

the Dalhousie Gazette

Editor
Production Manager
News Editor
Arts Editor
Sports Co-ordinator
Features Co-ordinator
Advertising Manager
Typesetters

Editorial Office
Advertising Office

Gazette Staff this issue:

Cathy McDonald
 Scott Owen
 Michael Brennan
 Gary P. LeBlanc
 Luke Napier

Ward McBurney
 Geoff Martin
 Kenneth Newman
 Edd Hansen
 Robert Putnam
 Nonie McDonald

Ken Burke
 Wendy Coomber
 Catherine Ricketts
 Bryan Fantie
 Andy Lorimer
 Alec Bruce
 Judy Steele
 Mary Lou Hendry
 Kathi Peterson

424-2507
 424-6532

Bruce Galloway
 Bobby Morrison
 Dena Dankner
 Robin Sharma
 Greg Watson
 Lisa Underhill

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.

Our office is located on the third floor of the Student Union Building. Our mailing address is the **Dalhousie Gazette**, Dalhousie University, Halifax, N.S., B3H 4J2, telephone (902) 424-2507.

Subscription rate is \$15 per year (26 issues) and our ISSN number is 0011-5816. The **Dalhousie Gazette** is a member of the Canadian University Press and our circulation is 10,000 weekly.

The Gazette's weekly staff meetings are now at 5:30 every Thursday.

Editorial

"Missing" personal responsibility

Well, we are well into winter Carnival, so let's talk about individual responsibility.

Tom Hauser, writer of the book *Missing*, kicked off Winter Carnival by speaking a couple of nights ago on this very subject. "How can we possibly get people to care about things which don't directly concern them?"

There seems to be a tendency for people to care only about things which they perceive they can affect. Today we live in a complex society and we are unable to understand all the repercussions of all of our actions. Two hundred years ago before our complex industrial society emerged it was easy to see what you were responsible for and what you had nothing to do with.

Things have changed since then. Now, in this very interdependent society, we who participate in it must share the responsibility for the actions of our society; our community, our government, our world. As individuals, we must accept the fact that we are part of a group and our actions are all part of larger group actions. Therefore, we must accept the responsibility of changing the society rather than disclaiming responsibility for what's happening.

Immediately, some will say that we must take care of our 'own,' which is very true. In 1867, with no communication or international identity, or 'own' in Canada was the three million people who lived in the original four provinces. In the present day, with Marshall McLuhan's concept of the "Global Village" our 'own' has expanded to over four billion.

Shocked? . . . It is important to realize that we cannot continue to view the world in the same narrow nationalistic terms that we have in the past. In this way, we are confronted with a situation where our national political institutions are anachorisms because the world is far more interdependent than many of us would like to admit. So, when we say "screw the" (insert scapegoat), we are really saying "screw us."

How is it to be done? Well, sometimes refusing to support something is the most effect means of protest. Known in the consumer world as *casting your economic ballot*, it means refusing to deal with or buy products from any corporation (ie: Nestle's) or country (ie: Chile, South Africa) which the consumer dislikes. Most people say that *consumer boycotts* don't do any good, which is an oft-heard cop-out. A boycott will always do some good if a significant number participate, and it must be remembered that it is also a moral statement as well as a plan of action.

Nestle's is a good example of a company which **deserves** to be boycotted by concerned consumers. This corporation's **despicable** marketing of powdered baby formula in the *Third World* has **ruined** its reputation and inspired a large-scale consumer **boycott**. The details are inside this week's issue.

So the **message** we must take to heart is "think globally, not locally." what are the global repercussions of our actions — issues as **large** as pollution, war, or as small as the country of origin of our wine and coffee — and what can we do locally to make the situation better?

Locally means acting in the community, and in our own lives.



Staff meeting 5:30 pm

Thursdays

News writing seminar 7:30 pm

Thurs. Jan. 27

Gazette office

ALL WELCOME !