

# Industrial Homicide

This is not a "get down on Dal" editorial, but is an attempt to simply more than inform the student, an attempt to draw from the Dal student some sense of social consciousness.

This week's Gazette contains a story from the McGill Daily on the strike by the employees of Vilas Furniture in Cowansville Quebec, a subsidiary of the Molson Brewing Company.

The high rate of industrial accidents, and the company's refusal to act upon government recommendations (though the Quebec government is equally at fault for their lax safety regulations and equally lax enforcement of them) are indications that it can "happen here".

Industrial homicide is not limited to our neighbour to the south. Evidence of work related deaths among chemical (eg. PVC), and mine (coal, asbestos) workers has finally merited decisive action in the States. Why not here?

The Vilas employees strike at Cowansville is one in which we can all aid. We have held this story back for three weeks in order to gauge staff opinion, add some local content, and verify some of the more outrageous settlements in the McGill Daily story (they're all true). Now that we are satisfied with what we have found we are asking for a boycott of all Molson products to pressure Molson into some sort of responsible action.

Some students may not appreciate the effectiveness of a boycott, but a boycott, especially one which takes place in a beer-drinking university in a beer-drinking province will upset Molsons. A boycott is one of the most effective mediums through which the individual can make a **REAL** change.

Already Molsons has responded to articles which have appeared in student publications across the country in an effort to block the boycott. They still refuse to deal with the Vilas employees. The boycott is effective and can work. It will work if Dalhousie students examine their social conscience and decide for themselves.

Some students may feel that a boycott on Molson's is none of their concern but, it is this view, echoed a thousand times that allows Molson's and hundreds of other companies like them to continue to defy moral integrity, and the law.

The inconvenience to students is slight, but the end result may be that other Canadians, people like yourself, may enter their work site confident that safety devices will ensure that they will not be maimed that day.

The price you pay is insignificant, you only have to say "No Molson's for me thanks".

Do it.



# Gazette apology

The March 4 issue of the Dalhousie Gazette saw the reappearance of an opinion column written by Ken MacDougall, a former Gazette editor, council member, and presently student and SUB employee. As in all opinion columns, the writer has the privilege of presenting his/her views in a literate format, free from the restrictions imposed on news copy.

It is apparent, now, that certain aspects of the MacDougall piece were of the aforementioned "personalized" non literary category. It is unfortunate that these comments were printed and I wish to offer an apology to Ann Smiley, Vice-President of the Students' Union for references to her that were unkind, tactless and untrue. While references to the others were not complimentary, these did not attack their personal character. No more can really be said.

The Dalhousie GAZETTE is the weekly publication of the Dalhousie Student Union. The views expressed in the paper are not necessarily those of the Student Union or the editor. We reserve the right to edit copy for space or legal reasons. The deadline for letters to the GAZETTE is the Monday preceding publication. No unsigned material will be accepted, but anonymity, if necessary, will be granted. The Dalhousie GAZETTE, Canada's Oldest College Newspaper, is a founding member of the Canadian University Press. The Dalhousie GAZETTE office is Room 334 of the Student Union Building, telephone 424-2507. The subscription price is \$5.00 per year (27 issues).

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## Letters

### Student Union President replies to criticism

To the Gazette:

I read in last week's Gazette, with some discouragement, two letters of completely negative criticism concerning the present and future governments of the Dalhousie Student Union. One letter was written by a person who chose not to sign his/her real name; the other came from the paintbrush of one of the recently defeated Presidential candidates' campaign manager - an individual known well for many things, objectivity not being one of them.

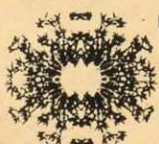
I do not write to defend my government against such mockery of journalism - I am confident that the worthiness of the actions of the 1975-76 Student Union Officers and Students' Council are and will remain apparent to any unbiased observer. (Sometime before 1980, "Student Government History" may tell the tale!)

However, what I do object to, and strenuously, is the personal smearing, that both of these letters engaged in, of President-Elect Gordon Neal and Vice-President-

Elect Anne Gillis. These people will not even assume office for another month and it is beyond me to determine what they have done to deserve such attention - short of recently opposing and winning against the candidates for President/Vice-President supported by the writers in question.

This type of expression of personal prejudice and vendetta is unneeded at anytime - but especially now. Due to the economic position of the country, the current situation of post-secondary students in Nova Scotia and in Canada is the worst of many years. At this point Dalhousie students are facing the following: a provincial Treasury Board that this week is examining critically an already deficient Student Aid program; a university president who last week announced consideration of a further tuition fee increase, albeit Dalhousie's tuitions have been consistently the highest of the country for several years; a federal student summer employment program cut of from \$80m of support in 1975 to \$24m of support in 1976. These problems are evident without even venturing from our own backyard. It is my hope that someday the Dalhousie Student Union may have the enthusiasm and capability to take a constructive

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