

# the Dalhousie Gazette

Elias Letelier-Ruz,  
A.D. Wright  
Ginger Ellison  
Geoff Martin  
Philip Doucette  
Ralph English  
Martin Tomlinson  
Martin Thibedeau  
Adrian Belew  
Chris Morash  
Brenda Newman

Brian Cox  
Mark Walker  
Siobhan McRae  
Elizabeth Donovan  
David Lutes  
Rusty and Dave  
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KimRilda Leblanc  
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The Dalhousie Gazette is Canada's oldest college newspaper. Published weekly through the Dalhousie Student Union, which also comprises its membership, the Gazette has a circulation of 10,000.

As a founding member of Canadian University Press, the Gazette adheres to the CUP Statement of Principles and reserves the right to refuse any material submitted of a libelous, sexist or racist nature. Deadline for commentary, letters to the editor and announcements is noon on Monday. Submissions may be left at the SUB Enquiry Desk c/o Dal Gazette.

Commentary should not exceed 700 words, letters should not exceed 300 words. No unsigned material will be accepted, but anonymity may be granted on request.

Advertising copy deadline is noon Friday before publication. The Gazette offices are located on the 3rd Floor SUB. Come up and have a coffee and tell us what's going on.

The views expressed in the Gazette are not necessarily those of the Student Union, the editor or the collective staff.

Subscription rates are \$15 per year (25 issues) and our ISSN number is 0011-5816. The Gazette's mailing address is 6136 University Avenue, Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3H 4J2, telephone (902) 424-2507 or (902) 424-2055. The business office may be reached at (902) 424-6532.

## editorial

### Dal's commie rag

Here we are, folks, it's another edition of that leftist, Red Commie rag called the Gazette. Coverage on all yer favourite issues—women, disarmament, El Salvador, the student movement and lotsa CUPpie stuff (that's national news).

Nope, we're not gonna apologize when you scream, "You don't represent us! We're not interested!" There's several reasons why, and it mostly has to do with you, the readership.

For starters, 1 in 350 of you ever sticks your nose into our humble offices here on the third floor of the SUB. How can you miss us—we're the beacon lighting the path from Robie Street to the Killam every Tuesday and Wednesday night.

Of every 500 students, there will be one who'll dig around campus to have a look at what is going on culturally. Only one per thousand takes on the news. And how can you expect the one person of every 2500 students who takes on the responsibility of the sports department to cover all the games?

Damned if we know.

Campus coverage extends to student aid, council briefs, stories on security and the dry-rot in library funding. We know there's a lot more out there but we can't seem to get our ink-stained little paws on the info. You don't call us, and you don't come up with the best news of all—yourselves—to help us write, copy edit and lay out the paper.

We need to know if any of you out there have horror stories to tell about student aid, or about harrassment when walking on campus at night, or never being able to find that key book in the library with four days to go on your term paper.

Did everyone manage to find a place to stay this year? What's going on in the lower campus hinterland, the bastion of the law school, the circuitry of the engineers (yes, we even would welcome something on our very own arch enemies)? What secrets snuggle in the cozy luxury of the Grad House?

Only the Campus Clipper knows for sure.

There's another reason why we cover the "boring" issues you flip over to get to Rusty and Dave.

It's important.

If the status quo were so great we'd all be happy, right? There'd never be the worry of not getting home in once piece if you're a woman taking night classes, or worrying about who was going to survive to see a world (if one could see through the radioactive dust) that Breughel could never imagine. Being shot because you thought it was okay to criticize or even had a right to learn how to at a university, wouldn't cross your mind.

Join us.

(Our hotline is 424-2507.)

C.R.



### Keeping us ignorant

The latest little goodie cooked up by our national student organization, the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) brings to mind the question, who are these people, anyway? If their new "national campaign" posters and pamphlets are any indication, CFS is now a paid political party instead of an organization working for students' interests.

This campaign, under the theme, "POSITIVE ACTION on tough issues!" exists only to give CFS a pat on the back. It tells students nothing important about the state of crisis in university funding and quality of the current destruction of accessibility by hacking of student aid.

The "Campaign" posters are something any ward-heeler of a politician would be proud of. With a large check mark (vote, vote, vote for me) near the meaningless statement "positive action on tough issues - unemployment, cutbacks, and student aid", CFS has wittingly borrowed a page from every hack politician's dream campaign - claim everything and say nothing.

The corresponding informational pamphlets are little better for usin information, or even paper, effectively.

The thrust is not to make students aware of issues, but to make the kindof claims a third-generation professional politician makes about their effectiveness. There's no sense of urgency to the campaign. After all, as long as we've got CFS, we've got the government on the run, or so they'd like to have us think.

In fact, the campaign doesn't attempt to mobilize students to do anything - except stay in CFS or vote to join the student company store.

CFS receives thousands of dollars for students all over the country and about \$30,000 from Dalhousie students alone. Instead of using this to convince students to join by doing something positive, the women and men who run CFS are using their public awareness campaigns to talk about how really near the organization is. It's working not to gain grassroots awareness of the issues, but to gain votes from an apathetic, unaware electorate. And that stinks.

K.B.