



EDITORIAL

Letters to Gazette

Dear Sir:

I would like to commend you on your paper's recent article on Credit Unions. (Gazette, September 25th, 1980).

It is the kind of article that could stimulate a number of students to reflect on where their money is invested. It may also raise the question in the minds of many, 'Should I transfer my account to the Credit Union?' Such an action could be a powerful statement to the institutions presently handling your funds. It could also be a very positive statement of solidarity with the oppressed.

Your article may also stimulate the Dalhousie Student Union and Dal student societies to consider the same questions in terms of where their funds are deposited.

I understand that a university in Winnipeg recently made such a move.

It is good to have and know about a significant alternative. Thanks.

Sincerely,
Fr. Joe Hattie, O.M.I.,
R.C. Chaplain
Dalhousie University

You may have noticed the Gazette takes a slightly different approach to international politics than other newspapers. Instead of complex accounts of SALT negotiations or a moment by moment account of hostage takings in Iran, we tend to pick up on issues less publicized in the mainstream media. Harmful corporate involvements in the Third World, the imperialistic side of U.S. (and sometimes Canadian) foreign policy and political repression are traditional Gazette themes.

While these stories are well received by some sectors of the Halifax community others either refuse to believe our facts, charging us with ulterior motives perhaps, or utter the familiar refrain, "Well there's nothing we can do about it anyhow."

On the occasion of Amnesty International's "Prisoner of Conscience Weeks" tinges of guilt and sympathy motivate us to point out that Amnesty has answers to these time-worn responses of disbelief and powerlessness.

Formed in 1961 by a British lawyer wishing to organize practical help for people imprisoned for their political and religious beliefs or as a result of racial or linguistic prejudice, Amnesty now has over 200,000 members in 125 countries. Amnesty has an extensive research department which receives information about political repression from a variety of sources. In order to uphold its reputation Amnesty strives to be accurate and impartial at all costs. A Nobel Peace Prize in 1977 and a United Nations Human Rights Prize point to its integrity. You can be sure when they are talking about kidnapping in Turkey or detention and torture in Chile they've got their facts right.

Their accolades attest to more than Amnesty's integrity, however. They also point to its influence. The chairperson for Amnesty's Halifax group, Peggy Matthews, says that 50 per cent of the prisoners in other countries who Amnesty has worked for have either been released, received medical treatment or had their living conditions improved. "That's at least something," she rightly observes.

Amnesty International, which meets regularly in the SUB is not, of course, the only group you can get involved in if you want to do something to alleviate the acute suffering many people experience in different parts of the world. Crossroads and OXFAM-Canada are

positive groups which work, in different ways, to eliminate political injustice. The work of Amnesty does, however, effectively point out that our coverage of world politics does not occur in a vacuum, that the facts we write about are very real and within your power to do something about.

The Dalhousie Gazette, Canada's oldest college newspaper, is the weekly publication of the Dalhousie Student union members, and is a founding member of Canadian University Press.

The views expressed in the Dalhousie Gazette are not necessarily those of the Dalhousie Student Union, the editor, or the collective staff. We reserve the right to edit material for space or legal reasons, or if it is considered offensive to our readers.

The deadline for articles and letters-to-the-editor is noon on Monday. No unsigned material will be accepted, but anonymity may be granted on request. Letters should not exceed 500 words and must be typed on a 64-character line and double spaced. Local Advertising is handled by DAL-ADS — the advertising department of Dalhousie Student Union: Tel. 424-6532. Ad copy must be submitted by the Friday preceding publication.

Our office is located on the third floor of the Dalhousie Student Union Building. Our mailing address is the Dalhousie Gazette, Dalhousie University, Halifax, N.S. You can reach us by telephone at (902) 424-2507.

The subscription rate is \$10. per year (26 issues) and our ISSN number is 0011-5819.

Editor: Paul Clark

Advertising and Business Manager: Sandy MacDonald Tel: 424-6532.

Circulation manager: Joe Wilson.

News Editor: Paul Creelman

Entertainment Edition: Glenn Walton

Production Manager: Gretchen Pohlkamp

Sports Editor: Sandy Smith

Photo Editor: Chris Hartt

CUP Editor: Nancy Ross

Staff this issue: Greg Dennis, Frank McGinn, John Cairns, S. J. Hayes, Bruce Rae, Kevin Eills, Gisele Marie Baxter, Andrew Sinclair, Sandy Smith, Deirdre Dwyer, Alan Christensen, Tom Regan, Judy Pelham, Gretchen Pohlkamp, Daphne Ross, Cathie McDonald, Charles Spurr, Elizabeth Jollimore, Bob Cohen, Michael McCarthy, Elaine Frampton, Paul Withers, Marlene Peinsznski, Nancy Ross, Arnold Mosher, Paul Creelman, Glenn Walton, Tom Higgins, Chris Hartt, Flora MacLeod, Ian Holloway, Moira Green, Randy Harris and Stan Kawalsk.