

Frosh week frantics

If you're one of the people for whom this special pre-Frosh Week edition of the *Gazette* is intended, you may well be spinning in confusion with all the unfamiliar people, new surroundings and seemingly endless demands being made of you these days, as you settle (still awkwardly) into the routine of university life. We hope our guide to the Halifax community (pages 10 and 11) can be of some help in helping you get oriented, if you have never had the chance to learn the ropes of this city.

If Dal and Halifax are old hat to you, well, this issue wasn't meant for you anyway. What follows is, however. Because it's September and yes, the *Gazette* is back in business, and that should mean something to you.

Why should it? Well, because "the *Gazette*" is the answer to the question, "To what student society does every Dalhousie student belong?" All right, if truth be told, there's technically more than one correct answer to that question — which will not be the case, incidentally, on your Psychology 1000 multiple-choice midterms, no matter how much you beg and plead. And if everyone who is a member of the Dalhousie Gazette Publishing Society participated in the running of the *Gazette*, Dal would have one hopping student newspaper, in dire need of more chairs for the office.

The fact is, though, not many people do. Which does not, of course, mean that everyone CANT.

Every year more newcomers join the staff than carry over from the previous year. As careful readers have probably detected, however, while the out-with-the-old has indeed occurred, the in-with-the-new has yet to take place, with the result that the paper is severely short-staffed at the moment, and the content suffering. Which brings us to the point of this column (if you hadn't already guessed it): what YOU can do for YOUR paper.

Lots of people will claim that it's their paper because their Student Union fees help to fund it. Wrong. It's not your paper unless you do something about it. Dalhousie is a rich and diverse community, and the paper is only as representative as the volunteers who put the work into it. If you haven't seen your side of the story in print, it's because you haven't written it.

Experience in newspaper writing is definitely NOT a prerequisite. The *Gazette* organizes skills seminars based on the needs of its staff. And we need much more than writers, although most of our staff end up doing at least some reporting. If you have creative, artistic or organizational talent of any kind (and you do), then we (speaking for the harried handful of people who make up the fledgling staff at present) want to meet you.

At the risk of sounding desperate, DON'T WAIT. Beat the rush and drop by the office before the crush of the first week of classes. By the time the upper-year students arrive on campus, you'll be a fixture.

Ryan Stanley

LETTERS

The Dalhousie *Gazette* welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should not exceed 300 words in length and should be typed and double-spaced. The deadline for letters is Monday noon before publication. Letters may be submitted on MacIntosh or IBM-compatible 3.5" disk.

Students deserve voting rights!

To the Editor:

Will students be denied the right to vote in the upcoming federal election? With election dates of either October 18 or 25 being popular guesses, this is a distinct possibility. Regular enumeration will not take place. Instead, the voter's lists from last year's referendum will be used, saving Canadians \$15 million. However, if you've moved since that time last year, as most students have, or if you have recently reached voting age, as many first year students have, then you have to be re-enumerated. Details are sketchy but the Dalhousie Student Union is seeking daily updates from those in the know. Essentially, if your name will not be valid on the old voter's list you have to call the Election Returning Officer for your area to be enumerated. My personal experience with the provincial E.R.O. in May, 1993 was a difficult experience involving a three day series of calls to the E.R.O. office and I did not get the impression that the province cared whether students voted or not. I challenge the federal government to treat students better. Student votes are important in the Halifax riding but they have to be

enumerated to use these votes.

Students can get exactly what they want from the upcoming federal election campaign. Many analysts suggest it will be an issueless election. This gives students and other members of the university community the chance to make education a major election issue. Our candidates in the Halifax riding and surrounding ridings must be pushed to talk about issues facing post-secondary education in Canada including federal funding and transfer payments, the Canada Student Loan Program, the status of women and aboriginal students, and students with disabilities. The list could go on and it does. Everyone can tell their own stories about the barriers to post-secondary education in this country and this is what the politicians need to hear. Talk to your candidates, tell them your stories, ask questions, and demand answers.

It takes work to follow an election and to be a good voter but there is the possibility that education in Canada will be changed and strengthened. Make education the winner in the 1993 election.

Lisa Lachance

More
people read
the
opinions
page than
any other.
Put in your
2¢ worth.

Founded in 1869 at Dalhousie College, the *Gazette* is Canada's oldest student newspaper. With a circulation of 10,000, the *Gazette* is published weekly by the Dalhousie Gazette Publishing Society, of which all Dalhousie University students are members. • The *Gazette* exercises full editorial autonomy and reserves the right to refuse or edit any material submitted. Editorial decisions are made by staff collectively. Individuals who contribute to three issues consecutively become voting staff members. Deadline for commentary, letters to the editor, and announcements is noon on Monday before publication (Thursday of each week). Submissions may be left at the SUB Enquiry Desk c/o the *Gazette*. • Commentary should not exceed 500 words. Letters should not exceed 300 words. No unsigned material will be accepted, but anonymity may be granted upon request. • Advertising copy deadline is noon on Monday before publication. • The *Gazette* offices are located on the third floor of the SUB, Room 312. The views expressed in the *Gazette* are not necessarily those of the Dalhousie Student Union, the editors or the collective staff.

the Gazette

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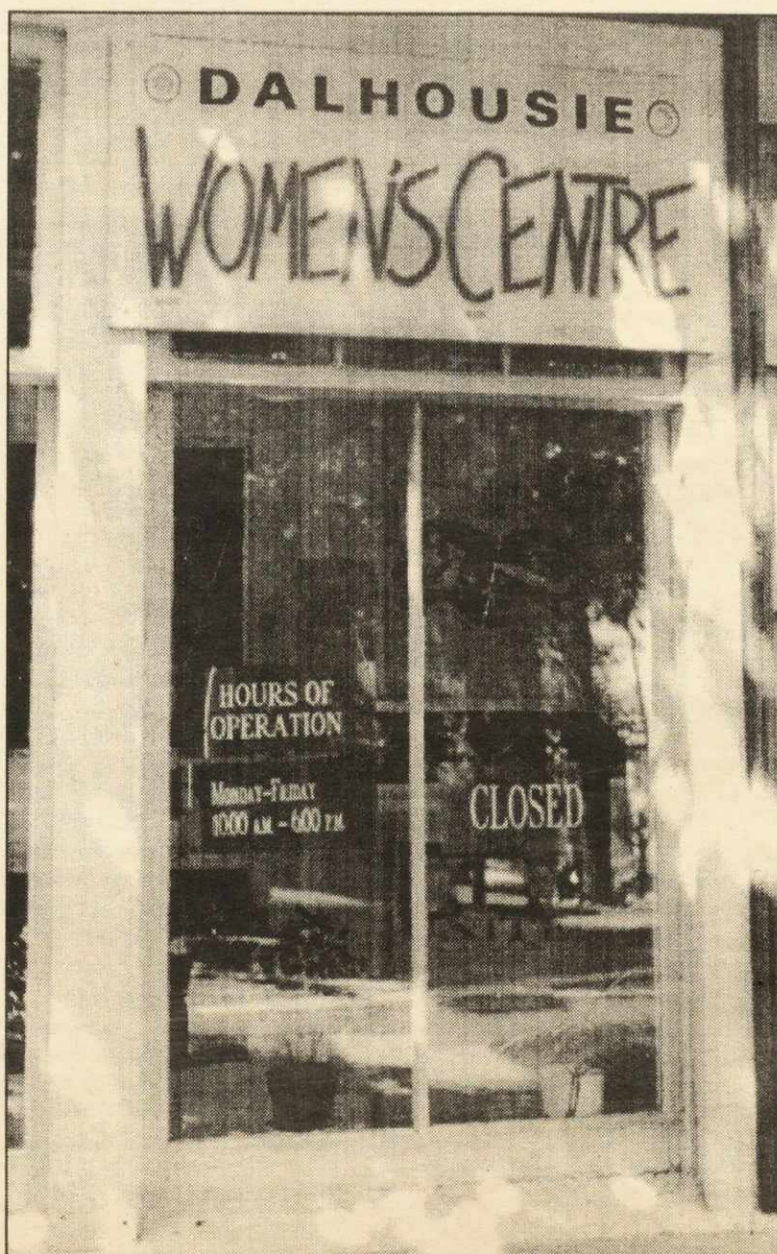
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Women's Centre in second year



by Lisa Lachance

The Dalhousie Women's Centre is located at 6143 South Street. Beginning on September 6 the Centre will be open from 10 am to 6 pm Monday to Friday. Inside the Women's Centre you will find a resource library of books and journals, a referral services to Halifax support and lobbying organizations, a safe space for women on campus and a calendar of September activities. Each month this calendar will change.

The Centre may serve some women as a calm space in the busy next few weeks. Bring a lunch and your ideas. The Women's Centre is dependent on its volunteers and the energy of women staff, students and faculty.

This summer was a long, hot, frightening one for many Halifax women. A large number of stranger assaults were reported to authorities and many were near the Dal campus or the surrounding area. Recognizing the need for people to get together to discuss the problem, the Women's Centre is planning a Campus Safety Forum on Sunday, September 12. At 1:30 pm there will be a presentation from the Halifax Service for Sexual Assault Victims in the SUB. Following this at approximately 2:30 pm everyone is invited back to the Centre for refreshments and a chance to talk. The issue of sexual assault will be explored as well as prevention tips.

If anyone has questions about this event or anything else drop by the Women's Centre or call 494-2432 for more information. Volunteers are always needed.