

Time for action

The Maritime governments have shirked their responsibility to maintain quality education in the region. Their failure to provide adequate financial support in next year's budget will mean we will be paying **more** money to receive **lower quality** education taught by the **lowest paid** faculty in the country and supported by maintenance workers and secretaries forced to continue to work under the government-defined **poverty line**.

It is time for students, faculty and staff to **take action**. Our governments should be responsible to the public, and if they fail in this regard, then it is the public's responsibility to make their views known to the government.

Can this be done by working through the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission? - Not likely.

The three Maritime Premiers, Regan, Hatfield and Campbell, got together and decided that all three governments would ignore the recommendations of the MPHEC which they set up to **objectively** assess the needs of post-secondary education in the region. Not only did the premiers dismiss the MPHEC recommendations, they tried to hide them from the public. It was only through a leak that the public was made aware of what MPHEC had to say.

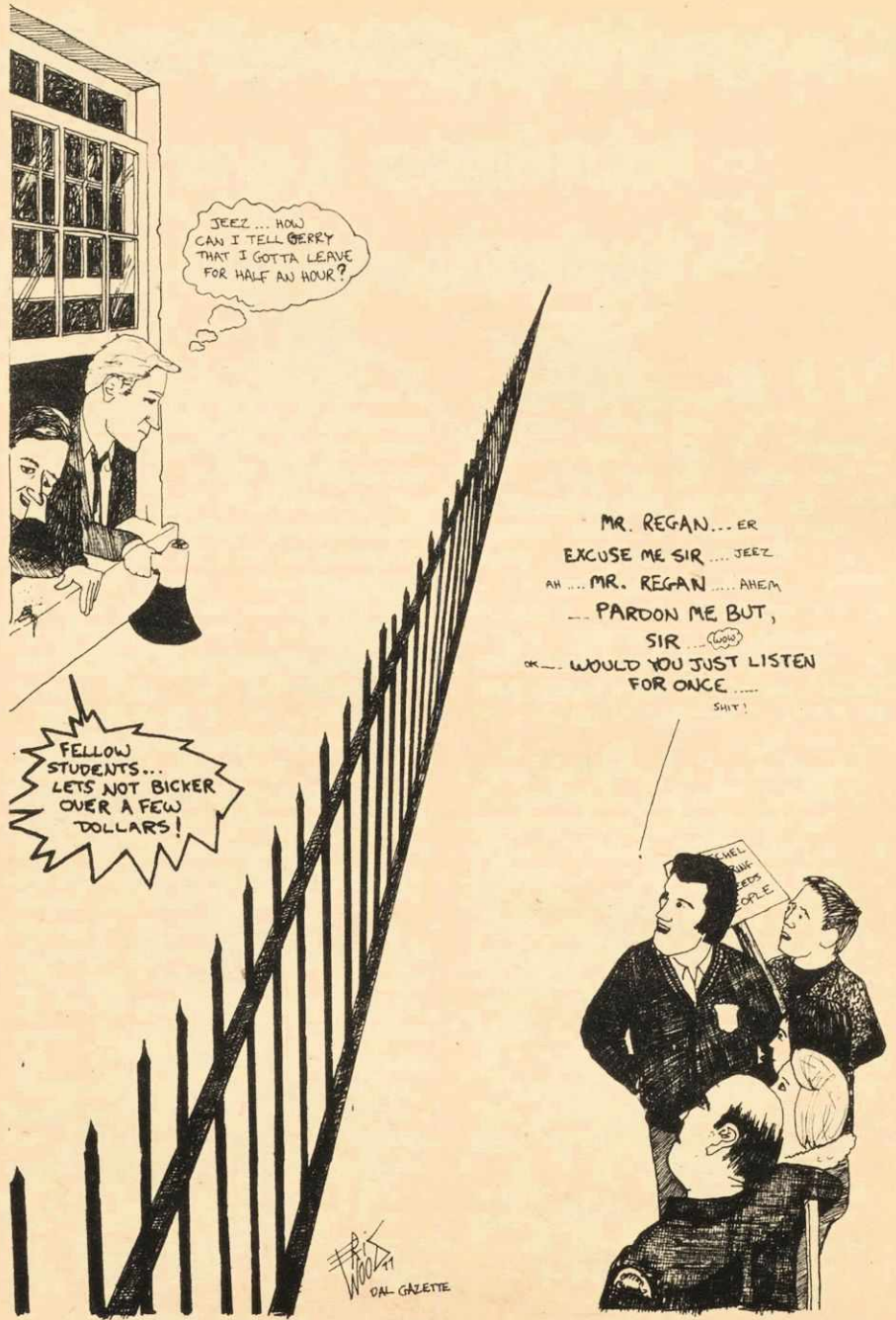
Can we do it by direct consultation with government? Look at the past few months. All the Atlantic administrators joined together last February in Charlottetown to meet with the three Maritime premiers. Their requests were ignored. Students from across the province met with N.S. Education Minister, George Mitchell, on Feb. 22, only to have him walk out on them. The N.S. Faculty Association have been trying to meet with government for over a year, and thus far government has not even agreed to talk with them.

At a general meeting last week at Mt. St. Vincent, students informed their student leaders that they felt it was time to stop playing these bureaucratic games. It's time to take our case to the public. Since that meeting there has been talk of a student, faculty and worker march on Province House.

Let's make sure that happens by informing our student representatives that we want them to start organizing. Spreading the word to our friends will build up momentum to insure the march's success. We should ask our professors to cancel classes and join us in the march. It is their problem too.

We must show the government that they had better stop ignoring the public.

by Valerie Mansour



the dalhousie gazette

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 editors, or staff. We reserve the right to edit material submitted for space or legal reasons.

The deadline for advertising is the Friday noon preceding publication. Articles and letters are due Monday noon. No unsigned material will be accepted, but anonymity, if necessary, will be granted. Letters should not exceed 600 words, and must be typed if more than 100 words. The Dalhousie Gazette, Canada's Oldest College Newspaper, is a founding member of Canadian University Press. Our office is Room 334 of the Student Union Building. Our mailing address is The Dalhousie Gazette, Dalhousie University, Halifax, N.S. B3H 4J2. Telephone 424-2507. The subscription price is \$7 per year (28 issues). ISSN 0011-5819.

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Editors | Valerie Mansour and Harvey MacKinnon |
| News Editor | |
| CUP Editor | |
| Features Editor | |
| Sports Editor | |
| Entertainment Editor | donalee Moulton |
| Photo Editor | |
| Advertising Director | Richard Coughlan |
| Advertising Representative | Dave Purcell |
| Circulation Manager | Joe Wilson |

The staff and contributors for this issue included:

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Nigel Allen | Geoff Clare |
| Lloyd Daye | Rick Plociennik |
| Michael Cormier | Marion Frazer |
| John McLeod | Eric Wood |
| Matthew Adamson | Mike Walsh |
| Anne Joseph | Donna Treen |
| Don Soucy | Bradley Warner |
| Christine MacLean | Susan Kenney |
| Sabrina Mercer | Heather Scarfe |
| Jeff Round | Sheena Masson |
| Lou Anne Meloche | |

Letters

Join staff

To the Gazette:
Re: Mr. Samuel King's letter in the March 10 issue of Gazette.

I see from Mr. King's letter that he was unsatisfied with last year's yearbook. The points the gentleman brings up may be valid but he overlooks one thing, except for the Editor who receives an honoraria, the work done on Pharoes is that of volunteers. Students do "pay" for Yearbook each year that they are students and get a copy following graduation.

Council in the previous year has also felt that there have been problems and has struck a committee to look into it. As a member of this committee I have come to the conclusion that Pharoes problems are about the same as Gazette's and CKDU that is a lack of staff.

I urge Mr. King, as he feels that a better job can be done, to apply for the position of Yearbook Editor for 1977-78 and to contribute time as a staff member for the rest of this year. I'm sure you'd be welcome.

David Grandy

Fair world

To the Gazette:
I am a student of Dalhousie and a gay man. During the past several months the Dalhousie Gazette has published a wide and frightening variety of anti-gay hate mail. The Gazette's courageous and principled opposition to CBC discrimination has apparently hit a raw nerve in this university. I have been reluctant to write a reply to these attacks because I realize that bigots

will remain bigots, whatever I say or do. Revolutionaries must be patient, and I am not a patient man. This letter, therefore, although addressed to the bigots, is not for them, but for those Dal students who are decent people (the majority, I believe) and especially for my sisters and brothers, the 800 lesbians and gay men at Dal.

Yes, I am gay. I have a mother, just as you do. I grew and learned and became an adult, just as you did. I learned to love, perhaps not in the same manner as you, but just as deeply, with as much pain and as much joy. I have a family, I tell jokes, trip and fall, hurt and bleed, make friends, make enemies; I can be kind or cruel. I am trying to live the best life I can with the gifts I have. I work, pay taxes, pay tuition fees and Student Union dues. I never encounter discrimination when I pay my taxes; the government is always willing to fleece a poor faggot just as it fleeces you. My hard-earned money goes to support such heterosexual institutions as the CBC. I have to pay my taxes and obey the law, but I cannot legally protest when I lose my job, am denied an apartment or refused a public service (for which I have paid with my taxes) because I am gay.

I am an alien from another planet, a recent intruder in your perfect heterosexual world. I have always been here. I am the person standing next to you. I am some of your friends, you sister or brother, sometimes your parents. I may even be you. I have worked in the factories, fought and died in battle, borne children, been part of everything the human race has accomplished. If you do not see me, it is because you have tried to erase my image. You keep me off the TV, the radio, the press of the newspapers.

continued on page 6