



THE DEADLINE FOR LETTERS to the editor is noon, Monday before publication. Letters must be signed and include a telephone number where the author can be reached (although telephone numbers will not be printed with the letters). Letters are subject to editing for style, brevity, grammar and spelling and libel. Letters can be dropped off at the SUB enquiry desk, mailed to our address (see page 2), or brought up to the *Gazette* offices, third floor, SUB.



Apologies

Our apologies to anyone who found the cartoon in *The Gazette* (Page 15, Jan. 10, 1985) offensive.

It was not our intention to express racist attitudes that have been perceived as existing in the cartoon.

When the man says 'you're just picking on me because I'm black,' he is appealing to his mother's liberal attitudes by trying to get her to believe she is acting in a racist nature. Obviously she is not acting in a racist nature by asking him to study for a test.

The man has extrapolated his anti-racism to an absurd length, and in the end creates a kind of reverse-racism by attributing anything criticised as racist. We are further convinced that his position is absurd by the fact that he himself thinks he is black when he clearly isn't.

When his mother says "For one thing, you are not black," we could assume had there been another panel, that she would go on to attack his attitude problem. Usually when one says "for one thing," it is usually followed by a "furthermore, also or for another..."

Evidently a number of people did not read the message of the cartoon in the same way. Once again, our apologies.

We can assure you that *The Gazette* firmly remains opposed to all forms of racism, sexism, and homophobia and will continue to fight for human rights in society.

THE GAZETTE

Dalhousie still flagship of higher learning

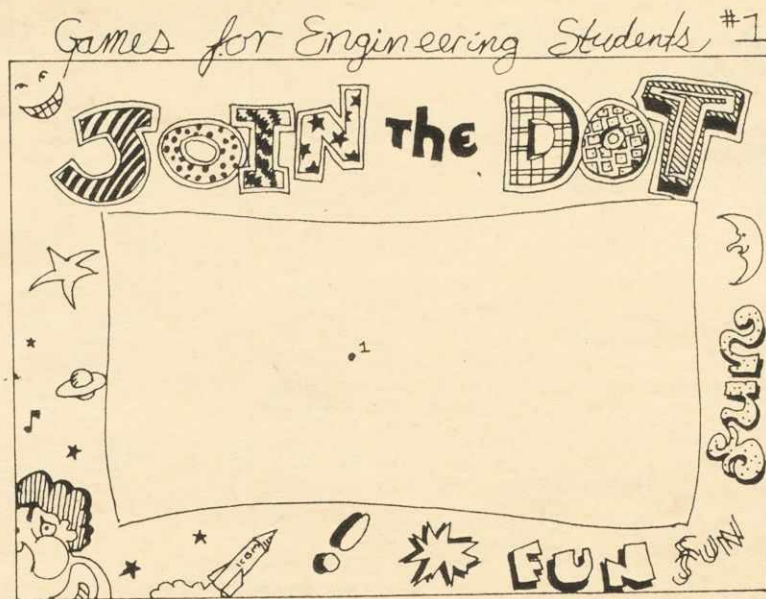
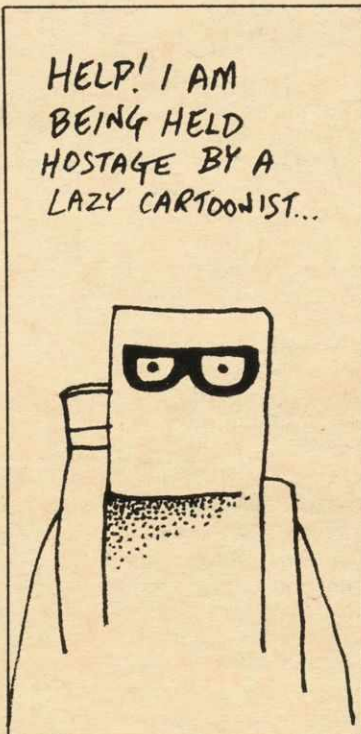
To the editors,

The article entitled "The Debt" in your Jan. 24 issue must not go unchallenged. Having been on the Dalhousie Board of Governors during the entire period when Dr. Henry Hicks served as president, a part of the time as Chairman of the Building Committee, I can tell you that buildings were not built without great consultation. There were architects and experienced construction people at Board Building Committee Meetings and only after the most thorough examination was a decision made to build or not to build.

Usually the decision was to build because the facilities were required. Dalhousie was like the household with a fast growing family. Student members were increasing by 10%, 15% and 20% per year and the administration felt that it was its responsibility to provide the facilities and faculty members necessary for their development, physically as well as mentally. The buildings at Dalhousie are a credit to the University and to Nova Scotia generally. They are of excellent quality and could not be duplicated today at twice the cost. This was the age of growth and Henry Hicks provided the leadership and vision necessary for that period.

Perhaps with hindsight, which the author of the article is using, things could have been done a little more economically, but that is past. The end result is that Dalhousie, despite rebuffs from within and without is still the flagship university of Atlantic Canada and one of Canada's great institutions of learning.

Yours sincerely,
A. Gordon Archibald
Chairman
Board of Governors



Not glad gladiators gone

To the editors,

I hope that you aren't really going to stop printing letters from Brian Fantie, Theresa MacDonald, Christopher Thurrott and Peter Dawson. I really think that the *Gazette* is improved by this kind of variety of opinion.

Firstly, it looks as if your "letters" page is going to be pretty empty without these letters—my last week is any example. Last year, you asked for letters, and people like Thurrott, Penny, and Dawson responded. When you were after input on Zeta Psi and the *Tupper Times*, you got it.

Secondly, you have singled out five people, out of a crowd of regular letter-writers (e.g. Charles Spurr). These people don't write the worst letters in the *Gazette* by a long shot. Also, their letters aren't "personal debates"—I think that especially Penny and Thurrott have raised a lot of general interest issues. Is it because they both recently criticized radical feminist methods that they are getting censored?

Thirdly, I and a lot of my friends find the letters among the best parts of the *Gazette*. A lot of these letters are funny, thoughtful, and well-written compared to a lot of the *Gazette* articles. Dawson especially should be a *Gazette* tradition.

Stopped making sense

THE MARITIME PROVINCES Higher Education Commission has stopped making sense.

The commission, which annually recommends levels of funding for Maritime post-secondary institutions, has surprised many by recommending a paltry 4.5 per cent increase as sustenance financing for next year.

They explain in their report that this number comes from a combination of inflation and estimated cost increases facing post-secondary education — although they do not state how they calculated inflation for post-secondary institutions nor what they consider to be a cost increase.

If one is to believe that their formula is correct, then one can only conclude that the batteries in their calculators aren't working properly.

How can 4.5 per cent possibly cover sustenance when faculty settlements — comprising a large chunk of university budgets — start at about six per cent at most institutions in Nova Scotia?

Also they have failed once again to recommend increased funding to cope with the soaring enrolments that have taken place. The MPHEC states in their own report: "Accommodating a 28 per cent increase in enrolments (since 1977) without additional funding has not been accomplished without a cost even though it may

be difficult to measure quantitatively."

It goes on to state: "Reductions in operating grant per student are beginning to affect programme quality through larger class sizes, reduced technical support, fewer laboratory sessions and assignments, less counselling,

and inadequate library collections and teaching and research equipment."

Yet they fail to recommend funding to alleviate this.

The report is very much a mess of contradictions. While piece by piece it paints a picture of a system in crisis, it compounds that crisis by unrealistic recommendations that seem more aimed at appeasing tight-wad governments than solving problems.

Instead of blasting the provinces for ignoring their recommendations year after year — creating much of the fiscal crisis we're in now — they have severely reduced their recommended levels of funding to match what the governments are willing to give.

One can only draw the conclusion that the MPHEC has stopped acting as an advisory board and is now providing

In short, these people's letters are a lot of what makes the *Gazette* worth reading. I think that a lot of other readers feel the same way, and I hope that Fantie, MacDonald, Penny, Dawson and Thurrott keep writing. And I hope you guys keep publishing.

Sincerely,
Ms. T.O. Ilest

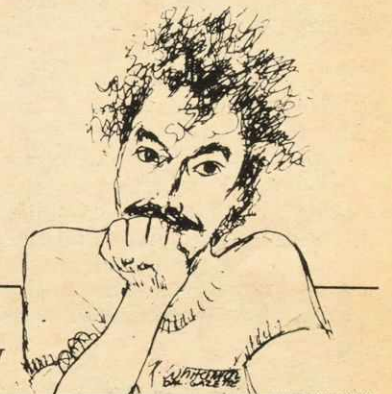
Also not glad gladiators gone

To the editors,

While I often disagree with the views expressed by the "veteran gladiators", I more strongly disagree with the censorship that is implied by your notice of their retirement (*Gazette*, January 24). What has happened to "I don't agree with what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it"?

Sincerely,
Charles W. Preston

Editor's note: The veteran gladiators (Dawson, Thurrott et al) are welcome to write letters to the editor and participate in political debate. It is precisely because we value our letters section that we want our letters to be lengthy personal debates. As well, personal attacks sometimes border on libelous and we'd like to stay out of court. Letters debating political issues like radical feminism vs liberal feminism are welcome no matter who writes them.



RICK JANSON

political justification for underfunding.

The net result will be — as many university presidents have already stated — that tuition fees will be in for another round of substantial hikes. And this, ironically, will happen despite all of the MPHEC's lip service to accessibility.

Conveniently the MPHEC's mandate does not require them to make recommendations for a quality, accessible education system — they only need recommend levels of funding that supposedly will continue to maintain whatever misery the universities were in this year.

If we were to define the objective at hand as achieving a level of funding that would produce a quality, accessible education system, then what the MPHEC is suggesting can only be seen as ridiculous.