

# It isn't Dal's fault

**To the Gazette:**

I have just finished reading the two articles on the last A.F.S. Conference. As usual, Mancini and Sampson are being used as the whipping post for the problems of A.F.S. This continuous assault on these two gentlemen is unrealistic. We cannot put the blame for the Federation's problems on their shoulders completely.

The delegates who went to the conference went with the intention that once and for all A.F.S. would establish a constitution and get a budget along with establishing some sort of financial responsibility, which we have sadly lacked for so many years. For those who dispute this claim, ask the delegates from Dal, Acadia, Mt. Allison, U.N.B., U.P.E.I., St. F.X. and Mt. St. Vincent what they were doing there?

This intention was heard and reheard all summer, but yet, we got to Halifax, and were faced with the same old stuff again. The conference was bogged down with workshops and the constitution was pushed aside.

What is an organization without a structure and fiscal responsibility, nothing! We can pass all the workshop motions we want, but without the constitution to stop the bastered version of democracy that took place at Halifax (ie. Block proxy voting) and the financial structure to pay for the implementation of those motions. Everything we say and do is done in a vacuum.

The charges that Dal was trying to impede the work of A.F.S. is again pure crock! Their intention was the same as Mount. A, St. F.X., Acadia, U.N.B., and the others, give the organization a structure. So, if you want to continue your childish assaults, you had better spread them around and not just against Robert Sampson and Peter Mancini. How about Arenburg, Morrison, MacInnis, MacDonald and Craig Head. Their intentions towards A.F.S. were honorable, the good of the organization was their prime concern.

The charge that Mancini shouldn't throw stones about the papers done is unfounded. If you looked at the papers, the majority of them were not done by Atlantic Students. Most were done by O.F.S. and non students. So, I say that Allain had better make the charge he made against Mancini against himself also. Mancini did bring the very valuable recommendations received from the advisory board to the meeting. Peter's contribution to the well being of the students in this province has been excellent and he should be thanked for a job well done, not accused of something that is totally unfounded.

The hiring practices of the Federation leave much to be desired, they are not done in a proper manner, there are no procedures, terms of reference for hiring, firing or anything. Hiring is based on who is on what side, if you're against Dal, St. F.X., Acadia, Mt. A., your hired, you also have to be able to write, "right on" and "solidarity with the working class" at least 10 times on every page of a letter you write.

If any body watched that conference, you would think the other side was paranoid. Every time Dal brought something forward NSCAD would object, stating that Dal was undermining the Federation, then

run down to C.C.B. to make sure those proxy votes did not leave the fold and voted with them. It did not make any difference if the motion was good or not, by God Dal put it forward, so vote against it. Though it might sound exaggerated, if you were at the conference, this is what basically went on.

The constitution was not drawn up by the committee, for the committee did not exist, this summer the three members on it did not meet at all. There were four constitutions at the conference and Dal., St. F.X., Acadia tried to put the best of the four into one.

In closing, I think that you should stop condemning Dal. for it's work at A.F.S. The paper continuously presents one side of A.F.S. The organization is divided in the middle but yet Dal. is portrayed as the oppressive dictators, while the others are made up to be the defenders of student rights, motherhood, and apple pie. That is also a crock, how about a look at the other side, who I feel seriously impedes the development of a financially sound and structural organization. Another point to remember is why Dal. and other schools decided to withhold funds, it is not because of the direction of A.F.S. but that it does not have a structure and is financially immature. This is something that every organization establishes first, then you put the cart behind the horse, not the cart before the horse. The delegates from Dal. worked hard at the conference in the best interests of A.F.S. If you are going to condemn them for that, you might as well tackle St. F.X., Acadia, Mount Allison, U.N.B. and U.P.E.I. for the same thing.

Sincerely,  
**Mike MacInnis**  
Vice-President  
Students' Union  
St. F.X. University

# Herald mis-information

*To the Gazette:*  
Enclosed is a copy of a letter I wrote to the Chronicle-Herald concerning their misrepresentation of the Dalhousie operating engineers' strike. Not surprisingly, they chose not to print it.

*Even though the strike has since been resolved, I submit the letter to your readers who may likewise be concerned with the problems of irresponsible journalism in Nova Scotia.*

**Ruth Gamberg**  
Department of Education

Editor  
Chronicle-Herald

Dear Sir:

Whenever I read a report in your newspaper on a situation I have first-hand knowledge of, I become increasingly concerned about journalistic irresponsibility and the harmful disservice that your newspaper perpetrates on the public. Your failure to provide the public first with the facts and then with balanced interpretations becomes all the more serious in a province where your two newspapers virtually monopolize the dissemination of written daily news.

In your unsigned article of December 3 on the Dalhousie operating engineers' strike, you say that the union is demanding an 8% wage increase; it is not. The union has not specified a percentage but is seeking wages comparable to engineers and trades groups outside the university.

You call the Dalhousie Staff Association a local of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE); it is not. It's an independent organization.

You tag Al Cunningham president of the caretakers' CUPE local at Dalhousie; he is not. He's CUPE's regional representative; the man you're after is Bill Kelley.

You tell your readers about a small student rally held in support of the striking workers; it was not small. The room where it was held has a seating capacity of nearly 500. All seats were taken and another 100 or so people were lining the walls and crowding the aisles.

This was a short article, less than 400 words long. Yet it contains so much factual misinformation. If we can't trust your facts, what do we do about your more interpretive statements?

For example, a third of your article is devoted to telling us what the employer says about the strike. But not one word about what the strikers themselves have to say about it. You report the views of the Vice-President of the University on what he calls incidents of vandalism. If you had bothered to ask the operating engineers about this, you would have discovered that they have three very different points to make on this issue. One, that some of the "incidents" being claimed by the University do not, in their view, qualify as "vandalism". Two, they question whether some of the "incidents" occurred at all. Three, and most important of all, they are indignant at the suggestion that they are responsible for any vandalism.

Perhaps the old saying, "Don't believe everything you read in the

newspapers" needs a local adaptation—"Don't believe anything you read in the Chronicle-Herald".

**Ruth Gamberg**  
Department of Education  
Dalhousie University

# mis-understands Ismail Zayid

**To the Gazette:**

Your correspondent Larry Barzelai's comments on an address by Dr. Ismail Zayid show a lack of understanding of the fundamental thrust of Dr. Zayid's presentation. Mr. Barzelai's remarks should be compared with what was actually said by Dr. Zayid.

(1) Mr. Barzelai writes: "(Zayid) implies that Britain and the U.S. established Israel for their own politically expedient reasons. On the contrary, Israel was established by Jews who went there to escape persecution . . ." As the original Gazette story points out, Zayid referred to British imperial policy and American political opportunism in addition to the Zionist movement as factors bringing about the creation of Israel. In his address Dr. Zayid noted that during the 28-year British mandate the Jewish population of Palestine skyrocketed from less than 5 per cent to a full third of the total population.

How can Mr. Barzelai deny the importance of British policy in this matter when even to-day Zionists appeal to the 1917 Balfour Declaration as legitimizing the occupation of Palestine? Prime Minister Begin did so only last week. And everyone

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