

THE OVERALL POSITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS...



Thanks for voting.

In January of 1977, The Dalhousie Gazette started asking about whether or not they could ask the \$4 levy question. After much debate at a council meeting, Gazette representatives asked that the motion be tabled and the question was never brought to students.

So now, eighteen years later, after having asked the question last year and having the elections overturned, then the non-quorate response, the Gazette has won its levy.

Thanks to all of you who came out and voted.

What does this mean for the Gazette? It means that each student at Dalhousie contributes \$4 if you're a full-time student and \$2 if you're a part-time student to the Gazette each year. You don't have to write a separate cheque, it all gets done for you at the start of the year when you pay your student union fees.

In past years, the Gazette has received its funding in the form of a grant bestowed by the student union. The Student Union at Dalhousie has never withheld this grant from us, but the concern was that the potential was always there and we didn't want to test it the hard way, as other papers have. The Picaro at Mount Saint Vincent being the most recent paper to find themselves with any angry student union and suddenly, no resources to put out a paper.

So, now the Gazette is more autonomous than ever before. We are in a position to be able to write critical articles on your student government without fear of not receiving our funding. The Gazette will now be able to really be your eyes, ears and voice on campus.

Aside from receiving our funding in the form of this levy, the best way to serve students is to make sure that anyone who wishes to be involved, can. Let me assure you, if you are interested in doing something at the Gazette, you can. It's not too late,

EDITORIAL

in fact April is not too late. We always appreciate new people with new ideas.

And hey, if you don't think you have time to volunteer, you can still contribute. If you hear of anything that you perceive could be important to students on campus, let us know. We'll see what truth we can find to those rumours that we know are floating around out there.

One of the most disturbing things that I ran into when I was campaigning for this referendum was the number of students who didn't like what they had seen in the Gazette three, or five or six years ago, and hadn't bothered

to voice their displeasure, but instead, just stopped reading the paper. That doesn't seem to make a lot of sense. We are a student paper. That means we are students who want to be able to put out a paper that interests you. If you are displeased come on up and let us know. If you're not seeing something that is important to you in the paper, tell us. We may not be aware of what your particular group or society is doing and we can only hear you muttering unhappily in your classrooms if we're in your class.

So, to all of you who voted in the referendum, thank you. And to any of you who are interested in contributing to the Gazette, staff meetings are Mondays at 4 p.m.

JEN HORSEY

Vol. 128 THE DALHOUSIE GAZETTE No. 6

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Student Union Building, Dalhousie University
6136 University Avenue, room 312, Halifax, NS, B3H 4J2
editorial tel. 902 / 494-2507 • fax 902 / 494-8890
email GAZETTE@ac.dal.ca

Founded in 1869 at Dalhousie College, the Gazette is Canada's oldest student newspaper. With a circulation of 10,000, the Gazette is published every Thursday by the Dalhousie Gazette Publishing Society, of which all students of Dalhousie University are members. The Gazette exercises full editorial autonomy and reserves the right to refuse or edit any material submitted. All editorial decisions are made collectively by the staff. To become voting staff members, individuals must contribute to three issues. Views expressed in the Gazette are not necessarily those of the editors or the collective staff. Unless otherwise noted, all text is copyright ©1995 the Dalhousie Gazette Publishing Society.

The Dalhousie Gazette welcomes letters to the editor and commentary. Letters are limited to 300 and commentary to 800 words in length. The deadline is noon on Mondays. To be printed, all submissions must be typed and double spaced on paper, e-mailed, or on a Mac or IBM-compatible 3 1/2 inch disk.

OPINION

All quiet in the library!

Be quiet! The library is not a bar! All right. For those of you who come to the library to chat and gossip, I want to make it known that there are those of us who are there to study.

I don't know about you, but the library isn't exactly the ultimate fun place to hang out. I would rather be in a million other places with my friends than the library.

So for those of you who insist on talking in the library, about what you did last Friday night, or what you are going to do this Friday, I would suggest you do it somewhere else.

When you are in there talking, you look like a bunch of high-school kids who go to the library to look cool. So, you are not really impressing anyone. When you talk, you are not studying anyway, so what is the point of being there?

For those of you who whisper because you want to be courteous and abide by library etiquette, well, it's just as annoying.

I can understand if you are asking a question, or asking someone to help you with something, or if a librarian is helping you. I can even understand if you say hi to a friend and exchange some friendly words

for two minutes or so. But, not if you are going to carry on a ten minute conversation about how you found out that your ex-boyfriend is seeing this girl in your residence and how much you hate her now.

Also, there is nothing more annoying than when people who want it quiet give a distressed look in the talkers direction, thereby suggesting, "please be quiet, I am trying to study for a big test," and all they do is give you a dirty look back.

This makes us hate you talkers even more.

If you really want to talk in the library, though, you can. Basically, the talking zone is the front hallway. The reading room on the first floor is definitely a quiet zone, as well as all the cubby-hole seats anywhere in the library. The big tables in the halls looking out to the court yard are also considered to be a non-talking area. I was suprised myself to hear that. You can talk in the refrence areas on the first and second floor. It's hard not to if you're looking for things and you need to ask questions.

So basically, if you come to the library, you come to study. There is nowhere to talk so you might as well do it somewhere else.

MARIANNA GAJEWSKA

LETTERS

Shirreff rebuts

To the editor,

I am writing on behalf of the residents of Shirreff Hall to express our displeasure at comments made by Milton Howe (October 5, 1995) in reference to the attendance at the Shirreff Hall elections forum. The article, which detailed how no students came out to hear the speakers at the forum, insinuated that Shirreff Hall residents are apathetic and take no interest in the proceedings of the Dalhousie Student Union. This could be no further from the truth.

Not only did our women pause to "stuff their pockets with bananas" as Mr. Howe so thoughtfully pointed out, but a remarkably large percentage also paused to cast their ballots. Incidentally, Shirreff Hall had the

highest voter turnout of all the residences on campus. The low attendance at the forum was not due to lethargy on the part of the residents, but due to miscommunication with the elections committee.

We, residents of Shirreff Hall, pride ourselves on being an integral part of student life on campus, so to imply that we are uninterested in what goes on around us is not only somewhat insulting, but completely ludicrous.

Alix Dostal, Dalhousie Student Union Representative for Shirreff Hall

White Men Only

To the editor,

In light of recent developments in society, I wonder if anyone has apologized for freely-wielded injustices. There is a widening rift in racial, gender, sexual, and political attitudes. These diversities have existed for many years but are about to culminate as it seems people are in a frenzy to emphasize their individual rights. I agree that individuality is paramount to a healthy social fabric, but so too is the ability to co-exist in a peaceful and productive manner.

It is a fact that blacks have been oppressed by whites. It is a fact that women have been oppressed by men. It is also a fact that both types of oppression still exist. White men often say that "hey, I'm not the one that was responsible for slavery" or "I didn't deny women the right to vote." If you will allow a parallel, we too are not responsible for inheriting a poor global environment, but we must be accountable to the errors of our past to ensure a healthy future. We must make amends. We must be sorry for the mistakes of our ancestors, and for any mistakes we have made personally. We must take action to reconcile any unjust differences. After all, knowledge has little value unless it is applied. Be patient and understanding in the upcoming social upheaval. Be open to varied values and beliefs. Be sorry for the errors of our past and take action. I am sorry.

Michael A. Mayo