

Letters continued from page 9

# Finally MacDougall gives a last word...?

To the Gazette:

The following few paragraphs had been censored from the March 25th edition of the GAZETTE, allegedly because the Editor of the paper, Allan Zdunich, did not believe that the average student did not have sufficient intelligence to grasp the fact that the article, normally appearing under the kicker, "Ken MacDougall's View", would be considered anything but satire. The condescending nature of the editor's mentality I leave to the reader to comment upon. The

critique of personalities I leave to the individuals mentioned themselves to comment upon.

It's budget time at the Union, and that always makes for interesting scenarios at the Vertical Mausoleum (the SUB). Come in some time and watch the action. Cynic City...

Around this time of year, departmental knives become sharpened and it's every man for himself. Rumours start that someone is going to be fired, services will be cut back, and so on. Never mind that someone should be fired, some budgets shouldn't exist, and so on...

This year there's tension and expectancy in the air. There's no new Treasurer to pull a con job on; instead, departmental heads are being forced to deal with Mark Crossman, pinchpenny extraordinaire, the same person who supervised last year's budgets. He's learned all the tricks (he thinks), and no one is going to pull the wool over Mark's eyes ever again.

This situation, so I am led to believe, is causing great concern in the bearpit. Already some department heads have been turfed from Mark's office, with the threat that our resident "financial wizard" will take care of their estimates. So, it is with this vision in mind that we look in on Mark Crossman's office, as he examines the budgets of our expanding bureaucracy.

#### Act I, Scene I

Enter Mark Crossman into the Student Council offices. He is wearing a new pair of elevator shoes.

**Mark:** Ms. Hiscock (the Union's Accountant), please send in the first victim.

**Glenna:** Right away, Mr. Crossman. Enter Jon Walsh and Stan Carew of CKDU. Carew, ever aware of Walsh's sensitivities, lets him enter first. Crossman is busily poring figures into his calculator, and an occasional soft obscenity can be heard to exit his lips.

**Mark:** I'm not impressed. You turkeys should be shot. \$20,000 you windbags are costing us, and all they can hear at Howe Hall is a low hum.

**Jon:** Listen, you runt...

**Stan:** Now, Jon...

**Jon:** GAZETTE costs twice that amount.

**Mark:** \$4,000...and don't worry, because they're getting theirs. I've told Coughlan (Business Manager of the GAZETTE) that we're not paying rent on his penthouse this year. And Who-Done-It (the Editor) is being told to cut back circulation by 2,000. That should save us at least \$20 an issue. Bruce and Ann

(Pres and V.P.) are even volunteering to buy kitty litter this year. No sacrifice is too small for the Union. So start bleeding.

**Jon:** But the frat, eh, staff says that Council is already shafting us. We don't get paid for doing Record Hops, we can't go to Council receptions...where can we possibly cut back?

**Mark:** Try your library. Sell some of the junk up there. I've an offer here from Bob Switzer to pay \$50 for the entire collection. From the sound of the music you've been playing lately, we'll make a profit on the deal.

**Jon:** Listen, turkey...

**Stan:** Now, Jon...

**Mark:** Enough! Bleed or be gone. Cut back or I put a padlock on the joint. Next!

Carew drags Walsh from the office, kicking and screaming. Exeunt to the sounds of, "Now listen, Jon..." Enter Fiona Perina, Programming Director. She is visibly shaking. Crossman stands up to let the full effect of his shoes take hold.

**Mark:** This doesn't look good at all, at all...\$15,000 for bands...who are we getting? **Backmann-Turner?** What's wrong with **Stone Free?**

**Fiona:** But Mark, I've already told you that students just won't come out to see **Stone Free**. They're becoming too sophisticated...and besides, no one comes out to a dance in the Cafeteria anymore. It's too high-schoolish.

**Mark:** Nuts. Give them beer and they're happy. The university is paying \$50 for a new stage and lighting in the Cafeteria, plus \$20,000 for a new floor in the McInnes Room. We can only afford to use the McInnes Room for Beer Bashes. Get your priorities straight. And what's this nonsense...75% attendance...total revenue \$1,200 per double decker event. What price are you charging? \$.50 a head?

**Fiona:** Well, the fire limit on the McInnes Room and Cafeteria is 1250, and that's deducting overhead, just as you said to do...

**Mark:** 1250? The building holds over 2,000 people!!! SUB staff has just ordered 6 cattle prods for these events. Where in Hell do you think they'll get the opportunity to use them, if you only pack in 1250?

**Fiona:** But fire regulations, tables, chairs...where's everyone going to sit?

**Mark:** Sit? This is the Student Union!! People come here to be jostled, not sit down. Besides, how are liquor sales going to increase if people can rest?

**Fiona:** But...

**Mark:** Enough! More money! And cut out these damn lectures. Irving Layton...what accounting film is he with? Nonsense! Out, damn it, I have work to do! Next!

Exeunt Perina. She has to be helped from the office by Murdock Ryan and Tim Pertus, Bar Services Manager and Assistant Manager,

respectively. Ryan wears the look of frustration that can only come with having been hassled by too many Treasurers. Pertus, however, still shows the bounce of an athlete and the willingness to become involved in a fight - or start one. This is his first bearpit.

**Mark:** Sit down, damn it. And stop bouncing. What is this shit? \$65,000 profit? Council honouraria and Russell's going-away party are going to cost that much. Chicken feed. Where are you hiding the money, Ryan?

**Murdock:** Listen, Mark, if I hide any more departments in my budget, students are bound to get wind of it. So far you've given me SUB staff, Office Services, half of the Housing budget, almost all of Council's receptions, and the TV for the Night Managers. And students can only drink just so much, even Dal students. Where are they going to get to money, anyway? Prices in the Grawood are going up 40%... next thing you'll want me to do is start deducting booze from student loans, just like the university does for tuition.

**Mark:** Good idea. I'll have Bruce look into it. But these figures - there has to be something wrong here. \$1,200 a night for Grawood? Is the place only half full? Explain... and it better be good!

**Tim:** (under his breath to Ryan) Just give me the word, Murdock...

**Murdock:** Listen, Mark, the place can only hold 120 people...

**Mark:** 120??! The building holds over 2,000!! Where are people coming up with these numbers per room111

**Tim:** (under his breath, again) Now, Murdock?

**Mark:** OK, I've had about all I can take from you two. You don't think I saw you chucking cream pies at me during Winter Carnival, but I did. And now you're gonna pay for it!!

**Tim:** (Springing to his feet) Listen, twerp, I was eating guys like you when you were still flunking Arts courses....

**Murdock:** Listen Mark, if I have to change that budget one more time, or hide anything else in it, you'll get my resignation in the morning.

**Mark:** Don't threaten me!! It just so happens that I have an application for both your positions from one of your staff. He says he can do both of your jobs, and still play football for Dal.

**Tim and Murdock:** Who's that??!


**Mark:** Pat Wells. Now get out of here and fix up that budget. Ms. Hiscock, hold all calls. I have a Council reception to attend.

**Glenna:** Yes, Mr. Crossman. Exeunt Crossman. Obscenities can be heard in the background as Ryan tries to restrain Pertus.

Do things like that really happen in the Union?


by Ken MacDougall

**BRASS**  
**GALLEON**



1796 GRANVILLE ST.  
423 - 6408

YOU TALKED ME INTO IT.



SPECIAL STUDENT SALE.

50% OFF

ALL PUB MIRRORS

BRING STUDENT I.D.

*See the*  
**Record Man**

CANADA'S  
LARGEST and  
BEST KNOWN  
RECORD STORE  
(LOWER MALL)  
BAYER'S ROAD  
SHOPPING CENTRE

**HOURS**  
MON, TUE, SAT.  
9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.  
WED, THURS, FRI.  
9 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.

DALHOUSIE CULTURAL ACTIVITIES presents  
it's major opera production (in English)  
of Puccini's

# TOSCA

directed by Philip May  
featuring Donna Fay Carr  
Jeff Morris  
Bernard Turgeon

with the  
Atlantic Symphony Orchestra  
conducted by Peter Fletcher

Thursday, Saturday and Sunday  
April 8, 10 and 11, 8:30 p.m.

Rebecca Cohn Auditorium Box Office:  
Dalhousie Arts Centre 424-2298

## Pro Zed & Con Zed?

To the Gazette:

Congratulations to Mr. Zed on his article that very adequately depicted the feelings of almost everyone on our floor and I'm sure there are some guys upstairs who agree also. It is time someone did speak out against these outrageous damages. Sincerely,  
A Concerned Resident of  
Henderson House

To The Gazette:

After labouring over Mr. David Fiddler's letter dealing with the conditions in Howe Hall I have come to the conclusion that it most probably reached your office via a paper shredder. No other explanation would account for such a mangled delivery of an otherwise intelligent opinion. Surely this is not the work of a student at the graduate level of a supposed high ranking university. Tell me it isn't so!

Yours,  
N. Webster