

Gazette is a collective

SHOE



I WISH TO DISCLAIM ALL RESPONSIBILITY FOR A HORRIBLE RIGMAROLE WHICH APPEARED UNDER MY NAME IN THE NOVEMBER NINTH EDITION OF THE DALHOUSIE GAZETTE. IT IS IN FACT THE WORK OF MARC ALLAIN, THE YOUNG FRENCH-CANADIAN WHO RUNS THE GAZETTE. HE PRODUCED IT BY TAKING RANDOM SENTENCES FROM A TYPESCRIPT WHICH I WAS UNWISE ENOUGH TO LEAVE WITH HIM.

Ron Norman
RON NORMAN

The above disclaimer has been circulated around campus. Because it is based on a false set of assumptions the Gazette has chosen to respond.

OUR RESPONSE:

Often it is difficult for new writers to accept the fact that, at a newspaper, their material will be edited before it is printed under that newspaper's name. Most writers learn to live with, and even appreciate, the need for this process.

At the Gazette, the editing, like everything else, is done by volunteers—largely students—who take time to read over each other's stories and comment on them, and then re-write them. The editor is only one of many people who actually edits material for the Gazette.

Apparently Ron Norman is one of those people who will not tolerate any editing of his material, and he is also someone who likes to jump to many absurd—and incorrect—assumptions about what is going on around him.

The editing on his article of November 9th was not done "by taking random sentences from a typescript" but rather was an attempt to rationalize Norman's story, and principally to delete the more ridiculous assumptions he wanted to foster about lawyers and the intentions of the people involved in the Killam lecture series. Norman, though, never returned to discuss his story with any other staff members, and was not

available to discuss the editing before the story was printed in the paper.

In fact, the "horrible rigamarole" of which he speaks in his hand-out was not edited by Marc Allain, but by Susan Johnson—another staff member of the newspaper.

Once Norman took offense to the final printed version of his story, he should have followed the normal channels within the paper and brought his concern to a staff meeting.

Unfortunately, he chose instead to distribute a handout that attempts to discredit both the Gazette and the editor of the paper. He has displayed:

- no understanding of the vital operations of a newspaper,
- no interest in the collective nature of the staff participation in the Gazette, and
- potentially racist attitudes about the current editor of the paper.

The Gazette needs the energies and talents of a great many people. It especially needs the energies of people who are willing to learn about newspapers, and about collective decision-making and action.

There is a lot of room up here on the third floor of the SUB for your interests, and your concerns, but when you think about getting involved in the paper it is important to keep in mind that you are working with about thirty others—and not by yourself. For most of us this is a constant source of energy, and something we haven't stopped enjoying.

—the Gazette staff

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Stand

work. Preventive action is an increasingly accepted concept in the medical, legal, educational and social work fields. If a Community Clinic cannot take stands on issues such as dangerous working conditions, hazardous traffic patterns, unemployment rates, etc. which have clear implications for the health of those affected, it may be foregoing a vital part of its mandate to improve the level of community health. While it might be argued that a question such as Quebec's right to political self-determination is irrelevant to such concerns, the principle of the N.E.C.H.A.'s right to consider the validity and relevance of such issues should not be discarded. When our newly-elected Premier said at the recent constitutional conference that Canadians have a "constitution which protects our freedoms" and that these "rights and freedoms must be available to all citizens of Canada," he didn't add "except for community agencies", nor do we think he meant to.

The advocacy role of community groups and agencies is by now fairly well established and accepted by citizens, private groups, and by governments. It is central to the perspective of any purported democracy. If a society's community agencies, whose employees are paid to try to improve conditions in

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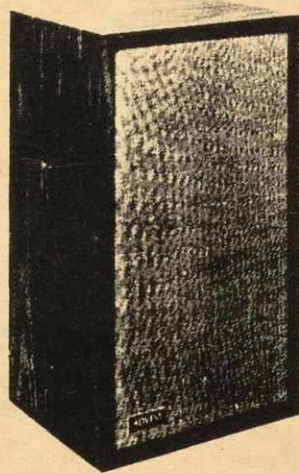
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