

the Dalhousie Gazette

Editor Ken Burke
 Production Manager Wendy Coomber
 Advertising Manager Judy Steele
 Typesetting Mary Lou Hendry

Editorial Office 424-2507
 Advertising Office 424-6532

Gazette Staff

Martin Baker	Alec Bruce	Bruce Galloway
Mark Glover	Steve Gregoris	Lori Hart
Ward McBurney	Cathy McDonald	Tom Morrison
Kenneth Newman	Michael Redmond	Catherine Ricketts
Robert Stanley	David Stewart	Greg Watson
Doug Whittall		

The horror, the horror...

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.

Editorial

When I first registered at Dal, I remember a friend asking me somewhat naively, "Who owns Dalhousie, anyway? Is it one person, or what?"

The idea of somebody "owning" Dal may be naive, but the question of who's controlling Dal is *anything* but. Conventional wisdom previously said the Board of Governors had a jealous hold on the power bank. But our Administration is taking a lot on themselves, lately. Perhaps too much.

The decision which President MacKay made solo to impose a quota on foreign students is a fairly major case in point. Without consulting the Board of Governors (or even the BOG's executive), MacKay made a decision which resulted in many foreign students getting the go-ahead to register at Dal and planning their next year around Dal when in fact they weren't going to be accepted, or even considered. If they had arrived to register past the date when the invisible quota line had been passed, no matter their merits, they weren't suitable for Dalhousie.

Such an important policy decision as limiting our University more and more to Canadians-only should have been the topic of months of discussion amongst Dal's higher bodies, such as the Senate or the Board of Governors. It's a break in Dalhousie's quota-free recent past and a real indictment of where this place is headed in the future. That the decision was made by one man, and in effect for nearly a month before it was uncovered at a Senate meeting, says something about the willingness of our administration and the President to make decisions public.

As for the issue of foreign student quotas itself, there are many ways to look at the matter. You can say that Canadians are being crowded out of our own Universities. But they aren't - enrollment by Nova Scotian citizens is way up over last year.

You can say the Foreign students are all rich or government-subsidized anyway and come here to get a good, cheap education that's not available in their home countries (their own fault). But there are also students who scrimped and saved every bit as much as we did (often times more) to get here, and not-so-isolated cases where Third world students are only able to come due to the assistance of many relatives. I know of one student whose entire community saved up the money for him to attend Dal - so as to enable one person from amongst themselves to have a chance at moving up in the world. Those people don't fit many people's conventional stereotype of what a "foreign student" is.

Neither do Americans, Britishers, and other English-speaking people. They make up a good portion of the number of "foreign" students at Dal, but aren't as readily spotted as someone with a different speech pattern. When President MacKay speaks about the language problem with some foreign students, it becomes a bit more obvious who the really unwanted foreign students are - those from different cultures. And anyway, even the American and English foreign students aren't in rosy positions. Maggie Thatcher has done her best to destroy the English University system, and we all know what tuition is like down South of the border.

So why are we punishing these people? Then again, why are we punishing students of any kind?

