

Independence for the student press

The Dalhousie Gazette is making its first serious attempt at becoming an independent student newspaper. We are bringing to council a well-researched practical plan for incorporation as a separate society. The idea of an autonomous newspaper has been tossed around the **Gazette** office for years but now the staff is sincerely committed to the concept of freedom of the press and is prepared to explain to the Dalhousie community exactly why this would be a good idea for this newspaper.

The students of Dalhousie deserve the best possible paper. The **Gazette's** new constitution proposes that a publications board be set up consisting of students, a faculty member, a lawyer, and a member of the professional media. Such a board, together with a full-time business manager, would ensure a well-run newspaper.

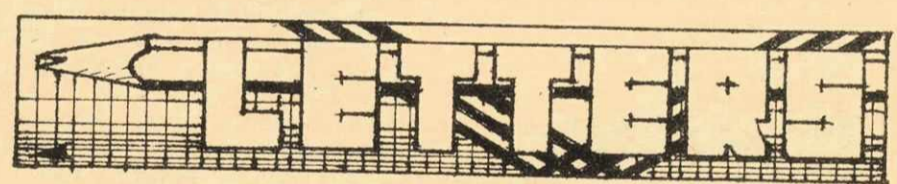
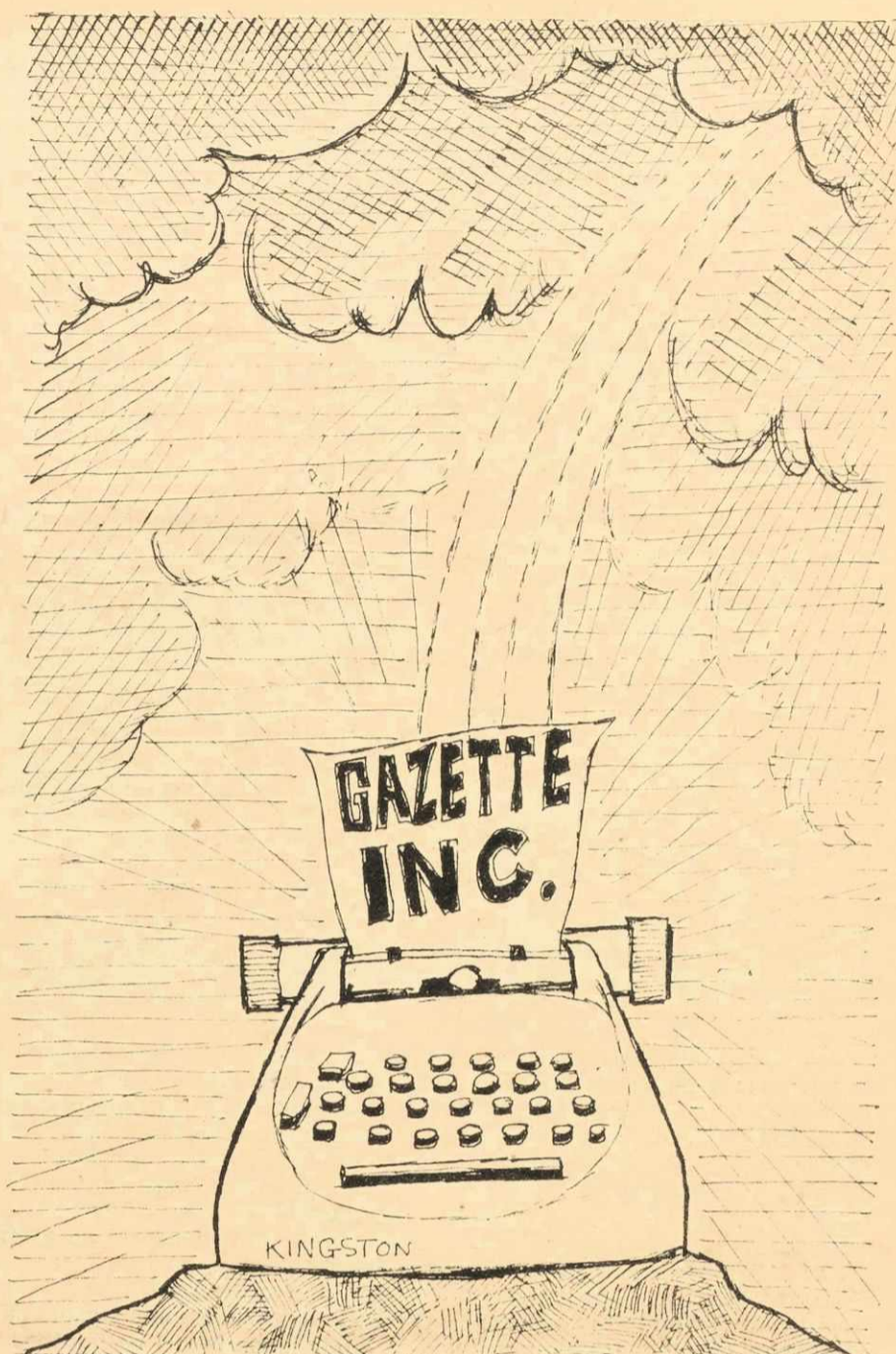
Members of student council have to deal with all the important decisions facing the student union. It is difficult for individual councillors to develop the necessary expertise to deal with all aspects of student activities here at Dalhousie. As a result, students inevitably suffer. A publication board which solely focuses its attention upon the continuing issues which a newspaper encounters would ensure the maintenance of a competent publication. Such a board would thus not be hampered by other pressing student issues, but would be able to devote all its efforts to the various problems of newspaper publication.

One of the most main duties of the student newspaper is to critically report upon and analyse council's actions. There is a very real conflict of interest when student council has financial control over a student newspaper that must criticize it. The students of Dalhousie should not have to run the risk of council executive interference in the **Gazette**. A disagreement with the **Gazette** should not be allowed to develop into financial, or other, pressure designed to compel the **Gazette** to subordinate its editorial policy to the desires, or fears, of council.

Such a danger is always present, even if one year's executive pledges that it will respect the **Gazette's** editorial freedom.

The constitution that the **Gazette** is presenting Sunday night, if passed, can only be changed at a general meeting of the student body. This will insure that the newspaper will be controlled and responsible to the students of Dalhousie.

The **Gazette** is hosting an information session, Thursday at 8 p.m. in lounge 314, SUB—drop by and discuss the idea with us. And come to the council meeting Sunday at 7, 2nd floor SUB—we'll appreciate your concern.



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 editor or staff. We reserve the right to edit material submitted for space or legal reasons, or if considered offensive to our readers.

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.

The **Dalhousie Gazette**, Canada's Oldest College Newspaper, is a founding member of Canadian University Press. Our office is on the third floor of the Student Union Building. Our mailing address is **The Dalhousie Gazette**, Dalhousie University, Halifax, N.S., B3H 4J2. Telephone 424-2507. The subscription price is \$7 per year (28 issues). ISSN 0011-5819

Editor: Valerie Mansour
 News Coordinators: Scott Vaughan and Jeff Round
 Entertainment Coordinator: Gregory Larsen
 Sports Coordinator: Peter Hayes
 Advertising Director: Anita Lathigee
 Circulation Manager: Joe Wilson

This issue was brought to you by:

Mark Simkins, Karen Gibson, Susan Johnson, Michael Cormier, Bruce Grant, Murray Kingston, Andrew Gillis, Denise Roberge, David Angus, Heather Myers, Ping Chow, Anu Rautaharju, Harvey MacKinnon, Marc Allain, Nigel Allen, Robin Metcalfe, Gary Hominuk,

Condoms tasteless

To the **Gazette**:

I protest the appearance of the condom advertisement in last week's **Gazette**, as not only are the ad's size and wording indiscreet and tasteless, but also the mere presence of the ad in a student newspaper borders on the irresponsible. Under the guises of "education" and "birth-control", you are making a product easily accessible to a body of people who ought not need it. The truly responsible student will avoid pre-marital promiscuity, which endangers the health and education of many students—either by sustaining an unwanted pregnancy, ruining someone's education and bringing yet another unloved child into the world; or worse still, murdering a child by abortion and risking possible psychological problems compounded by guilt and self-blame. No birth-control method is 100% safe save for total abstinence from sex until ready for the responsibilities of married life and parenthood. A truly responsible student paper would speak out against the real problem (promiscuity), rather than trying to treat symptoms (disease and pregnancy) and merely encouraging the problem further by temptation.

By running the condom ad, I suggest that you are not acting in the best interests of Dalhousie students, and that you cease

printing it. Surely you do not need the money (and space filled) that much!

Sincerely,
 Eric Hominick

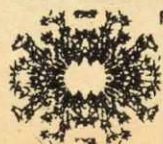
My card is dead

To the **Gazette**:

I attended Dalhousie University as a full time student from September to December of the 1977 academic year. During this time I willingly paid my Student Union fees. Upon withdrawal from Dalhousie I trustingly submitted my Student Union card, expecting a refund of partial fees. After much confusion and a great deal of running around (including a chat to Mr. Mancini) it became evident that no refund would be supplied. Happily, I returned to get my Student card so as to at least enjoy some of the benefits for which I had paid. It had been burned; it no longer exists i.e. it has been destroyed and all my privileges to Dal are gone up in smoke.

The saga continued with a letter concerning the issue to Mr. Mancini (one which has of yet to be answered). I did, however, read the minutes of the Student Government meeting and discovered that the issue was solved without informing me. Evidently the Student Union at Dalhousie is a club (one that you are forced to join) and by leaving town, one forfeits one's membership to this club. All I know is any

continued on page 5



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 (416) 925-6359