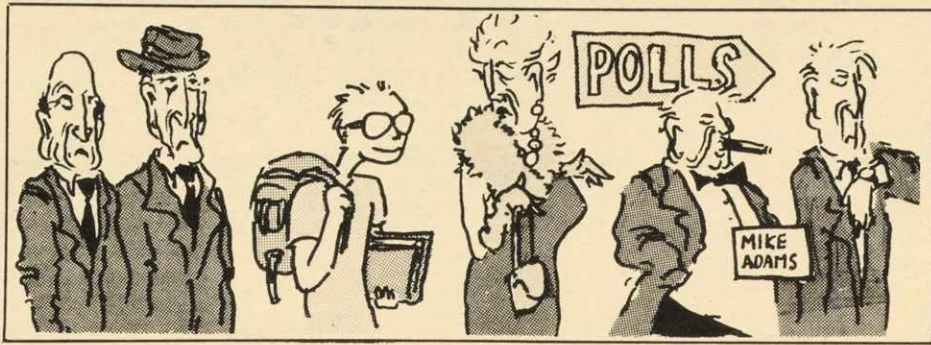


EDITORIAL



Same old tune at City Hall

IF LAST SATURDAY'S CIVIC election results are anything to go on, an endorsement from the *Gazette* is the political kiss of death. Not one of the candidates we backed in the three south-end wards managed to come out on top.

Maybe if we had backed Mayor Ron Wallace he would have lost by acclamation.

All kidding aside, the election results were quite a disappointment. With three exceptions, all the same old familiar faces will be back on city council. Which will probably mean a continuation of current policies.

At the rate things are going, we may see condos on the Commons before this three-year term is up.

There are hopeful signs, however. In a public statement issued immediately after the vote, Wallace acknowledged the public

concern expressed during the campaign about the development issue, and pledged to keep this concern uppermost in the minds of his fellow members of council.

It will be interesting to see how he intends to reconcile this pledge with his additional pledge of fiscal responsibility, especially in the face of a Council that believes development to be the best way to improve the city's financial standing.

It will also be interesting to assess the sincerity of the elected councillors on the student bus pass issue. Nearly every one of them endorsed the bus passes in principle, but the practice may prove another matter. We'll have to wait and see.

Of course, if we students lose out on the passes, or on any other issue, we will have no one to blame but ourselves.

Lobbying is part of the political power game. When the Metro area student councils began lobbying for the bus passes, it was on the implicit understanding that they had a block of voters, the students, to deliver to those candidates in favour of the proposal.

It's a fine theory. The problem is that students have rather low credibility in the power game, because historically they generally don't vote. It's hard to promise to deliver a block that won't go to the polls. It's easy for a candidate to mouth promises to students and then shrug them off after the campaign without fear of political repercussions. Good will only goes so far.

Granted that residency requirements and other such nonsense makes it a royal pain to go to the polls. Nevertheless, if students want political power, they have to learn to get out there and vote.

In the long run

SOMETIMES YOU CAN TELL a lot about an organization and its goals by the events it stages. The Amnesty International Run for Freedom held last weekend is a case in point.

AI organizers expected about 40 runners to show. They got 64. Sometimes AI can surprise itself with the response its causes get from the public.

On the other hand, most of the participants admitted they were not there to run for freedom; they were just there to run. Still, they had come out to an AI-sponsored event. Some of the message was bound to rub off.

So the runners, for their various reasons, began the five-kilometre course, five laps of University Avenue from LeMarchant to Robie. After the first lap the timekeeper was amazed; the leading runners were making excellent time. The first place finisher, Andrew O'Rourke, came in in 12 minutes and 4 seconds, in the vicinity of world-record time. There was talk of the Olympics. Political activism suddenly seemed easier than anyone thought possible.

Alas, there had been a mistake. The course was laid out wrong; it was shorter than a kilometre. No

records were broken, no miracles happened.

But \$743.00 was raised by the run. Some of this money will, with luck, go to the families of the two prisoners of conscience adopted by the local chapter of AI.

It won't be easy to get the money there. But if it gets there, that will be a miracle. A miracle of hope.

In any war the real victories don't come big, don't come fast and don't come cheap. There are no grand strategies, no final solutions; the war will not be over by Christmas.

And that's what AI is fighting: a war. A war that takes thousands of lives every year around the world. AI goes in to save the lives it can. The rest die, forgotten and alone. Without help AI can only do so much.

There are no short-run solutions. There are no cardboard villains, no tin heroes. But the war can be won, in the long run, with enough \$743.00 victories.

The war against the oppression of people by people will be a long one. It will be a marathon. It may never end. It could not be more worthwhile.

Get into AI. Join the long run.

OPINION

Letters

The Peace Movement responds

To the editors,

I would like to respond to Bryon Fevens' letter which appeared in the Oct. 10 issue of *the Gazette*. Mr. Fevens fails to understand the objects of the Peace Movement and I wonder whether he has the ability to look at the horrors of the nuclear theatre with reason.

To illustrate, I ask Mr. Fevens to imagine that he and I each hold a loaded, cocked pistol to the other's head. O.K., Mr. Fevens, I won't pull the trigger if you don't! Here we have MAD (Mutual Admissable Destruction—the principle which prevents the superpowers from pushing the red button). Mr. Fevens, do you now advocate that "unpleasant as it is, MAD is all we've got"?

Hey, I've an idea. What if I pulled my gun a few centimetres away, would you do likewise? How about if I no longer pointed at your head, would you respond the same? Let's both unload our guns at the same time! It wasn't so hard now, was it?

This action must be urgently applied to the global polemics. Every living organism on earth has a gun pointed at its head;

nuclear arms hold the whole world in jeopardy. Each addition to the nuclear arsenal increases the possibility of its employment. The cruise missile and its Russian equivalent can fly virtually undetected by radar and are thus first strike weapons. The ability to strike the enemy with unbelievable quickness has put computers rather than humans on the front line. There isn't time for us to think any more. With no time left, it is becoming more and more tempting for each side to attack first.

The Peace Movement's main objective has been to inform the public of these horrors. The hope is that educated people will act to remove those guns pointing at our heads. Mr. Fevens, you state, "Protests are a waste of energy," yet how else can the message of peace be spread? If our government cares for the peace of mankind, and sets an example by pulling Canada out of NORAD, we announce to the world a protest against MADness.

Robin Shier

Let's cover the campus

To the editors,

Somewhere in the wondrous kingdom that is Dalhousie, there lurks a mysterious creature known as the DSU. To most of us average peasants it has remained a mystery simply because our town crier (*the Gazette*) has failed to tell us anything about it.

In the past few weeks, *the*

Gazette has told us about municipal elections in Halifax, race problems in South Africa, overcrowded classes at Memorial, student politics in Manitoba, bus passes, pub food, and the latest soccer scores. But it has almost entirely ignored the political scene on campus.

Somebody somewhere in the kingdom is having problems with tuition, books, classes, residences, parking spaces, society funding, or food, and the DSU and the administration are doing or failing to do something about these problems. This is information which should be published.

I am not asking that *the Gazette* begin printing unsubstantiated attacks on our governing bodies. On the contrary, if the DSU and the administration have solved all the problems which inevitably arise in the operation of a university, then *the Gazette* should be publishing their victories, lauding their glories and submitting their applications for sainthood to the Vatican.

But if the problems are not being solved, the failures of our governments should be published as well.

For students, when they bother to be, are a very intelligent lot. They have great capabilities to solve problems provided they are told where problems exist.

As our student newspaper, *the Gazette* is responsible for reporting on campus issues. It cannot push this responsibility off onto the shoulders of *the Dalhousie Dispatch*. So far, *the Dispatch* has proven that the most intelligent thing it can come up with are "Dear Rambo" letters. And as a

publication of the DSU, *the Dispatch* can hardly be expected to print anything which is critical of the DSU.

It is *the Gazette's* job to tell students what the DSU and the administration are doing. But *the Gazette* has failed to do this job.

Linda Strowbridge

Med frat manager disappointed

To the editors,

I would like to express my utter disappointment in the editorial staff of *the Dalhousie Gazette*.

On Friday, Oct. 18, Phi Rho Sigma Medical Society held a suitcase party to raise funds for the Weldon Law Library Fire Fund. A copy of our poster was distributed to all the local newspapers and radio stations, including *the Gazette*. Every newspaper and station we contacted responded with donations of free advertising except *the Gazette*.

When the Thanksgiving edition of *the Gazette* came out, I phoned that paper to ask why our party was not covered and was told *the Gazette* "had probably lost the letter. I then hand delivered a copy of our poster to the editor; he promised me that a quarter-page ad would be placed in the October 17th edition of *the Gazette*, along with a mention in the "Calendar". However, the quarter-page advertisement did not appear at all. As a result many

fewer Dalhousie students were aware of the party and our proceeds were reduced.

I can't believe that you would rather print a full page turkey cartoon than promote an event to raise money for the Law Library Fire Fund. In my opinion, *the Gazette* must have more turkeys in its office than on its cover.

Anyway, thanks to the efforts of many other people, the event was a success. Thanks to the law students who turned out to support their own cause. (However, the profits raised for the law library fund would have been substantially greater if the law students had followed through with their initial enthusiasm about the project.)

We would like to thank all those who supported this fundraising effort: C100 for providing the video show; Office Services for tickets and posters; the *Herald/Mail Star* and local radio stations for publicity, and the organizers of the Tri-Fac'ty Tack Party who were considerate enough to move their event so it would not conflict. And of course, all those who came out and had a good time!

Steve Hall, Medicine II-House Manager, Phi Rho Sigma

P.S. The winner of the weekend for two in Montreal was Andrea Chernin.

Editor's Note: Steve Hall is entitled to his opinion of our foul practices, but The Gazette would like to explain its position on this matter.

Hall's first letter was put under the office door after business