

# THE GAZETTE

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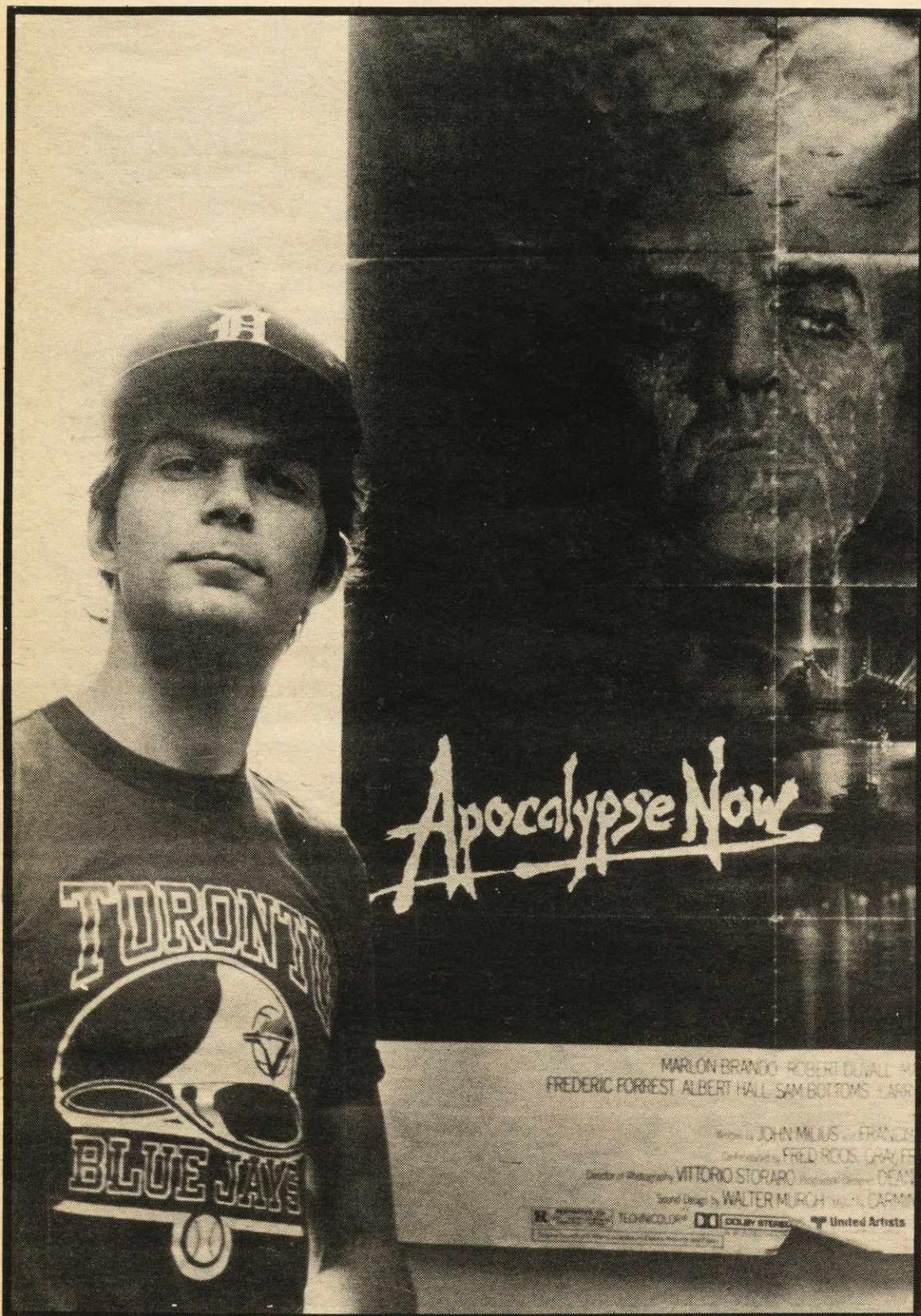


Photo: Mary Sykes, Dal Photo

## Gigeroff still silly after dull summer

By MARY ELLEN JONES

The most amazing thing about this summer says Dalhousie Student Union president Alex Gigeroff is that "I haven't been impeached yet."

A number of serious issues face the Dalhousie council in the coming term, but when dealing with the student press Gigeroff prefers to continue the running gag he began in his campaign for office.

Detailing "drastic changes" for this year's council Gigeroff says, "I would like to see everyone wearing bunny suits. I was also thinking about filling the garden cafeteria

with water and scuba diving in it every Friday."

"Orientation this year is going to be the dawn of time," promises Gigeroff. "I have left it up to the imagination of the participants involved."

Gigeroff is excited about the prospects for this year's council, referring to the new councillors as "an excellent bunch, eager and keen."

Most of what they accomplished this summer, says Gigeroff, was establishing priorities for the fall and learning the ropes of their jobs.

"Council met once a month this summer but nothing happened at these meetings because you don't

want to bring things up with only a few council members there," says Gigeroff.

Gigeroff's priorities for this year include keeping tuition fees at their present level, revamping the DSU constitution and establishing an academic planning process and course evaluations.

The last team to succeed in the DSU elections on a joke ticket were the Logan brothers in 1981/82. The Logans went on to become one of the most remembered and most effective councils in recent DSU history. Whether Gigeroff and vice-president Rusty James will live up to the record of the Logans remains to be seen.

## Students hit in housing crunch

By SAMANTHA BRENNAN

After spending three days in a noisy, dirty rooming house while looking for a place to stay, Larry Beaudet is frustrated with the housing situation in Halifax.

"I woke up in the morning to find the police in the building with a warrant for the arrest of another tenant," says Beaudet. "What woke me up was another neighbour who tried to intervene who was also arrested for obstructing arrest. It's too wild for me, I can't study there."

Beaudet moved to Halifax from Victoria and says he has never encountered this kind of housing shortage.

Statistics confirm his frustration. In April of this year, the vacancy rate for apartments in the south end of Halifax was .5 per cent.

"The situation is made worse every fall by the influx of students looking for apartments within walking distance of campus for a reasonable rent," says the manager of university services, John Graham.

Fenwick Towers, a university-owned apartment building, was full by April. Ruth Rollins, head of

Fenwick accommodations, says they are no longer putting names on a waiting list. As well, both Howe Hall and Shirreff Hall were full by late spring.

Like many other students, Beaudet came to Dalhousie expecting to find an apartment both quickly and cheaply.

"The only indication I had that things would be this bad was in the student union literature," says Beaudet. "But I thought they always gave those standard warnings."

He says people in Victoria thought rent would be cheaper here because of the Atlantic's reputation as a depressed region.

"In reality the rent here is about the same," Beaudet says.

The Statistics Canada census for 1981 shows the average rent in Halifax was \$335/month, \$30 more than the national average.

Beaudet is paying \$80 a week for his room in a boarding house and says he won't be able to stay there once classes begin because of the noise.

But the 20 or more students crowding Dalhousie's housing office at nine Tuesday morning may come to envy Beaudet and his room despite the noise, the smell and the arrests.

## Faculty strike action?

By WENDY COOMBER

What would you do if your professors walked out on strike next month?

Dr. Tom Sinclair-Faulkner says we should start thinking about it the professors are. Sinclair-Faulkner is a Co-convenor for the Campus Support Committee, a type of information arm for the Dalhousie Faculty Association negotiating team.

The DFA and the Board of Governors are involved in contract negotiations again. Talks began in April, two months before the present contract expired.

According to Sinclair-Faulkner, the DFA is asking for a wage increase equal to the cost of living increase, plus three per cent; a better scheme for financial restraint so the university doesn't go bankrupt; a better way to handle grievances (right now this is a slow and expensive process); and the end to a proposal which would allow department deans to keep an intimate eye on their faculty members, to know everything they do, seven days a week.

Sinclair-Faulkner says the Board of Governors has proposed a zero per cent increase in the cost of living for the next two years, but has

offered a Career Development Increase plus up to \$1000 per year on top of that.

In a meeting with the Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) executive last week, Sinclair-Faulkner stressed the need to think about the effects of a faculty strike on students. Although no one wants the strike to occur, he said, students should prepare for the worst.

Alex Gigeroff, DSU president, thinks there are many ways in which a strike can function and not devastate the school year. Work to rule (no extra work), partial strikes, information pickets are a few ideas being tossed around. And, in the event of a strike, legal action in the form of suing the Board of Governors for breach of contract in not supplying students with teachers.

Gigeroff has written to the DFA and the Board asking to meet with their negotiators to discuss the options and the effects on students.

"It is important for us to be kept aware of the status of negotiations," he said, adding his council has already met with a DFA representative (Sinclair-Faulkner) and they expect to meet with the Board's representative next week.

"We want to see the issue resolved in a way favourable to both parties," said Gigeroff, "but primarily to the students."