

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

Editorial

Xmas spirits and good cheer?

Christmas tinsel, sugar plums, Sally Ann ringing bells on the corners and in the bustling shopping malls, roast beast in Whoville, candlelit mass, mistletoe and grogg.

At this point in the year most universities are mustering forces for exams safe in the knowledge there will be a few weeks respite before the new term in January. Not so for members of the Dalhousie community.

The term took off with a boom even before classes began with the announcements from the provincial government of more than two million dollars to Dalhousie's budget and the closure of the Atlantic Institute of Education. Dalhousie seemed to be expected to rake in AIE students like the fallen autumn leaves, which it did, pending final negotiations with the provincial government.

Then we slipped and slid into the mess over the international students. University president Andrew MacKay inadvertently disclosed that sometime in August a quota was imposed on registering visa students. To date there has been no satisfactory response to international students' questions on that issue.

About the same time conditions at the Computer Centre became intolerable — long line-ups, slow response time, not enough terminals to go around, not enough user time to get the work done. Hoo Boy! With the installment of 27 terminal and stricter control over computer time allocation many of the inconveniences have been alleviated.

Ah yes, then there was the National Week of Mis-Information. When was that, anyhow? Some memory-tugging reveals a picture splashed on the cover of the Chronically-Horrid of a vicious-looking Dal student in front of Province House. That was it.

A fed-bashing report from the Minister of Education appeared tucked neatly underneath.

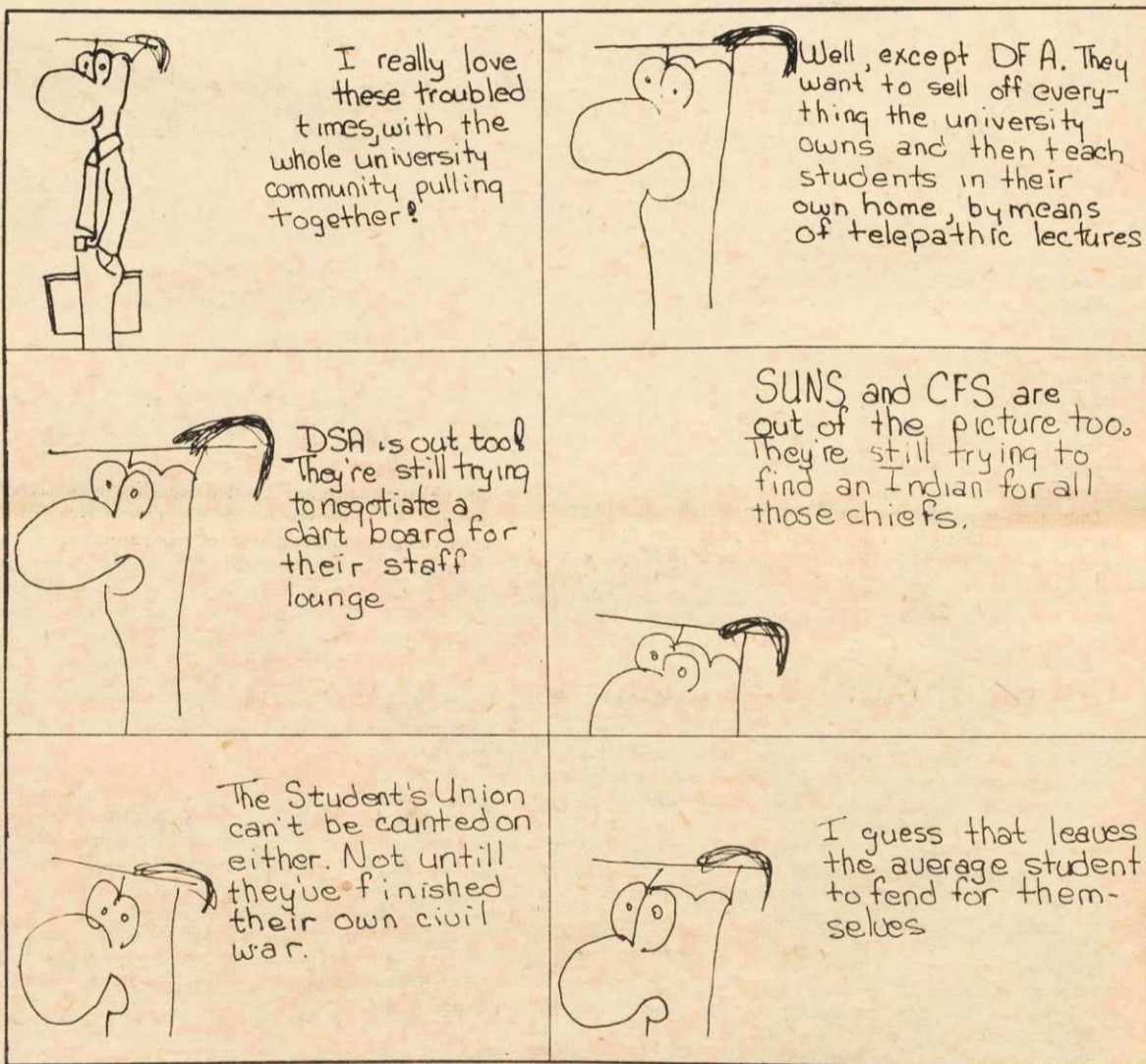
The piece de resistance was a brief announcement from MacKay in the lower right-hand corner. It read as though the university was on the verge of bankruptcy. All open to interpretation, of course.

And how about the president's relations with the faculty? The day of the non-march he announced to the Senate he didn't feel it was in his position to march in protest of the despicable treatment of university (and other) education by the provincial government. Nine days later on a chance question posed to him, MacKay informed Senate that a motion which in part condemned the provincial government's closing down of the AIE had been split up by the Board of Governors because "they did not know what to do with it." The section removed was the condemnation of the Provincial Government.

Perhaps the warmth generated by the heated two-hour debate induced a quick forty winks.

At any rate, MacKay was spunkier during the November 8 Senate meeting. In exasperation at questioning on why the university's situation had not been more thoroughly investigated before the imposition of financial constraint, he almost taunted the Senate to impeach him.

"As the executive officer of the university, the Senate appoints me. And they have the power to remove me from office," he said. "If you're not satisfied with what I'm doing,



impeach me." Not one response came from the room of Senators as the challenge hung in the air.

Nearly the same thing happened at the special meeting of the Senate on November 30. MacKay was asked to express his views on a motion which, if passed, would require him to prepare a comprehensive plan for the political and public defence of post-secondary education. This motion, as some in Senate indicated, might be interpreted to mean MacKay was being negligent of his duties to the university.

But he rebuffed the generous reaffirmation of confidence given by several Senators during the discussion. "I have a responsibility to do my best," said MacKay. "Whether you are satisfied or not."

And no one spoke.

Steam rolling into the New Year, Dalhousie members can ready themselves for double-speak in 1983. January may bring job-action (strike) from the Dalhousie Faculty Association. A secret strike vote is now underway, and dependig on the outcome this Friday, the DFA may decide to interrupt the regular scholastic routine one way or another.

Of course, we can't wait to see what the feds will try and sic universities with in March. It is, after all, the cruellest month.

But there is one way to get ready for the onslaught. Every one can ask for their two front teeth for Christmas — to replace the ones kicked in so far over this term.

You'll need 'em in '83.



In your paws you have the last Gazette of 1982. See ya in '83.