

the Dalhousie Gazette

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The Dalhousie Gazette is Canada's oldest college newspaper. Published weekly through the Dalhousie Student Union, which also comprises its membership, the Gazette has a circulation of 10,000.

As a founding member of Canadian University Press, the Gazette adheres to the CUP Statement of Principles and reserves the right to refuse any material submitted of a libelous, sexist or racist nature. Deadline for commentary, letters to the editor and announcements is noon on Monday. Submissions may be left at the SUB Enquiry Desk c/o Dal Gazette.

Commentary should not exceed 700 words, letters should not exceed 300 words. No unsigned material will be accepted, but anonymity may be granted on request.

Advertising deadline is noon Friday before publication.

The Gazette offices are located on the 3rd Floor SUB. Come up and have a coffee and tell us what's going on.

The views expressed in the Gazette are not necessarily those of the Student Union, the editor or the collective staff.

Subscription rates are \$15 per year (25 issues) and our ISSN number is 0011-5816. The Gazette's mailing address is 6136 University Avenue, Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3H 4J2, telephone (902) 424-2507 or (902) 424-2055. The business office may be reached at (902) 424-6522.

Us, You, and Power Politics

Putting together a student newspaper is not easy. You have to contend with the problems of all-volunteer labour, strong staff political beliefs, campus reaction and fairness to subjects ignored by conventional media.

Sometimes you have to worry about being closed down by your student council.

The Aquinian, the student paper at St. Thomas University in Fredericton, N.B., is facing closing down now. We just got a phone call from them. Their student council passed a series of motions that stripped the paper of its constitution, its budget, its involvement with the Canadian University Press and its editorial staff. The student council unilaterally decided that they had had enough of hearing of things that might just have made them a little more aware of the world that they live in.

This is, in a word, censorship. Of the worst kind. It is one group on campus determining what the students will see.

It happens a couple of times a year. A student council somewhere will realize that there is a group on campus that is telling the students about the mistakes they make, and any deals they have been arranging on the side. They figure out that they can either straighten out or silence the paper. They can disguise their motives in any number of ways: by saying a paper has been irresponsible in its reporting, by saying they cover too many off-campus affairs, or by saying that the money can be better used elsewhere. It's all the same. We get a phone call, or a letter and look around the office, wondering if it could happen here. Nah, we say, our student council is better than that. So far we've been right. This year we should be okay. How about next? The one after?

We don't know.

We hear the people saying that we should disappear. We don't do our job, we're irresponsible in our reporting.

We do the best that we can. And we would like you to do something for us.

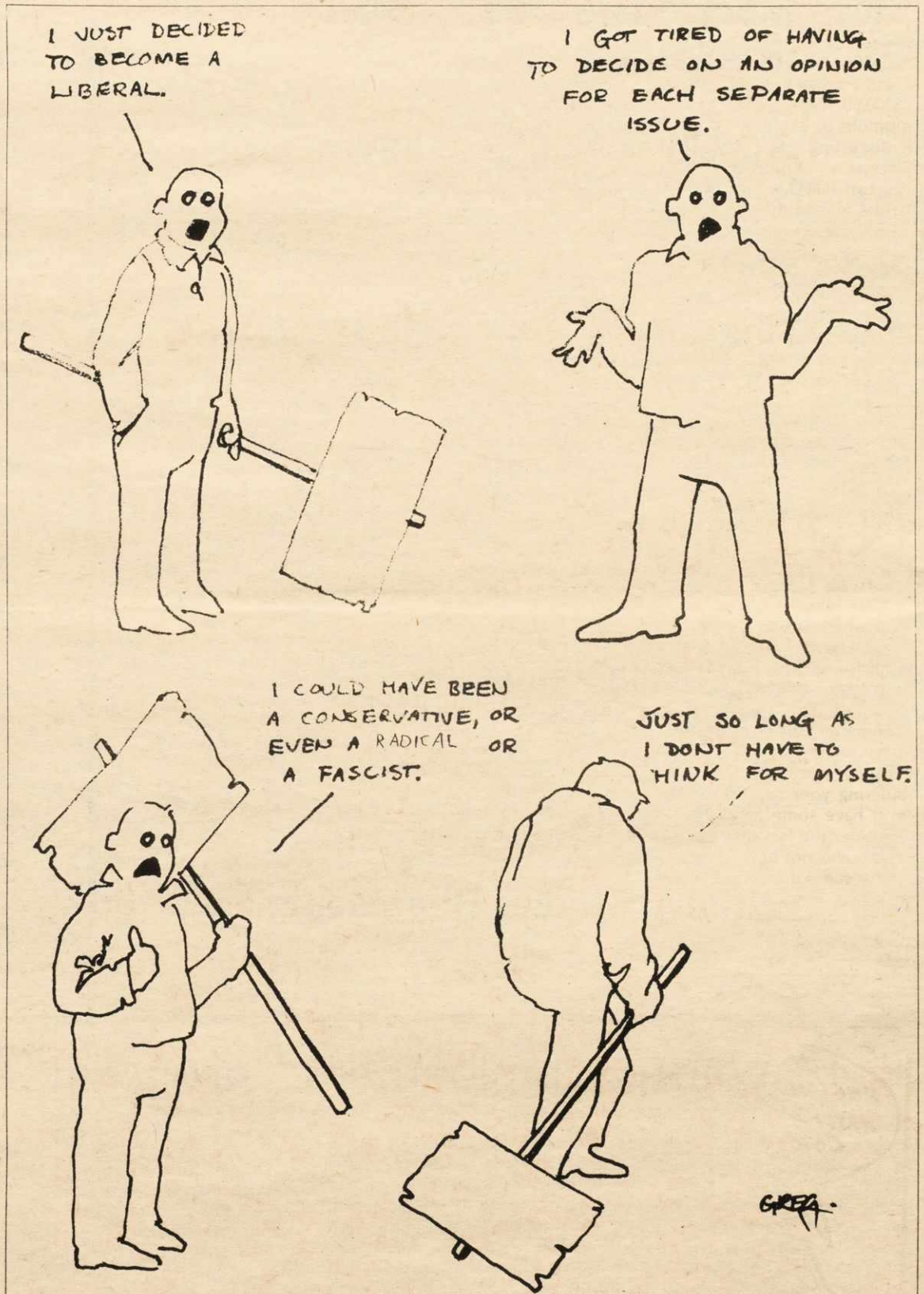
Take a minute. Think about what you would know about what was happening on campus without us. How much would you know about what your student union was doing with your money? Would you check up on records in the council office to see if finances were being mismanaged? How about what plans the university administration had for classes and tuitions next year?

These are questions that the students at St. Thomas University are going to have to think about. Not just for a minute. Think about these things. One of these times we, too, may luck out. Maybe it will happen here.

Naah . . .

How far away is Fredericton?

A.D.W.



GREG.

commentary

Can we talk?

I have never publicly defended either Grant Machum or Steve MacDonald before in my life, until now. Even this commentary cannot be considered as much a defense of Machum and MacDonald as an attack on the offensiveness of the Gazette Staff in

the recent presidential election coverage. I want to make that perfectly clear.

Your representations of the candidates, both in drawings and words, have, in my opinion, served only one purpose: to make or break the campaigns of the candidates. Over the last two

issues it has become abundantly clear that the Gazette staff enormously favored the Martin & Warner team over either Gigeroff & James, or MacDonald & Machum. The ungainly caricatures of MacDonald and Machum in particular can only at the very least be described as

snide, unfair, and of course extremely damaging. On the other hand, the Gazette constantly depicted Geoff Martin—who wears a business suit when he's campaigning and a Ché Guevara guerilla outfit when he's not—as a most pleasant looking individual.

Barf! Ka-ka! Who do you think you're fooling? If Martin & Warner could fool the students into voting for them, then that's fine. But if they got votes because the Gazette made them look like the best team by mak-

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