

## Support faculty

To the editors,

I was very disappointed to read that the Dalhousie student council didn't come out in support of the faculty in their demands for salary increases. How can Dal hope to maintain a high standard of education if it doesn't keep the wages of its faculty at a level that is comparable to other universities? The cost of living in Halifax is one of the highest in all of Canada and it is rising all the time. The salaries of our faculty must allow for this. It is absurd that at the N.S. College of Art and Design and St. F. X. faculty increases are 8.5 percent and that at Dal the administration offers our professors an increase of only 1.54 percent.

It is time that we started to look at Dalhousie as a community instead of an institution. It should be in everyone's interest to raise the salaries of its employees whether they are janitors or professors. We all have our work to do here. If we do not treat each other with respect and concern then the community will fall apart.

If our professors have gone to the extreme of calling a strike vote they must have serious financial needs that must be considered and hopefully met. I can only believe that the administration is not seriously considering the faculty's demands when they suggest they can't go higher than a 2 percent increase in salaries. It seems even more likely when we consider that the lowest increase in faculty pay in N.S. post secondary institutions is 6 percent at Acadia.

It seems to me that if the school has financial problems all of us should try to solve these problems creatively not destructively. It is an administrative problem to get funding. The school community should not suffer because of it. I went to a school called St. Johns College in Annapolis, Maryland. There was no administration there. Everyone taught—President, Dean, Vice President etc. There was no administration that could objectify the other members of the community. If our financial condition is that grave perhaps we should consider cutting down on administrative positions and salaries.

The student council must stop acting so childish. Alex Gigeroff says "if faculty wages were increased something else would lose out". What a selfish and fearful point of view! One of our primary concerns at university is the quality of the classes that we take and good teaching is an integral part of the classroom. I can only assume that Mr. Gigeroff and other student council members are afraid of losing something that is definitely not as important as our faculty. Why are they so frightened to take a stand?

Two of the most important issues at the university for our student council to consider are 1) the financial needs of the students—i.e. in terms of reasonable tuition fees and increased aid to needy students and 2) the financial needs of the faculty and staff—i.e. keeping their wages at a competitive level with other communities of higher education.

If we stand together in this community we can see that the needs of all its members are met. If we fail to support each other then the community itself is at stake.

Thank you  
Lori Cox  
B. Ed.

## Proposal won't hurt faculty

To the editors,

Thank you very much for your favourable editorial on the proposed student contribution to the Campaign for Dalhousie. You point out, correctly, that this proposal would mean considerable savings for students in terms of tuition fees over a several year period. This, to my mind, is the greatest, but not the only, advantage that the proposal offers to students.

I would, however, attempt to dispel the concerns which are mentioned at the end of the editorial. You suggest that "students may be pitted against the faculty by the administration should the referendum pass and the faculty situation remain unresolved. Students should not ratify the deal if it means earning it off the backs of faculty." Not unexpectedly, I read the situation quite differently. For some years now, the Faculty has argued along with us that tuitions should be held down so as to improve the accessibility of the University. This proposal offers a guaranteed tuition rate increase of 4 per cent over the next three years (considerably less than tuition fee increases in previous years), thereby assuring a greater measure of accessibility—something we've both been talking about all this time. I don't see how we could be "pitted against" the Faculty. If anything, it's a vindication of sorts.

The other point is that this proposal really has nothing whatsoever to do with the ongoing collective negotiations; the two should not be confused.

Aside from that, I would only add that the tentative dates for the referendum are Nov. 28 and 29, pending ratification from Council.

Once again, thanks for the good words.

Yours sincerely,  
Alex Gigeroff, President  
Dalhousie Student Union

## No longer silent

To the editors,

When Bernie MacDonald wrote in defence of the Pope, describing him as "the very man who has the world's best interests at heart", ignoring his retrograde views on contraception, abortion and political involvement of priests—I stayed silent.

When Charles Spurr wrote, condemning in his inimitable manner that May Day Parade of Canadian High Tech weaponry, the Shearwater Air Show; and when he was later assaulted by one of the local neofascists—again I remained silent.

Throughout this election campaign thus far, despite the need for all right-minded students to broadcast the woeful inadequacies of our post-secondary education system, and thus depose the Donahoe

/Buchanan autocracy—I have

remained silent.

Even when the uncouth, sexist behaviour of Zeta Psi Fraternity was dragged out from under its rock, for public scrutiny of its slimy underbelly, I somehow assumed that those most injured would express their indignation. I remained silent. No longer.

Gentlemen (and I use the term loosely) of Zeta Psi, is this how adults behave? Are you adults? Or are you, as I suspect, as children who have just discovered the definition of the word "sex", without knowing its meaning? If your attitude towards women is as expressed in that "invitation", then you will never develop beyond that boyish prepubescent stage. Yours is the attitude that, universalized, craters human misery. And if you cannot outgrow this stage of your infancy, at least confine such offensive drivel to its true habitat, in crayon on your bathroom walls,

where, pray God, I shall never have to read it.

Peter F. Dawson  
Political Science

## Congrats Gazette

To the editors:

I am writing as a person who has been involved in the organisation of the recent series of Killam Lectures "Feminist Visions". I wish to congratulate you on your coverage of what I think has been a significant event in the history of Dalhousie University.

The lectures at the time of writing have been fully, seriously and knowledgeably reported. I particularly liked the picture of a very serene-looking cat awaiting Mary Daly's lecture!

I would like to add my congratulations generally on the calibre of the *Gazette* this year. You are doing a

terrific job. Please keep it up.

Christine Boyle  
Professor of Law

## Men of crippled mentality

To the editors:

Thank you for sharing with us the Zeta Psi invitation to a party for their membership on Oct. 22. It saddens me to realize there are men of such crippled mentality on our campus. My heart goes out to the women who accepted invitations from those men to attend. I hope, after seeing this invitation, those women and others will respond in unison, refusing future association with them.

On reflection: How many Zeta Psi does it take to clean the men's room? All of them, over and over, until they get it clean.

Helen Doolittle

## United we stand, divided we fall

To bring about change one needs political clout. It is a misconception of many progressive groups that if their cause is well known and understood then a sense of political egalitarianism will work to bring about change.

Big business, and more recently labour, have understood the necessity of forming coalitions, affiliating themselves to political parties, lobbying representatives at various levels of government and manipulating media coverage either through the timing of news or by direct investment in advertising.

In the arena of student politics our representatives have shown themselves to be, if not disinterested in the process, at least inept at the game.

At the national level the Canadian Federation of Students has had some contact with various groups, although coalitions in the true sense would be difficult for several reasons.

For one thing, the federation has had a hard time uniting itself, much less uniting with other groups. The last number of years have seen their membership in flux as student unions pull in and out depending on which way the political winds might be blowing.

One of the big stumbling blocks is that the CFS, since its inception, has not known exactly what it stands for beyond the direct education issues. Statements about issues beyond the education sphere have been difficult to extract from the membership. By narrowing their scope and ignoring the much larger role education and students play in society, they have cut themselves off from coalitions of mutual support.

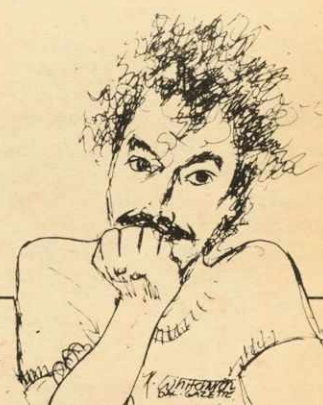
Some natural areas for coalition support might be the peace and women's movements, the Canadian Labour Congress, the Canadian Association of University Teachers and the New Democratic Party.

Although these groups may stand for some basic motherhood issues, the problem is that much of CFS' membership does not.

How could they possibly form a coalition with labour or the CAUT when the Ontario Federation of Students—encompassing a number

of their members—decides to remain neutral on that province's community college teacher's strike?

Closer to home, the Dalhousie Student Union is remaining neutral over the faculty dispute with the administration. If students are not willing to show some support, why should professors do their best to keep classes going when a direct



RICK JANSON

strike might prove to be more effective in the bargaining process?

There is undoubtedly a lot students could gain by forming coalitions. Obtaining support from groups like the CLC could add weight to the demands of students. Working with faculty could add expertise and ideas to the student movement. Working with the peace movement could bring in students who were previously indifferent to education issues.

Students at Dalhousie had an excellent opportunity recently to flex some political muscle. When last year's student union president ran for the NDP locally, no official support was forthcoming from the student union. Had the DSU supported the campaign with dollars and canvassers, a strong signal would have been sent not only to the province, but to politicians in university ridings across the country. It was a chance for students to actually get a representative inside the legislature. Instead, our representatives lacked the political conviction and courage to do so.

As the old slogan goes, united we stand, divided we fall.

The other aspect the student movement has failed in is the articulation and dissemination of its message.

It always came as a great surprise to us in the student press when we would receive a rare press release from the CFS.

Ironically, although they can afford substantial office space, a number of researchers, field-workers, travel, etc., they cannot

afford to mail out regular press releases.

As their bureaucracy increased, their own publication—*The Student Advocate*—bit the dust. *The Student Advocate* was never anything to write home about, but it was at least something that got to some of the students who paid their money to the organization each year.

Under the guise of taking a new route of political activism, the student movement has mostly given up forms of protest for quiet lobbying. The end result has been that students have become even more estranged from their political leadership. After seeing some of the poorly organized national days of protest in the past, it is no surprise that open protest has taken a back seat in the agenda of student politics. Aside from joining increasingly bureaucratic and self-interested student unions, there really is very little organizationally for student activists to get involved in any more.

In these times of extreme hardship for both students and the post-secondary education system, we need a rebirth of student activism. We need someone dressed in blue jeans with a megaphone rallying students in protest more than a quiet delegation dressed in their Sunday best headed downtown for a meeting with the pinstripe set. We need a movement that involves students, not student bureaucrats. We need an articulate and well-organized voice. We need friends and allies. We need to make politicians quake in their boots. Maybe just then we'll work ourselves back onto the political agenda. □