

# the Dalhousie Gazette

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424-2507  
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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.

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The Gazette's weekly staff meetings are now at 5:30 every Thursday.

## Editorial

### Alumni discriminates

Inaction can be a wonderful thing. Ask any one of those despicable souls who dutifully troop off to the sunny Gulf of Mexico area and spend a week getting a marketable tan. No, there's nothing quite like lying around, and basking in something, be it snow, sun, or some form of water. But if you're lying around and basking in discrimination, that's another matter.

In this week's Gazette, there's a story on the Dal Alumni Association and their elections to the Dal Board of Governors. Of the nine people the Alumni place on Dal's top decision-making body, there's a quota system which clearly states that two-thirds must be men. Of the three elected positions which come up every year, only one can be filled by a woman. And what's worse, the Alumni doesn't seem to think it's that important.

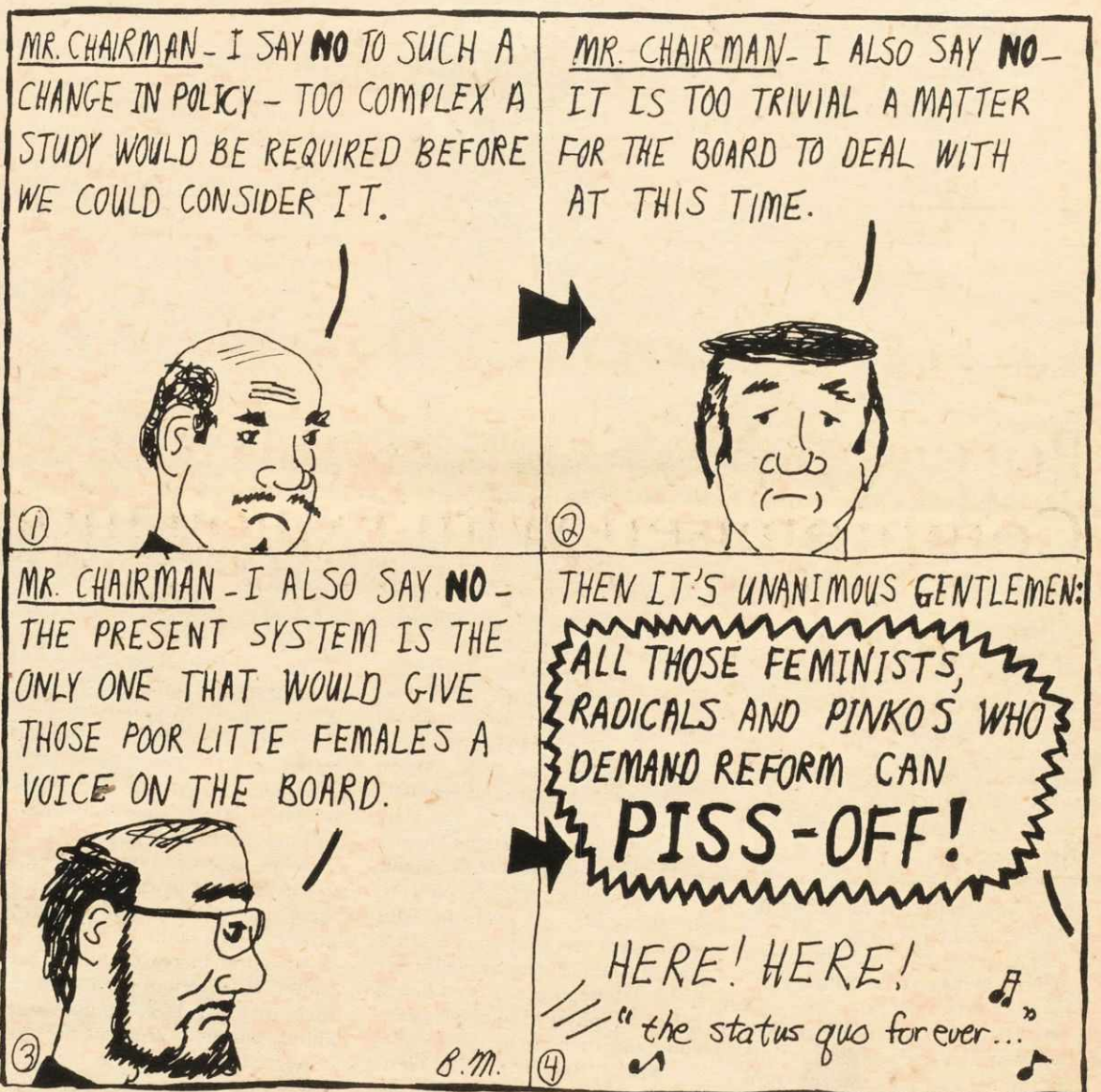
The discriminatory policy was first exposed in a story in the April 8/82 Gazette, and at that point, it looked like the quota might be lifted. Chester Stewart, then-vice-president of Alumni, said they hadn't looked at their by-laws for a while. Nobody in fact could even recall when the rule had been instated, but it was pretty well understood when they were instated it was a progressive step - to get women on the Board.

But now that's different. While the majority of alumni are currently men, women are graduating in greater numbers than their male counterparts and are catching up. In fact, one of the excuses given for keeping the quota last year was that if the quota was lifted, the position might be filled exclusively by women, not a combination of the sexes. But a quota that means the Alumni places six men and three women on the Board is not healthy.

And so nearly one year later, what's happened? The Alumni are just as defensive about the by-law, and it's still very much on that same forgotten back-burner. Nobody within the Alumni must consider it important enough to champion, or else the inaction would end. If our Alumni are sometimes seen as a lethargic lump of ex-graduates, no wonder.

Since this is International Women's Week (see our supplement inside), real thought should be given towards letting Alumni know the by-law should be dropped. This is not only sexual discrimination, but it's here, and relatively simple to fix up. You should need no better example to figure out why women mysteriously rarely rise to positions of power and responsibility. If you have a parent, parents, relatives, or acquaintance who are alumni, let them know what you think. The Alumni Association's office is on the second floor of the SUB, as well. Let them know you're there.

- K.B.



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Eligible voting staff members

### Elections for Gazette editor

March 11, 9-7:00

- |                  |                       |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| Anya Waite       | Nonie McDonald        |
| Pat Jordan       | Paul Morris           |
| Michael Brennan  | Bob Morrison          |
| Samantha Brennan | Tom Morrison          |
| Alec Bruce       | Luke Napier           |
| Veronica Bzreski | Kenneth Newman        |
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| Andrew Lorimer   | Ivor MacKay           |
| Geoff Martin     | Mike Hayes            |
| Ward McBurney    | Mark Childerhose      |
| Cathy McDonald   |                       |

Gazette meetings, Thursdays, 5:30.