

The Letters/Opinions section of the Gazette is meant as a campus forum for all Dalhousie students. The opinions expressed within may not necessarily be those of the Gazette staff or editorial board. We welcome all submissions, but reserve the right to edit for style and content. It is the Gazette's mandate not to print racist, sexist or homophobic material.

Postal ponderance: the true price of a stamp

Were there ever a group of people who had it so bad as the postal workers? They have good salaries, incredible job security, with ridiculously little responsibility.

I wish I had it so bad! I know that by writing this I am probably condemned to never receive a letter again, but it's not like I'll notice the difference! I'll let you in on a little secret; every stereotype about the postal service is true.

It amazes me, to hear that the most secure employees in the country want to strike. The most ridiculous thing is that this little mini-strike we had in Halifax several weeks ago was spurred by the fact that the President of Canada Post makes \$380,000

per year.

I know that sounds like a lot of money, but Canada Post is one of this country's largest corporations and he makes less than the CEO of a comparatively sized company. And that's what Canada Post is — a company.

They are a crown corporation and their employees enjoy benefits which would give the steel industry wet dreams! While the CEO of GM Canada makes six million bucks, the postal workers are complaining about a lousy four hundred grand.

The hypocrisy is in the fact that any idiot can deliver the mail. In fact, they usually do. Yet they feel hard done by

because they have the cushiest jobs in the nation.

But, luckily these poster boys for the underprivileged have a powerful special interest group working on their behalf. The International Socialists are to labour what lawyers are to justice. They blow every little detail out of proportion and manage to obscure the facts through a myriad of verbal diarrhea.

The socialists will jump into a cause without the pretence of forethought. Their policies are unabashedly pro-union and anti-everything sensible. They exist for the sole purpose of protesting. When there's nothing to protest, they make something up.

The postal workers, the International Socialists, and the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) all have something in common; they are living in a perpetual dream world. For these groups there is never any fiscal responsibility, just moral idealism. Morals are fine until someone has to pay for them.

The realities of this world are simple; gone are the days of massive debts and willful spending. Government is not our keeper, but it is the glue that holds our society together. A clear distinction must be drawn between serving the society and being the society.

The socialists want a society where we are all employees of

the government and each earning the same compensation, despite an inequality in the workload. This is what fundamentally undermines the postal workers, the amount of work they do is already over-compensated for. The people who are actually responsible for the functionality of the postal service are in fact probably under compensated.

Postal strikes make about as much sense as baseball strikes. The players are over-paid and do too little work as it is.

Perhaps we should learn from the English. In Great Britain they deliver the mail twice a day. If we adopted that system maybe then the Postal employees might earn their pay.

DANIEL CLARK



Students in same boat

continued from page 7...

the right to an education and decent employment. Many students are already working one or more part-time jobs just to make ends meet. Many are also turning to unionizing their workplaces.

While students and workers are clearly facing falling living standards and fewer life chances, not all of us are hurting. Corporate Canada has never had it so good. Banks and CEO's are cashing in big time in this oh-so-very-friendly casino. Federal Finance Minister Paul Martin, the man completely obsessed with gutting public spending to pay down the deficit,

millionaire several times over, himself, doesn't pay a single red cent in taxes. Yet think of what he's done to the poor of this country, students and workers alike.

The time has come to launch an active campaign in defence of postal workers. If the federal Liberals are successful in defeating postal workers and breaking the union, it will be that much easier for Chretien and Co. to continue with the cuts to education, healthcare and social programs. If, on the other hand, we can stop the employer's offensive on postal workers, we will find ourselves in a much stronger position to defend ourselves. We as students will also have established stronger links with organized workers as a result. In defending postal workers, we defend ourselves.

On Wednesday, November 12, at 1pm in the Green Room of the Dal SUB, postal workers Diane Pickering and Judy Eisan will be on hand to talk with students about why it is absolutely crucial that we organize in solidarity with postal workers in the lead up to a postal strike. All are welcome. For more info call JC at 443-3726.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE - HALIFAX DEPARTURES

NOVEMBER 1997

TO	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	SUN
VANCOUVER	—	—	18:50	—	—	—	—
CALGARY	—	—	18:50	—	—	—	—
TORONTO	—	14:10 ¹ 22:50	14:40 ¹	15:30 ² 23:15	—	09:50	—
ST. JOHN'S	—	17:50	—	18:20	—	—	—

¹ Week of Nov 3 only

AIRPORT STANDBY FARES: Are subject to available seats prior to departure. Passengers may register 2 1/2 hours prior to the scheduled departure of flight. Fares are subject to change without notice. Travel on any specific flight is not guaranteed. Payment (Cash or Credit Card only) must be made on departure. One way travel only.

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In 1989, students of Dalhousie voted in favour of a \$2 per term per full-time student levy to support the Nova Scotia Public Interest Research Group at Dalhousie (NSPIRG-DAL). NSPIRG-DAL is a student-funded, student-directed organization which works on environmental and social justice issues.

If you are a full-time student and would like your \$2 per term refunded, you can stop by the NSPIRG-DAL office, Rm 304, Dal SUB during office hours. The refund periods are as follows:

November 17th - 25th, 1997
January 12th - 21st, 1998

The Nova Scotia Public Interest Research Group at Dalhousie
NSPIRG-DAL