitz

Chronic alcoholism

To the Gazette:

Just before I passed out at the beer bash last Friday, it occurred to me that alcoholism is a serious problem in our society. Chronic alcoholism brings about Korsakoff Syndrome which is a disease that causes irreversible brain damage resulting in tremors, apathy, anxiety, and loss of memory. This disease is caused by lack of vitamin B complex in the usually undernourished alcoholic's diet.

Rickets has been all but wiped out by the addition of vitamin D to milk. The same thing could be done to Korsakoff's if vitamin B was added

to all alcohol, aftershave, anti-freeze, and vanilla extract. This would eliminate the disease, save taxpayers the millions of dollars needed to treat its victims, and win the Nobel Prize in medicine.

Yours truly,
Ralph Matthews (Med.1)

Ed. Note:

Yeah, but what would happen to all those social workers?

Mount & Phi Del?

To the Gazette:

This year due to complications in our previous security arrangements, the Mount Saint Vincent Students' Council was forced to look at alternatives. Quite by accident we stumbled upon the possibility of utilizing the Phi Delta Theta fraternity as our security force. This arrangement has been in operation since early October and I would like, at this point, to publicly thank and commend the fraternity brothers for the excellent job they have done. It should certainly be a well-known fact that without their assistance, the dances and pubs at the Mount would probably have been cancelled long ago. I know that being responsible for the security of an event is frequently an unpleasant task; the brothers have always handled it with efficiency and a minimum of fuss.

Yours sincerely,
A.S. Derrick
President, Student Union

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