

# 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.

Our office is located on the third floor of the Student Union Building. Our mailing address is the Dalhousie Gazette, Dalhousie University, Halifax, N.S., B3H 4J2, telephone (902) 424-2507.

Subscription rate is \$15 per year (26 issues) and our ISSN number is 0011-5816. The Dalhousie Gazette is a member of the Canadian University Press and our circulation is 10,000 weekly.

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

## Editorial

### Upside down security policy

Opportunity cost is a simple, yet difficult concept to grasp in introductory economics. It stands for benefits foregone when scarce resources are put to the next best possible use instead of their best possible use.

The university would do well to pull a dusty economics text from the shelf to learn how to manage its scarce resources of time and money — which, coincidentally, are the same scarce resources of the Dalhousie community.

Security on this campus is abominable. It's difficult to put a dollar figure on the amount of damage done to property because of conflicting information. In a Feb. 3 Gazette article, Head of Security Max Keeping said last year between \$4000 and \$5000 damage was due to theft and vandalism. Student Union Manager John Graham said between \$12,000 to \$15,000 was done in the Student Union Building alone. One wonders if the SUB is on university property.

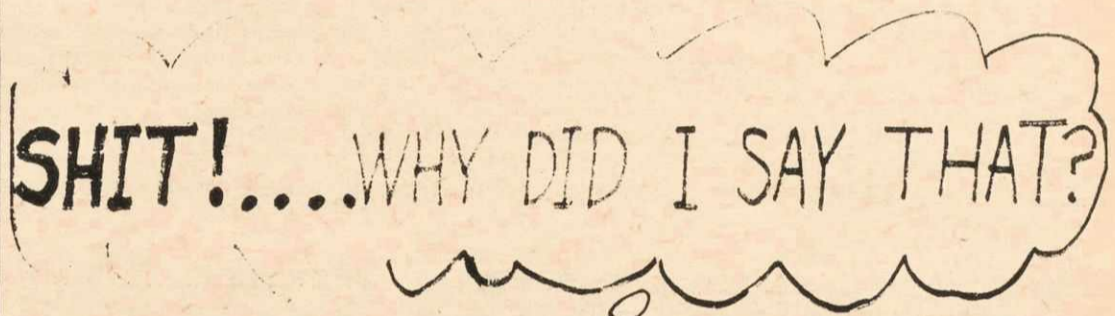
A quick run over major occurrences of vandalism reveals \$5000 damage in Howe Hall's cafeteria fire in October. Six hundred dollars damage to the LSC after the Dalhousie Science Society's assassination game in November. The Engineers managed over \$1200 damage in their February cross-campus rampage. And now there's \$6000 more damage to the LSC after a Valentine's party. Total: \$12,800 minimum.

But money is not really the point. Money can be replaced — eventually.

Time is the most limited resource — and it can never be replaced. Not the time taken for research experiments destroyed when test tubes are smashed in open labs or refrigeration units switched off from circuit boxes which have been unlocked for years. Nor the time wasted searching for a book in the Killam stacks which has never been signed out. Nor the time lost to anxiety and disorientation after an attack when returning from a night class.

Opportunity cost would warrant taking that \$12,800 damage so far this year to hire another security guard, or install locks, or put an effective security system in the library. It would reduce at least some benefits foregone.

CR



### I'VE BEEN MISQUOTED!



B.M.

### Righteous indignation

It's not common knowledge, but the campaign trail is bloody rough! Candidates must shake a thousand sweaty palms, kiss a hundred unknown babies, and make a dozen hasty speeches. Is it any wonder mere mortals marvel at the politician's unique constitution?

At times, however, the pressure of public life will break even the most well-intentioned candidate. Sensing their waning support, they panic, lashing out at anyone not contributing directly to their electoral popularity. Quite often the press becomes a scapegoat for their senseless tirades.

Last week, Chris Hartt, presidential candidate in the 1983 DSU elections accused the Gazette of intentionally misrepresenting his platform in the election supplement edition, (No. 18). He said the bias against him at the Gazette is personal and long-standing.

We'd like to respond.

In the first place, Mr. Hartt was interviewed by two Gazette reporters who took copious notes. What one reporter missed, the other was sure to pick up. Moreover, Mr. Hartt was recorded. There was no chance for error. Mr. Hartt actually said this year, SUNS had managed to "screw up;" and that both Vice Presidents of this year's council had not done the jobs he felt they should have.

As to the personal bias exercised against Mr. Hartt by the staff of the Gazette: this is clearly ludicrous since both reporters responsible for the interview do not know Mr. Hartt personally.

The Gazette stands by its editorial decision to support whoever the staff feels will be most beneficial to the Dalhousie student community. If that doesn't happen to be Chris Hartt, that's politics!

AB

