

*Editor's note: This is a copy of a letter sent to the Chronicle-Herald, submitted to the Gazette.*

**To the Editor,**

This letter of concern refers to the recent provincial election in which we, through no fault of our own, were unable to cast a ballot.

On October 6, 1981 at 6:00 p.m. we walked to St. Thomas Aquinas School to participate in an exercise to which all Canadians are entitled. To our surprise, we were greeted with a challenge: Were we residents of 1350 Oxford Street as of August 28, 1981?

Naturally, we truthfully answered no. We were puzzled, because, living in a university residence, why would we be living there at such an early date? Like most university students, we returned in early September.

We were then ushered to the office on Spring Garden Road, where we were to straighten out the situation. However, three people there had no idea of what we were talking about.

One person said, "If your name is on the list, you have the right to vote." A most rude officer sent us back to our polling station.

We returned and spoke to two other workers who could not understand why we could not vote if our names were on the list. Obviously, communication and organization were lacking.

Becoming more and more frustrated, we returned to our polling table a second time. We had two options. We could a) sign the elector's oath and perjure ourselves, or b) not vote. We really had only one alternative, which was b), and that is the alternative we chose.

Due to the fact that there

were only two of us, not thirty, as there were earlier in the day at the office on Spring Garden Road, our demands were not met, and we lost our votes. The end of a very common story, told by many students on the evening of October 6, 1981. The facts:

a) Five election workers spoken to that evening were unaware of the significance of the date August 28, 1981.

b) We each had an enumeration slip, which should not have been mailed to us.

c) As a result of (b) our names appeared on the electors list, where they should not have been.

d) Neither us, nor many others, were notified that a mistake had been made.

The reason for enumeration is to avoid such happenings, whereas in this case it created the whole incident.

Because of the time at which the election was called, we had to have lived in Halifax as of August 28. But what an inopportune time to inform a voter — at the polling station! This date should have been stressed during the campaign so that people, especially students, would have been aware of such circumstances, since a vast majority of students were not living in Halifax as of that date.

As public servants, official leaders, and "concerned politicians" it was the job of each party to alert the segment of the population this applied to.

We have been denied the right to vote and therefore have also been denied the right to say who we feel would do the best job as our provincial government. We are not alone, as other students were also denied this right. We find it

oddly coincidental that so many students' votes were jeopardized when one of the primary issues in the election was increased post-secondary educational costs.

We suggest that in the future, political parties give greater respect and attention to students, for it is the students of today who will be the influencing power of the future.

Two concerned students

B. Mancini

D. Allen

**To the Editor,**

On Sept. 14, 15, and 16 John Gray's show "Billy Bishop Goes to War" played at the Rebecca Cohn Auditorium. I had seen this production last winter in Fredericton and enjoyed it immensely, and since my four year old son wanted to see it I thought it would be an appropriate show for him to see while we were visiting Halifax. Unfortunately I was informed that my son could not attend because of his age and no exceptions would be made. If Dalhousie Cultural Activities wishes to maintain a policy of no children they should, out of common courtesy, advertise that fact. I was actually quoted three different ages as the cut off age: age 5 by the Box Office; age 7 by Erik Perth; and age 12 by hearsay.

Neptune Theatre's Box Office informed me that children are welcome in their theatre provided they are quiet during a show. This makes sense and I certainly had no intention of allowing my son to talk and jump around while a show was in progress. My son knows he will be taken out if he misbe-

haves during a show and as a precautionary measure I had requested tickets by the back door of the Cohn — on the aisle!

I understand that the Rebecca Cohn Auditorium is in legal fact a private, not a public, institution and as such can practice discriminatory policies. However, I think it is high time the policies were reviewed and clarified to the general public. It would be a simple matter for the Cultural Activities publicist to run a small line on brochures and newspaper ads stating that

children under a specific age are unwelcome at the Cohn. When I suggested this to Mr. Perth I was informed the issue only crops up about 3 times a year. If that is in fact the case I suggest they allow children in with the stipulation that a noisy child can be removed at the discretion of the House Manager. Perhaps some adults could be removed on the same grounds!

Sincerely,

Mary Pat MacKenzie  
London, Ont.

## NEWS BRIEFS

In an urgent move to make the Grawood a more popular place on Friday nights, Dalhousie Student Council voted to recruit economical bands to liven things up.

To offset a steady decrease in bar sales since the beginning of the term, cash from the Grawood video games will be used to hire the live entertainment.

The Ellis Brothers will play this Friday, said Jim Logan, DSU VP. The Entertainment Committee will deliberate whether live bands will be an ongoing phenomenon.

### Cleaning staff are swept away at Dal

by Cathy McDonald

Cutbacks have affected cleaning operations at Dalhousie with about 20 positions left vacant after attrition, and 5 people laid off three weeks ago.

An operating budget of \$2.9 million was reduced to \$2.6 million 6 months ago. Since then, attrition was not fast enough to save the \$300,000, said Robbie Shaw, Dalhousie Vice President of finances, hence they had to lay people off.

These people should be rehired in a week's time as other positions become vacant, said John Graham, Director of University Services.

Florence Logan, President of the CUPE local 1392 said the situation is serious.

"I don't think too much of it. People have to work much harder, and people are telling me they just can't get things done."

"We'll just see how much farther they cut back. There's no way the cleaners can do the work if the administration cuts back anymore," Logan said.

"This was an important decision and affects everybody in the university, not only the cleaners," Shaw said.

This is representative of cutbacks in all areas at Dalhousie, in an effort to decrease the budgeted deficit of \$5 million for the year 1981/82, Shaw said.

### Cutbacks a dirty business at Douglas

VANCOUVER (CUP) — College cutbacks are becoming a dirty word at Douglas College.

When the college administration learned of budget shortages expected this year, according to President Bill Day, they decided to spare education programs the axe and reduce the cleaning staff.

One and a half maintenance jobs will be slashed this year.

"I told Bill Day it's going to get dirty if there are only three people cleaning the college now," said custodian Gary Thind. "There is just not enough time to clean everywhere."

"But when there is no money what can you do?" he said.

Assistant physical plant manager Sooz Klinkhammer said the college should acquire "that run-down look" before it moves to a new campus next year.

"It doesn't really make much sense to refurbish in the last year of occupancy," she said. "If there are scuff marks on the floor we would just leave them."

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