

Hill the student choice

Dalhousie students have a unique opportunity to make a statement about the underfunding of education in this election.

Not only is the education minister running in this riding, but last year's student union president is opposing him.

Although there is obviously little we can do to change governments, we can make a definitive statement to the provincial government that education underfunding is intolerable in a society that needs skilled human-power more than ever.

We believe, therefore, that you

should elect Tim Hill on Nov. 6. Should a student candidate successfully win election here, you can be sure politicians across the country would wake up to the threats posed by students who are disgruntled with the decay of the post-secondary education system. Also the election of Hill would put an active voice in the legislature on behalf of students.

Politicians have shown themselves to be immune to reason on the education issue. Maybe if a few of them lost their jobs, self-interest would at least motivate them to act on our behalf. □

Watch out for "born again" Liberals

Recently we nearly woofed our cookies when we heard the Liberals promoting their stand on education. Question: Where were they when the cuts to

education funding were happening? Their appeal to student votes now just doesn't jive with their past performance in the legislature. Be suspicious of "born again" Liberals. □

Deal sounds good on the surface

The Dalhousie referendum to approve the Capital Fund Drive student contribution is on the surface a good deal. The arrangement would see students contribute \$15 per year towards the fund in return for a fixed rate of tuition fee increases.

The advantages are numerous.

- Students will contribute \$750,000 towards the Capital Fund Drive, which will be used to improve the university via investments in building and renovations, faculty, computers, library and learning resources, scholarships, student aid and research.
- It will keep tuition fee increases to a minimum, making Dalhousie

more affordable and accessible to students.

- It would reduce tensions between students and the administration over fees, allowing them to work together on issues of finance and quality of education.

- A fixed rate of tuition fee increases would allow students to plan their finances for the next few years.

Our only concern lies in the fact that students may be pitted against faculty by the administration should the referendum pass and the faculty situation remain unresolved. Students should not ratify the deal if it means earning it off the backs of faculty. □

Are you sleeping

With the delivery of Friday's mail we at the *Gazette* hold our breath in anticipation. We rush to sort through the various press releases and junk mail looking for letters to the editor.

On copy night we joke nervously about which story or editorial will win us the most response from you, the reader.

And sure enough last week we weren't disappointed.

Last week there were five letters to the editor and while their political arguments may differ, they all share one thing. All five letters were written by men.

Looking back it shouldn't be a surprise. Of all the letters written to the *Gazette* this year only two were submitted by women. (And one of those didn't deal with editorial content but instead complained about a photo in a recruitment ad.)

When we sat down and tried to think of the people whose words of

wisdom most often adorn these pages, names like Peter Dawson, Charles Spurr and Paul Davis spring immediately to mind. All men.

At the beginning of this year the *Gazette* made an effort, through our recruitment policy and staff meetings, to make sure that women participated in the running of the paper. So far it's worked.

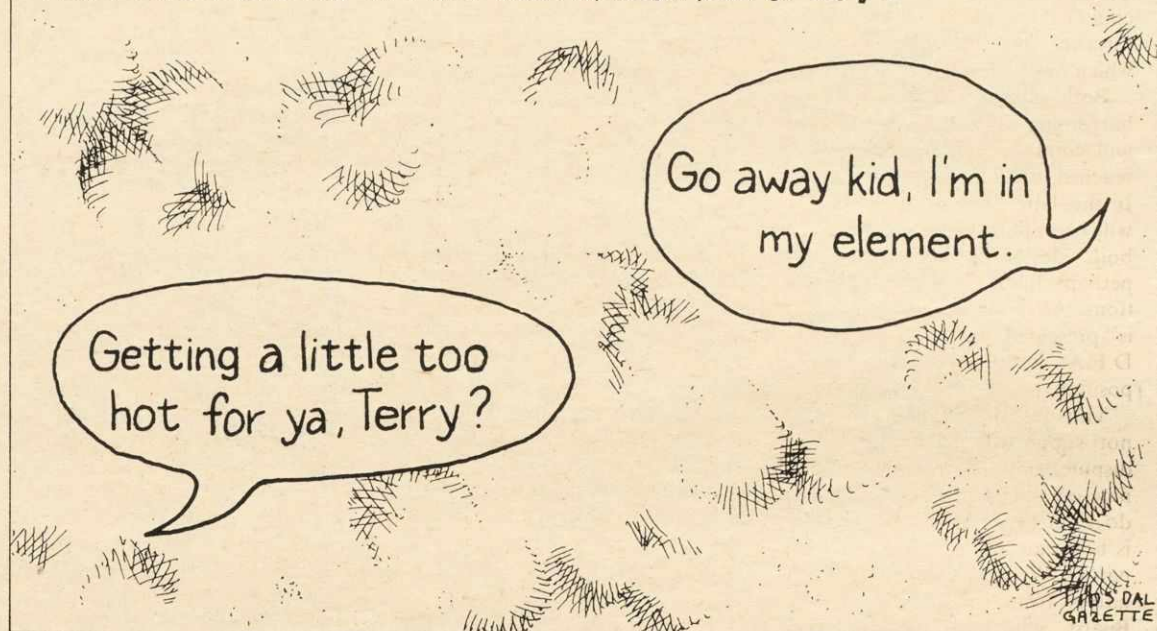
Now we're making a call for women to participate in the editorial pages of the *Gazette*. For two women editing a newspaper, it's an alienating feeling when your only feedback comes from men.

We need your opinions, thoughts, compliments and criticisms.

And to begin our new affirmative action letters policy, we're going to hold back all letters that begin "Dear Sir" or, worse yet, "To Mr. Editor," until their authors wake up. □

Freak political encounter # 72

TERRY DONUTHOLE and TIM HILT meet in steam room at the Y:



Have you hugged your professor today?

In every union there's sometimes disagreement about how far to go on any particular issue.

What's usually not an issue is whether to support another union in their struggles.

We feel strongly that the Dalhousie Student Union should stand behind the Dalhousie Faculty

Association in their struggles with the administration.

If you feel the same way as us or if you just want more information approach the student council at Dalhousie. They're your elected representatives and as such have a responsibility to represent your views.

And if that doesn't work try calling the faculty association offices. With faculty members staffing booths in the SUB lobby in the past week it's clear they're eager to talk.

Have you hugged your professor today? □

Time to start running

To the editors,

I have been involved in support work for the Vancouver Five, and it has been with great dismay that I have read the on-going verbal wars being fought in the *Gazette*. The focus must be placed upon the facts in this case. The facts are: the Vancouver Five's aims were not to injure anyone; their targets were the state and state terrorism (in fact, Ann Hansen, one of the Five, has publically criticized the Litton bombing). It must also be noted that no-one was killed in any of these direct actions, as has been alluded to in previous articles/letters.

More facts: the Vancouver Five were denied a preliminary hearing, the most important safeguard of democracy in our 'democratic system'. This shows how unjust the justice system really is. The evidence which eventually decided the cases was, for the most part, gathered illegally by Canada's Secret Police, the S.S. (Security Service) and CLEU (Co-ordinated Law Enforcement Unit), and should not have been admitted, under Canadian law.

It must also be noted that the Vancouver Five's decision to carry out Direct Action came after years of legal protest, i.e. petitions, marches. Even with acts of civil disobedience carried out against Litton and Red Hot Video, the State continued its policy of funding the armageddon machine (\$26.4 million given to Litton for development of guidance systems for the Cruise missile), and condoning of violent pornography.

The Red Hot Video line of porn shops, which the Wimmin's Fire Brigade, and not the Vancouver Five, acted against, featured snuff films, where the female victim is hacked to pieces in an orgasmic frenzy. It is against these moral outrages which these people took Direct Action.

The world has a destination to achieve if we are to survive. We can walk to this destination; this would be fine if we have lots of time, but we don't. It's time to start running. I do not condone the tragedy of people being injured as a result of Direct Action, but when the process of democracy fails, something must be done . . . before it's too late.

Iain Cook
Youth Action Pact

Gays and lesbians keep your mouths shut

To the editors,

I've had it!

I've spent four years at three universities as a quiet apathetic student, minding my own business (i.e. passing exams and completing assignments). I have finally run into a publication that has made me angry.

I suppose I should thank you for hauling me out of my 'don't give a damn' attitude, but to be honest, I was quite happy that way.

To get to the point. My peeve is your 'Pink Triangle' issue in last week's *Gazette*.

Don't get me wrong, I have nothing against gays and lesbians.

If they can do the job, let them; be it teaching my children or building my house. If they are good, honest people, let them be my friends.

I don't hear other people telling the world about their sex life. I don't care if you prefer the same sex, the opposite sex, animals or if you are into whips and chains. Please . . . don't involve me in your personal life.

I'm not saying being gay or lesbian is 'kinky'. However, I don't want to hear about people's sexual preferences.

I'm all in favour of equal rights for gays/lesbians, but please, keep your mouths shut about your private lives and maybe you'll get your rights.

Barb Coleman,
Dip. Eng.

Gigeroff clarifies DSU position on DFA

To the editors,

As you may have heard by now, the Dalhousie Faculty Association voted in favour of a strike last week. Now don't panic—this doesn't mean that classes will be cancelled next week. What it does mean is that the Faculty here at Dal have decided that it can take some sort of strike action when and if negotiations break down.

For some months now, the D.F.A. and the Dalhousie Board of Governors have been negotiating a new collective agreement. The main issue in the dispute has been over wages, although there have been some fairly contentious others (i.e. pensions, extracurricular activities, continued on page 9