

the Dalhousie Gazette

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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.

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.

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

Editorial

Hand me my abacus

It's amazing what you can do with figures.

The federal government says it is going to pump \$170 million into job creation programs for 70,000 positions and 328,000 job placements through Canada Employment Centres for Students.

The \$170 million figure is reduced somewhat, when the reserve amount of \$21.1 million, as itemized in a Government of Canada Employment and Immigration Release dated February 24, 1983 has been deducted.

Another \$10 million can be cut, and 12,800 of the jobs because they've been reserved for students in the Department of National Defense Cadet and Reserve Training Programs. Student jobs, yes, but part of an established program where summer employment is part of the entire training. It's a little bit of double counting.

Take off the 328,000 job placements because the government does not create these positions and the \$15.7 million to administrate the job placement offices and we have \$123.2 million for 57,200 jobs. But wait, another \$15 million will be used to create public and private internship programs for 6250 students. Let's see now, that's \$108.2 million for 50,900 jobs.

These jobs will be created through federal subsidies for minimum wage salaries and employer overhead costs. That's really small comfort to a student who, as a Statscan particle, represents 25 per cent of the work force, but 44 per cent of the unemployed.

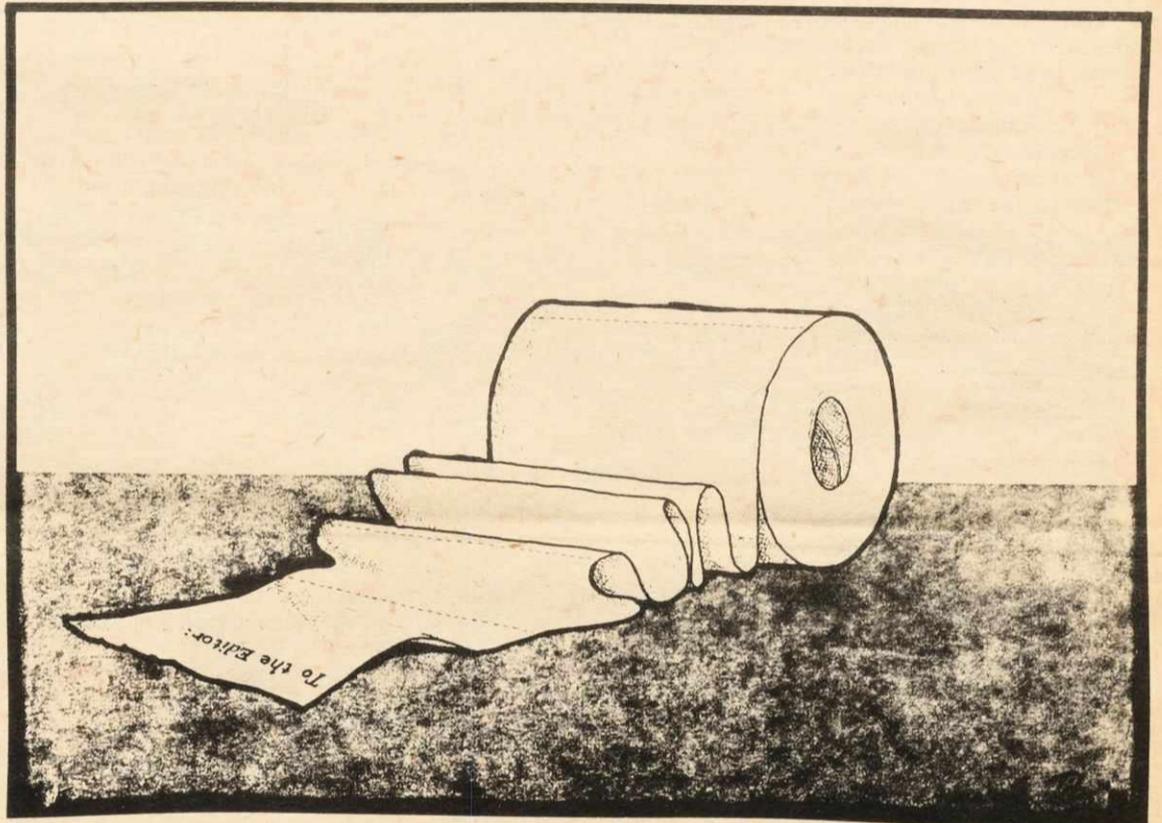
The Anisef study, compiled for the Ontario Ministry of Education, found the main source of funds for students returning to school was summer employment. With today's skyrocketing tuition and living costs, and decreasing accessibility to student aid, one wonders how students are supposed to remain students.

Back to the 328,000 job placement figure. That doesn't mean jobs - it may mean anything from a full-time summer job to four hours of digging ditches one afternoon, an altogether unreliable source of income. Again, one must look to double-counting for all the people who get one-week job placements at intervals over the summer.

There is job creation and a facility to connect jobs with employees, but it is not enough. The unemployed student can't go back to school, and instead joins the ranks of the unemployed in the fall when they are unable to return to university. Disparity where only the rich are educated is perpetuated, so keeping higher paid positions and widening the gap between rich and poor.

Whatever happened to "education for the masses"?

It's an educated trick for the government to double-count and overlook, fudge and smudge the figures a teensy bit. Wish I could do it with my marks. **C.R.**



Your letters are sacred

This close to the end of the publishing year (next week we kick off) it's safe to say we have all necessary data to analyze the Gazette over the year. But I'd much rather analyze *you* - at least the humans who write in to our illustrious Letters and Commentary sections.

Over this past year, we've probably had more letters and commentaries than any other year. Most of them have been private/public battles continuing for more than a few weeks. We've had the Anti-imperialists versus the militarists, the anti-porn people versus the pro-porn people versus the anti-censorship people, the Palestinian question, the anti- vs. pro-nukes, and other such time-consuming issues.

Don't get me wrong, though. We need to be an open vehicle for Dalhousie people to voice their opinions. To me, that means *all* opinions. We'll print any letter or commentary that comes into the Gazette offices, and we'll only edit for libel reasons - not because we disagree with what is said or think the writer is ye olde complete wingnut (which happens from time to time).

Because of this, we've had a few letters angry at us for printing certain letters and/or commentaries, at times even accusing us of being responsible for creating the letters.

The Gazette doesn't ask anyone to write letters and neither do we see ourselves ever carefully screening letters for release to an innocent public. If people want a Chronicle-Herald-style policy of massacring letters, if they print them at all, the Gazette isn't to be that vehicle. Once or twice we've been guilty of a smart-ass headline placed on a letter, but then again, when letters sometimes seem produced on some mystery planet with ether atmosphere, it's hard to resist.

As for our policy on letters, it's not likely to change next year. And that's good. **K.B.**

Gazette Publishing Board Meeting Monday - 7:30 - whenever it ends