

# THE GAZETTE

DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY

## The Ath

### Acadia Student Union Stops Press

By LOIS CORBETT & STEPHEN SHAY

Students at Acadia University won't be reading their newspaper this week because the student politicians there temporarily suspended its publication.

The Student Representative Council executive told the *Athenaeum* staff members last week that since the paper had no editor, the union would not pay to have it printed.

That means the *Ath* loses \$200 in national advertising, about \$400 in local advertising, and writers and contributors are left in limbo.

Ironically, the SRC at Acadia is responsible for deciding just who will serve as the *Ath* editor this year, and the paper's staff, while it has four members on the nominations committee, does not have the power to choose who will run the paper, unlike many newspapers at other Canadian universities.

The nominations committee rejected the sole applicant for the position this year, and has opened applications again. It hopes to hire an editor sometime next week.

Mark Blanchard, one of the coordinators of this year's *Ath*, says what bothers him most about the council's decision to suspend publication is just how the orders to stop printing were carried out.

"The council executive made the decision without consulting us or the rest of council. None of the council had come to us to try to work any problems out that they thought were present," says Blanchard.

"It was the paper's fourth issue this year and the staff thought everything was running smoothly, despite the fact we had no editor," says one *Ath* staff

member who asked not to be identified.

Peter Sonnichsen, Acadia student union president, says the problems the *Ath* had were more apparent than what the staffers say.

"We felt, weighing the cost and product, the students were not getting their money's worth."

Sonnichsen was editor of the *Ath* last year before he had to resign to run for council president. While he says the best thing for the paper is more autonomy from the council, he says his main worry is about just who is funding the paper.

"The executive was concerned that there was no one to set editorial policy and to administer the paper's budget. Important programming information (about student union sponsored events) was left out, and to a lot of students, that's the biggest service the student union provides," says Sonnichsen.

Beth Ryan, a co-president of the Atlantic region of Canadian University Press, says the problems the *Ath* face won't be resolved until the paper's staff is given the right to choose their own editor.

"It will happen over and over again until the people who have to work with the editor have the right to choose. As a staff member of a paper that democratically elects its editor, I know that is the only way it can work," says Ryan.

"It works at other student papers across Canada," says Ryan. A recent conference of student papers in Atlantic Canada passed a motion condemning the Acadia student union's decision to interrupt publication of the *Ath* and many student journalists there urged the *Ath* staff members to push for the staff's right to choose an editor.



### Hot dog wars

By CLAYTON BURNS

A HALIFAX HOT DOG VENDING company is routinely dealing drugs, according to other vending business owners.

"They've been in business for a few months, dealing drugs from their carts," says Larry Chippin, owner of Student Vending.

Ray Romano, who has been vending for five years, says the company that has been dealing drugs set up their business with hash profits. Romano says one of the partners used to work with him, and encouraged him to sell hash from hot dog carts by telling him, "Come on man, we can make lots of money."

The same man recently tried to sell him hash in front of the Palace on Brunswick Street, Romano says. He says the man has pushers on the street now, "little rats from prison, just out of prison."

Craig Peters, owner of the Fry Factory mobile canteen, also says LSD and hash have been sold from some hot dog carts in front of the Misty Moon.

Chippin says that he hasn't reported the drug-dealing hot dog company to police because he doesn't want to be known as a "rat", but he says he fired one of his own employees for selling hash in front of the Sea Horse Tavern.

Chippin says that one of the partners in the drug-dealing hot dog cart company has been charged with assaulting another owner. And, he says, "A 15-year-old girl who worked for them came at me with a knife."

"We're locking our gas tanks because someone put sugar in one of them. At the end of the night, between 3 and 4, is when there's trouble," he says.

Romano says the drug-dealing hot dog company used young prostitutes to sell hot dogs, and a friend of theirs, a pimp, threatened him. He also says the girl who threatened Larry Chippin with a knife was "hardly 16".

Corporal Stephen Wrin of the City Police, who is in charge of licensing street vendors, says that Chippin didn't tell him about his problems with the other vending company.

"I found out about a lot of this stuff from other sources," Wrin says.

Wrin called the owner of one vending company into his office, and told him that if police could prove he knew about drug sales by his employees, he'd lose his licence to vend.

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