

the Dalhousie Gazette

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The Dalhousie Gazette, Canada's oldest college newspaper, is a weekly publication of the Dalhousie Student Union members and is a founding member of the 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 double-spaced. Advertising copy must be submitted by the Friday preceding publication.

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Editorial

Jacuzzis and Andy

Sometimes you wonder if the Dalhousie Faculty Association is on cloud eight or nine.

The DFA is always hopping mad about the university's attempts to cut back, especially because it always has a cure-all scheme up its sleeve that would solve all the university's problems at once, if only the Administration would listen for once, it says.

Last year the solution was selling off Dalhousie's millions of dollars of endowment funds (even though that's illegal). This year it's selling off houses and real estate. Unfortunately, the University is trying to sell its real estate as well, without as much luck as the DFA would think likely.

The DFA has complaints, indeed they are very legitimate, but it doesn't have to go to such foolish lengths to cast a suspicious light on the administration. There are shining examples of wasted funds that will forever haunt the administration, as well as jinx the future well-being of the University.

One pricey example is the renovation job done last fall to President MacKay's house at a cost of \$430,000 to this university. This was done on the auspicious occasion of MacKay taking his position at Dalhousie's helm.

MacKay tries to tell the public that renovations on his house were not for his personal gain - neither the Jacuzzi nor the fridge that makes ice cubes - but only necessary to keep it from "going to pot".

Another costly honour bestowed on MacKay was a \$20,000 private staircase leading from the President's office in the Arts and Administration Building to his car outside. How else do you make those quick exits to Alumni receptions in Bermuda?

Not only does the faculty have the right to complain about such gross extravagances with public money, but politicians use it as a great (for them) example of mismanagement, a sure-fire way to justify cuts, cuts and more cuts.

It's President MacKay who must look foolish when he tells the Senate that resources are diminishing. Sure they're diminishing; the province has given less than inflationary funding increases to universities for the last few years, but MacKay seems to be a little too comfortable to complain about it.

The administration deliberately refuses to make any public protest on cutbacks in funding. Not only does it take the cuts, it helps the province out of an embarrassing situation over the closing of the Atlantic Institute of Education by taking in the dispossessed students.

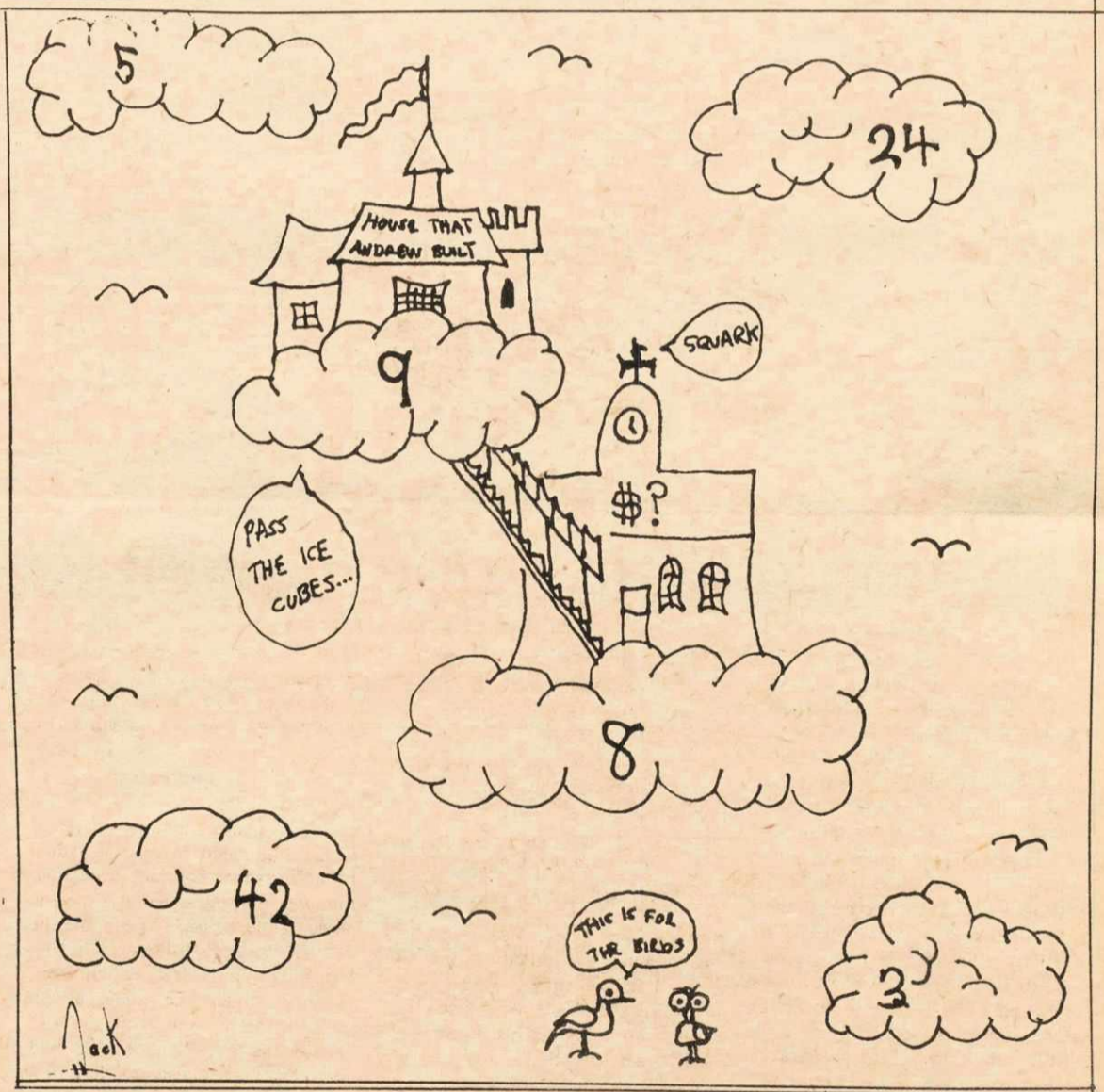
Dalhousie found them a home, in the amazing space of two months.

The Senate was naturally disgruntled at accommodating the students for the province, and they said so in a motion of condemnation to the government. But the Board of Governors just couldn't bring itself to ratify that condemnation, as "They didn't know what to do with it," explained MacKay.

Maybe someone should tell the Board what they can do with it.

That's right, the Board, the body that is telling the DFA it can't have a 12 per cent increase, will take a stinging cut in funds from the government as well as help it solve its political difficulties.

Until MacKay stands up for this university, we can only feel anger when he points out upcoming hardships, and denies comparative (to other universities) salary increases to faculty. We can only assume he's acting on behalf of the government, as a face-saver for the province's financial woes.



Humour

The official Gazette misinformation guide

by Kenneth Newman

Did you know that....

- Ice is not frozen water?

It's the other way around, actually. Water is melted ice. Steam, by the way, is merely ice which has melted, died, and is on its way to heaven.

- The Holy Roman Empire was just that?

Many historians will tell you that the Holy Roman Empire was not a Holy Roman Empire. It was. But in name only.

- The Queen of England is neither a queen nor is she "of England"?

In the gay sub-culture "queen" is a slang term for certain types of gay men. As you well know, Queen Elizabeth II is not gay. She's not even a man. She's a boat. And if you look back at her ancestors you'll find she has very little English blood so she's not really "of England". And furthermore, the Queen Mother retains her title even though she's not a queen (see

above) nor has she given birth to any children *in over forty years!* And I bet you thought the Prince of Wales was married to Lady Di. Wrong again. He's married to the Princess of Wales (only she can't really be the Princess of Wales because she hates leeks, the national emblem of Wales, and she can't even speak Cymru).

- There is no such thing as a "wild Baloney" in Newfoundland or anywhere else?

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