

They're trying to help?

A student newspaper can serve its readers only if it is free of interference from both administration and student council. In order for a paper to examine issues fairly and critically no pressure must be felt from either group.

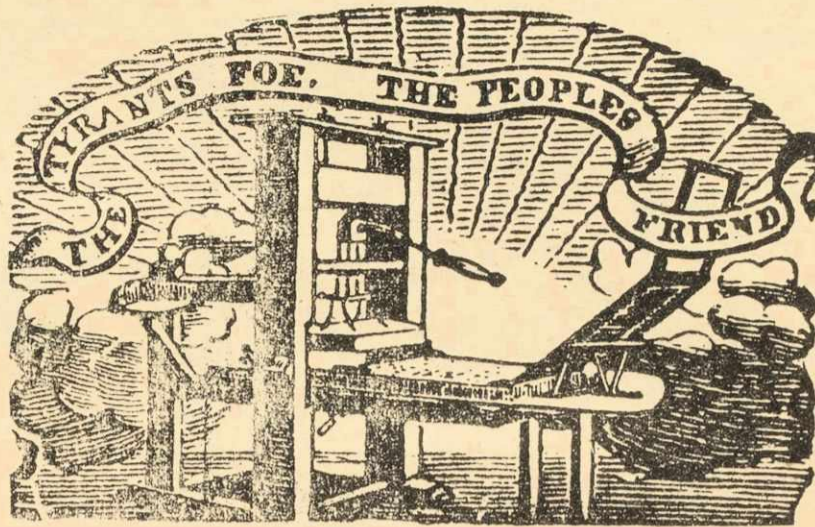
Councils, when publishers, should have only a financial concern in the paper. Student government and student press are two totally separate entities. In fact, the ideal situation is where student newspapers are financially independent, collecting their money directly from the students, and handling their own finances. In that way, a newspaper would not have to deal with attempted intervention from a council that knows little about the operations of the student press.

The Dalhousie Student Council Sunday night attempted to "help" the **Gazette** by establishing a "Gazette Review Committee". The expressed purpose of the committee was to conduct a poll of Dalhousie students about their opinion of the **Gazette**. Council President Robert Sampson said that the idea for the committee came after he had received complaints that the paper has not been covering campus issues. He considers it his "responsibility" to do something about it.

The **Gazette** considers it his responsibility to refer these people to our staff to discuss whatever complaints they might have. The **Gazette** does not object to polling students for their ideas. In fact, over the summer, two staffers worked on such an idea, i.e. a poll to be used at a later date when the paper had been out long enough for students to establish fair opinions of it.

People's opinions of the paper are welcomed. Our comment and letters column is open for contributions and anyone can join the staff.

What we fear is that this committee would do more than carry out a poll. It could easily be a first step to editorial interference in the paper. Despite council's claims that the **Gazette** would not have to listen to the recommendations of this committee, at the same time an unsubstantiated accusation was made that "95% of Dalhousie students complain



about the **Gazette**.

The **Gazette** is interested in serving its readers. Council claims that they are interested in serving the students. Their interest would best be appreciated by the **Gazette** in an informal setting to discuss the paper fairly, rather than in a manner which can only antagonize **Gazette** staffers.

Fortunately, council realized at its meeting that since our objection was so strong, the committee was senseless. After establishing the committee, the members resigned. Later in the week Sampson came to the office with ideas for this week's paper. That, dear council, is the only kind of rapport that will improve both the **Gazette** and council-paper relations.

by Valerie Mansour

Letters

Good Gazette

To the **Gazette**:

If your last issue was a sign of things to come, this should be a good year for the **Gazette**. That issue had good and adequate treatment of campus news, but stories such as the report on the unemployment march show that you do not view the university as an institution closed off from the community at large. The article on Canada's involvement in Chile was well-researched and informative — publication of articles like this is valuable both because of the interest which many students and faculty have in international affairs, and because such analyses are unavailable in the local daily press.

Vous méritez également des félicitations pour l'article fort intéressant sur les revendications des francophones de la Nouvelle-Ecosse en ce qui concerne l'enseignement en français.

Keep up the good work!
Dr. J.F. MacLean

Wheeler dealers

To the **Gazette**:

As one of the organizers for last Wednesday's demonstration, I must take issue with "Color them Yellow" Editorial in last week's **Gazette**. I understand the author's frustration at seeing so few students showing visible support for the rally, but I disagree with his contention that the majority of Dalhousie students are "apathetic" or "ignorant."

The March on the Legislature sponsored by AFS-NUS last Spring saw at least 600 Dalhousie students joining ranks with over a 1,000 students, faculty and support staff from across the province. Is that apathy? A few days before the March, Dalhousie students confronted the provincial Minister of Education and Premier Regan in a general meeting. The students

asking Regan questions were nailing him down, bringing out his inconsistencies, and it was obvious that very few of the hundreds of students there were fooled by all the fancy paternalistic double talk being fed to them by the politicians. Is that ignorance?

So, where were the Dalhousie students last Wednesday? Do we expect students to organize and mobilize to fight for their concerns spontaneously? Is reading a one page leaflet and seeing a couple of posters sufficient to stimulate us into action? Of course not. Organization of a pluralistic group such as students requires leadership, both to mobilize awareness and concern and also to mobilize concrete actions to do something about those concerns. That type of leadership obviously is not provided by a couple of people in a back room.

How many council members were at the demonstration? More importantly, why didn't Council or the Executive set up a general meeting? Students will not effectively organize and show their support when they are not given a chance to discuss the issues and democratically take part in decision making.

July saw 155,000 out of work Canadian students. In the Atlantic and Quebec this summer, the number of jobs available declined by 24,000 from the previous year. The latest figures available show that only 37.5 per cent of those graduates with bachelors degrees entering the labour force find jobs that required holding a degree.

Students aren't ignorant and apathetic about this. It is us who can't find adequate summer jobs to supplement the inadequate student aid in an effort to pay the increasing tuition, for our education, which because of government cutbacks, is visibly decreasing in quality. It is us who face graduating into a world where over 10% of us will not find a

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the dalhousie gazette

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, the editors, or staff. We reserve the right to edit material submitted for space or legal reasons.

The deadline for advertising is the Friday noon preceding publication. Articles and letters are due Monday noon. No unsigned material will be accepted, but anonymity, if necessary, will be granted. Letters should not exceed 600 words, and must be typed if more than 100 words.

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Editor: Valerie Mansour
Advertising Director: Anita Lathigee
Circulation Manager: Joe Wilson

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Scott Vaughan, Jeff Round, Marc Allain, Bill Richardson, Mark King, Anne Soucy, Mark Simkins, Scott Gray, Michael Brown, Gregory Larsen, Lloyd Daye, Michael Cormier, Daniele Gauvin, Harvey MacKinnon, Gary Hominuk, Matt Adamson, donalee moulton, John McLeod, Kathy Peach, Sue Dixon, Ron Lacey, Chiyo Shimuzu, John Manley, Donna Treen, Cheryl Downton, Wade Brown, Judy Pratt, George Mullally,



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(416) 925-6359