

# 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

### Stacking the deck

When the deal came down and Nova Scotia's commission of inquiry into post-secondary education was named, more than a few people thought the affair was a monstrously elaborate political joke.

After all, we have one of the funniest provincial governments in Canada. You doubt this wisdom? Where else would a province have the good humour to appoint members of such wild and wacky backgrounds - an actress who never attended university, a dairy company executive, and a geology prof and ex-Tory candidate - to a commission with the future of universities in our province at stake?

There's nothing funny about how these people make a living. What is funny is that according to Peter Butler, Education Minister Donahoe's chief advisor on higher education, the commission in its current state can't be accused of "bias". Had the province appointed people with some knowledge of university, such as an administrator, faculty representative, or student, Butler thought the commission would appear "stacked".

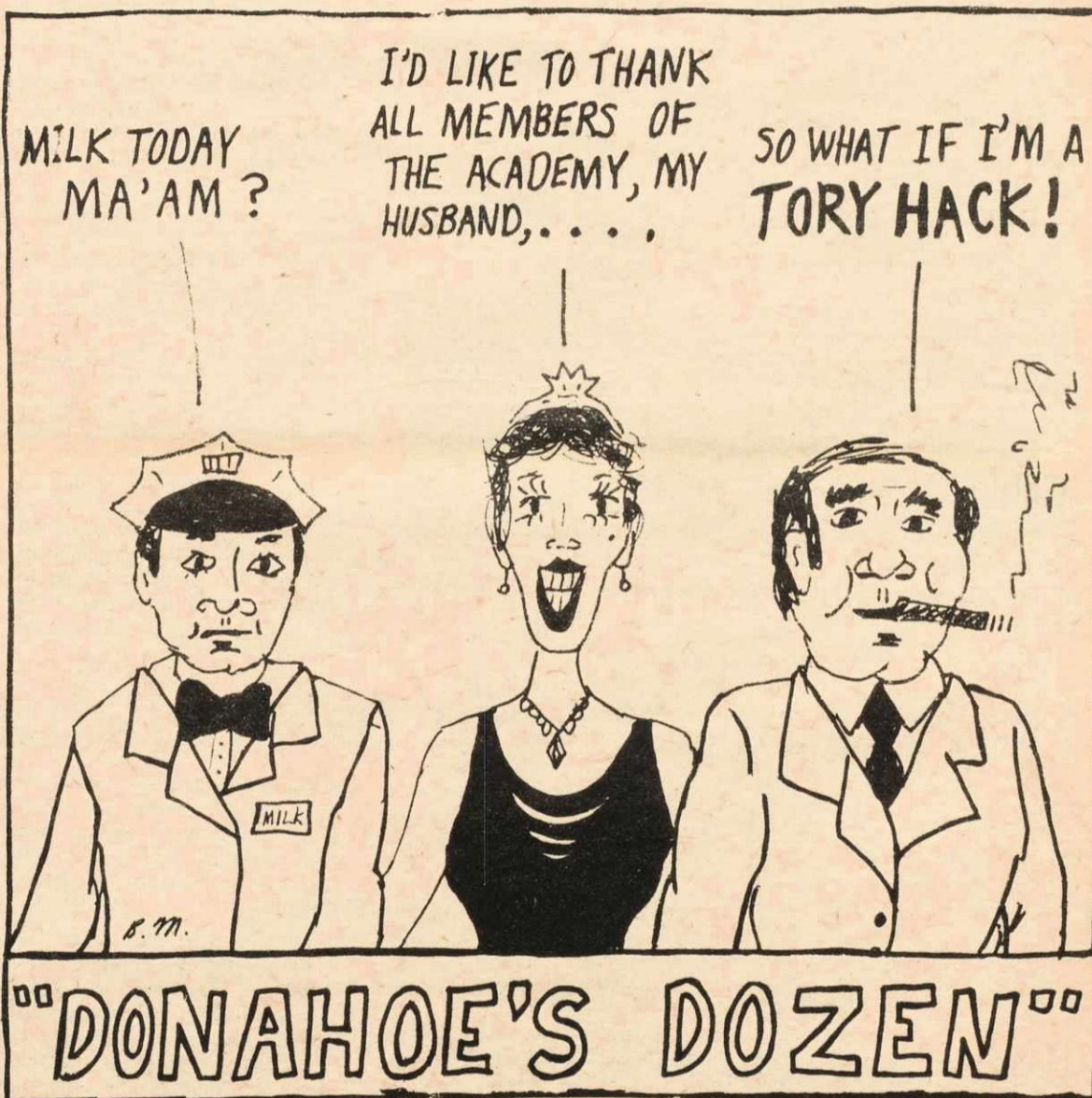
Mr. Butler and Mr. Donahoe and the Tory cabinet would have you believe a commission with all three members and two assistants connected to the Tory party is not "biased". They would have you believe that a commission with all its members connected to business interests is not "biased". They would have you believe that those participating in higher education in this province are a special interest group and that the Progressive Conservative Party and the Business community are not.

They would like you to believe them.

At any rate, now there is to be an investigation of higher education in this province. The commission members may very well prove to be very unlike the potential political "yes-people" they have been portrayed as. They might even realize that Nova Scotia spends less per capita on universities and colleges than any other province in the land. They might even recommend that universities should be funded more reasonably, without tying funding to labour market demands. Let's hope so. But because they have no real background in this province's educational system, in about one year they have to figure out what it takes most others years of study to do - find us all a way out of this spiral of rising tuition, dropping course quality, and decreasing availability of aid. They have to keep our universities open.

Good luck...to us.

- K.B.



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Elections for Gazette editor

March 11, 9-7:00

Eligible voting staff members as of March 3, 1983

- |                  |                       |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| Pat Jordan       | Nonie McDonald        |
| Michael Brennan  | Paul Morris           |
| Samantha Brennan | Bobby Morrison        |
| Alec Bruce       | Tom Morrison          |
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| Geoff Martin     | Ivor MacKay           |
| Ward McBurney    | Mike Hayes            |
| Cathy McDonald   | Mark Childerhose      |

Come up and see us . . .

If you've got a story idea, news tip, or just want to see the work behind these pages, come up to the Gazette's offices on the third floor of the Dal SUB. If that's improbable, there's always writing or use of the telephone - 424-2507 or 424-2055.