

EDITORIAL

Preposterous proposal

It's follow-the-leader time at Dalhousie: since the university president, Howard Clark, decided to renovate and re-furnish his house and spend \$109,000, the Dalhousie Student Union is contemplating going one step further. They want to renovate that home-away-from-home for students, the Student Union building, and its proposal is only going to cost students half a million dollars.

Whoa . . . Everybody realizes the Grawood needs to be fixed up, but half a million?

The plans are all worked out and the wheels have been set in motion — just check out the special four-page supplement inside this paper. The university's architects have drawn up a new look for the old SUB, and the DSU wants your approval.

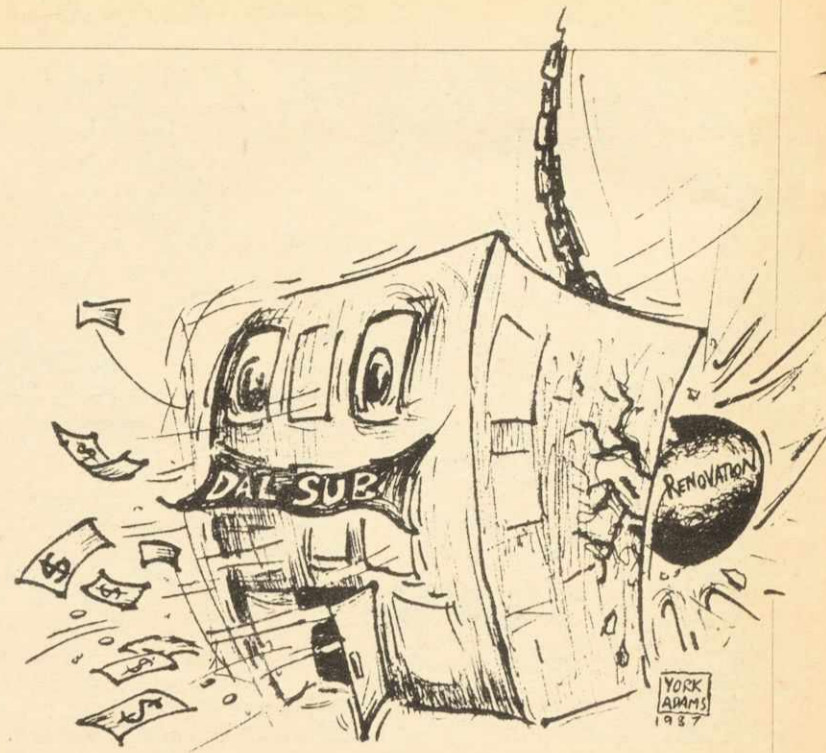
Although the costs won't be passed on in student union fees, it seems rather ironic that in a time of drastic cutbacks in funding for education by the provincial government and the university that organization on campus that supposedly best represents students, the people caught in the middle of education cutbacks, could even consider spending \$500,000.

The advertising supplement about the SUB renovations is strictly public relations for the DSU — it mentions increased food services for the students, without explaining that it's Beaver Foods who will be running the services and continuing to produce the food that students love to write home and complain about. The only good thing about that is the five per cent

commission the DSU skims off Beaver's profits. An interesting "advantage" the new renovations will offer, claims the supplement, is the fact that the "largest washrooms, located on the lower floor, would be much better utilized." Only at Dalhousie would they claim that more shit better placed is an advantage . . .

The DSU is offering an opportunity, and a fair one at that, for students to come and find out about the SUB renovations. They want to "hear what we think." While they can't read minds, they can, and hopefully will, listen to concerns expressed by students at the general meeting on April 1st.

Better check the meeting out — and make certain the DSU hasn't already made up their minds about the renovations.



Students can drown financial sorrows in newly-renovated Grawood.

LETTERS

Issue blows up

To the Editor,

I am writing with regard to a phrase that appeared on the front page in the by-line to the election supplement. The phrase in question is the one calling into question the Election Returning Officer's (ERO) judgement on the evaluation of the balloon in the SUB lobby. I ask the editor how much he would evaluate an old balloon, lent to someone for a "ten day period", which to purchase would cost no more than ten dollars?

The specifics of the issue aside, I am truly affronted that the editor, the Gazette, or anybody would call into question the ERO's motives on equal treatment of all candidates. In accepting the position, I pledge to all students of Dalhousie that I will act in a totally unbiased manner to ensure that the elections are run as fairly as possible. It is a very serious allegation to even imply that an ERO is acting in a manner that favours one team or candidate over any other; or conversely, in a manner which disadvantages any candidate or team over another. One would expect an editor of a "newspaper" to be more aware of the need to prevent any suspicion or concern over the

fairness of an ERO's decisions.

I am disappointed at the editor's insensitivity to what he well knows to be a sensitive issue, and the fact that he would dismiss two worthy teams of candidates as "hardly worth mentioning" and mention another only on the basis of sex. That is what I consider discrimination, and an example of judgement that I feel confident in questioning.

Sincerely,
E. Layton Dorey
DSU ERO '87

We flunk taste test

To the Editor,

Regarding the last week's editorial, "Male-strom swamps election," we find it ludicrous that a publication which so vehemently campaigns against bigotry in all of its forms should promote such an overt display of sexism. To question whether women are superior politicians is to encourage sexism.

We look forward to future issues in which parallels are drawn between journalistic abilities and cola brand preference.

Sincerely,
Antionette Payzant
Andrew G. Macleod

Shape-up

To the Editor,

I found the editorial of the March 1 issue curious to say the least. You said a lot that was quite simply wrong. Here are some of the corrections I personally feel strongly about in brief.

Jamie MacMullin was the key person behind senate reform and extending course withdrawal dates with the help of Ava Czupaly and the student senators.

With reference to Jamie MacMullin, I feel his "effectiveness" has been well overlooked. His quiet diplomacy has successfully gained students better representation on university committees and hopefully on senate.

I would also like to remind you that a great deal of work is done on committees, a fact which seems to be overlooked in your timely critique of the DSU. If you consider the four president/vice-president candidates committee involvement this year, you will see that even men are capable of putting in "long and hard hours".

Your editorial based on the incorrect premise that only women on council have done work was poorly founded on false "facts". It was damaging and misleading. It appeared as though you were looking for an argument on which to base a

predetermined conclusion.

It is all very well for the Gazette to criticize what they have perceived as an apathetic council. If you misquote sources and print incorrect information, credibility is lost.

In closing, I ask that the incoming editors check and double check what they perceive as being factual so that the Gazette may maintain some standard of quality and credibility. A standard that has been neglected this year.

Sincerely,
Celia Sollows

Re: King's kids

To the Editor,

I wish to comment on Elaine Wright's article "Every King's child a wanted child" which appeared in your March 19 edition. I find two problems with her article: first she doesn't mention that many women not only "use the pill" for safety during sexual encounter, but for health reasons. Many women suffer PMS which can be controlled or prevented through the use of the pill.

Secondly, she states, "there are four possible male carriers of AIDS on campus."

Tell me when she could have come up with such a statement?

Doesn't she mean according to a percentage equation there could be four carriers of AIDS, which does not automatically make these carriers male, judging by the number of female AIDS cases which has been discovered.

Michael O'Brien

Response:

In response to Micheal O'Brien's comments on my article "Every King's child a wanted child" March 19, I would like to point out that the statement "there are four possible male carriers of AIDS on campus" was a direct quote made by Dr. Hankey at the forum (which is clearly indicated in the article).

In the March 5 issue of the *Gazette*, the staff decided to publish an anonymous letter (signed Ploughman), with an editor's note. Although it is against our policy to print unsigned letters, it was felt that with the editor's note we could print the letter, which we considered homophobic, without supporting the views expressed in it. We have received several responses to the letter. Unfortunately, none of them are signed so they won't get printed. If you wish to respond to any letter please put your name and address and/or phone number on it. Also, please type any letter you wish to submit double-spaced and limit it to 300 words.

thank you,
editorial board

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As 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, racist or homophobic 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 the *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, Monday 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.

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