

W5 Report Unfair

The role of the press in covering any story is always a difficult one to define. The press must act as a watchdog for the public but at the same time must avoid the temptation to 'take matters into their own hands'. The press must also try to be as subjective as possible (although total subjectivity is impossible) in order to honestly and fairly present any issue to the public. The

public itself should not stand for anything less.

Off all journalistic fields this is perhaps the most true of the electronic media. Roughly 90% of the population of North America depend upon electronic media for their news. This puts tremendous importance on any story TV or radio reports. The duty to present both sides of the question becomes even greater when you are facing

an audience that ranges in the millions.

Any journalist that you meet will tell you all of the above stated principles are true and must be followed if reporting is to be taken seriously at all. As a result the W5 program that appeared on the CTV network last Sunday night can not be taken seriously as a piece of credible journalism. The blatant attack on foreign students is something that I would expect from some under paid deputy minister with nothing better to do on a

Friday night, not from a program that has at times in the past been one of the better public affair programs that TV has to offer.

The issue of the foreign students is a difficult and an emotional one. The duty of the CTV should have been to present both sides of the issue fairly and evenly. Instead the network chose to present a one-sided view of the problem that has been condemned for its unfairness for from one end of the country to the other.

One can only hope the storm of protest has taught all journalist (and the public a lesson). No matter how flashy or professional looking any piece of journalism appears, the public should always question its accuracy. After all isn't that the real purpose of any form of journalism, to get the public interested enough to get involved in the debate. Hopefully the next time the CTV decides to do an issue concerning students, both sides of the question will be given equal time.

the Dalhousie Gazette

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 price is \$9 per year (26 issues) and our ISSN number is 0011-5819.

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Letters

Engineers

Upset

To the Editor:

In last week's issue of the Gazette there was an article labelled "Engineers Visit King's" and an editorial titled "Violence must stop".

With reference to these two articles there are some corrections to be made:

(i) I was quoted as saying, "eggs thrown, windows were broken and campus police were beaten up". This is quoted out of

context, what was actually said was "I heard reports and complaints that eggs were thrown, windows were broken and campus police were beaten up".

(ii) I am quoted as saying "for damage that did occur, on behalf of the engineers, I apologize". This is a blatant lie, and was never said by me.

(iii) In the editorial, it was stated, "They've already been sued once for hurting someone". This is also a blatant lie and the Engineering Society defies the Gazette to publish or produce any document that says such.

On behalf of the Engineer-

ing Society we feel that the articles above mentioned were biased, unfair and underhanded and are an attempt by the Gazette to give the engineers a bad name. We also feel, it is unscrupulous of the Gazette to attempt to make an entire group look bad because of the actions of an unknown few, especially when it is not clear that they were actually engineers.

The attempt of the Gazette to say that the engineers are irresponsible and that we pull the "who me" act is not true. To clarify, the Engineering Society will take responsibility for any damages that occur at the engineering society event,

when it can be proven that it was the engineering society that causes such damages.

We wish that the Gazette would abandon its anti-engineers editorial since we feel that the two groups have a lot to gain by mutual co-operation, and a lot to loose by mutual aggravation.

Keith Wellband
President, Dalhousie Engineering Society
Sir James Dunn Building
Dalhousie University

Last year several engineers attempted to break into the Gazette's office and stamp the paper with an obscene

message promoting their yearly ball. During the ensuing disturbance a female Gazette staffer was hit on the head and required hospitalization. She also lost her sight for several days.

Since blame could not be placed on the engineer society as a whole, David Bolivar, last year's society president was sued. Mr. Bolivar however decided to settle out of court before any action against him could be taken.

All of the above facts can be documented regardless of what any person or group may allege.