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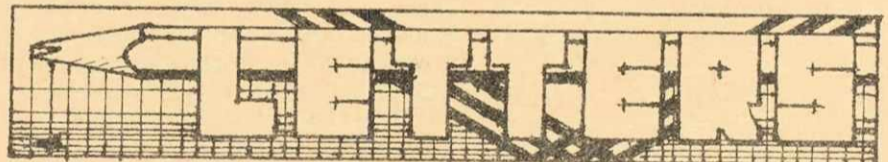
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The deadline for advertising is the Friday noon preceding publication. Articles and letters are due Monday noon. No unsigned material will be accepted, but anonymity, if necessary, will be granted. Letters should not exceed 600 words, and must be typed if more than 100 words.

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Sampson rebutted

To the Gazette:

I'm writing in reply to remarks of Robert Sampson in a letter to the paper published last week. As an employee of a student organization I usually try to retain as much a neutral, conciliatory stance as possible in relations between student newspapers and student councils / publishers since that is part of my job description. However, Sampson's letter contains some misconceptions and untruths I want to set straight.

Sampson claims the Gazette has tried to incorporate itself "behind the backs" of council. Sampson also implies the move is a "pithy, underminded political" game.

As part of my job working with newspapers in the region I've been centrally involved in helping the Gazette and other paper staffs draft new constitutions. In so doing I have been in frequent contact here with Peter Greene, chairperson of the student council committee that has been re-drafting Dal's student union constitution. This committee, acting on council's behalf, invited the Gazette to prepare a presentation.

Greene and I have had a good dialogue on the matter and discussed quite constructively what the Gazette is proposing. Greene, as the officially appointed council contact on the matter, has certainly not been kept in the dark or misled by the Gazette on this matter.

However, drafting a submission for incorporation is a tedious and involved process. Quite naturally the Gazette doesn't want to publicize the proposal until staff members finalize the various details of it themselves. Once it is finalized a news story detailing the proposal is planned. Each council member will receive a copy of the proposal for their consideration. And informal information sessions for council members and other students will be held.

However, I want to stress in the strongest terms, that at no time has the Gazette even considered bypassing council or the student body and applying for separate society status on their own as Sampson implies. The proposal is simply being drafted for consideration by council.

I feel compelled to add also, that Sampson was assured of this by Gazette staffers upon angrily storming the office. He was also later assured of this by Peter Greene. All before Sampson submitted his letter of last week for publication.

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