

Letters



Welcome should be saluted

To the editors,

It's been said that . . . "most people have some good in them, sometimes you just have to look harder to find it." I'm glad and grateful this isn't the case with the Dal student body.

However tumultuous the first week has been, everyone seems to either be helped or giving help, graciously and quickly.

As a freshman I find it enlightening that so much good, and so many friendly, helpful people can be found in one place.

I'd suggest a *Gazette* salute to the Student Council, senior students and staff who've worked so hard and done such a good job at not only helping, but also at creating an atmosphere of true camaraderie.

If there ever was an embodiment of people helping people, Dal students and staff are that embodiment—at least in spirit.

—Julia Hurstinen

Correspondence wanted

To the editors,

My name is Martin Burdon. I am 23 yrs old. I hope to gain a place at one of our Universities or Polytechnics and study a law degree.

I have much to tell and would like to share it with a correspondent from the Dal Law School.

Yours sincerely,
Martin Burdon
9 Aubion Terrace
Burnley
Lancs. BB116QE
England

Change in Deadline

All PSAs's for the calendar section must be submitted on the Friday before the next issue.

Erratum

In the Sept. 6 issue, Donahoe declines SUNS challenge, the article should have said \$100 dollars more than last year—instead of \$1000 dollars.

GRAFFITI

The language of hate

By CHRIS WONG

Inside the walls of the University of British Columbia's majestic library, a wealth of knowledge and wisdom awaits students. Cornerstones of a university, such as the works of Aristotle, Einstein and Shakespeare, sit available for inspection in this stately building. But nearby these classics, some anonymous writers display their craft. Their work is neither on the bookshelves nor listed in the card catalogue or microfiche. Instead, these writers choose a private but much more frequented spot to scrawl their views.

Three stalls in the men's washroom near the library's fine arts division are the main medium of communications for these unknown authors. Their writings in ink, pencil, felt, and paint carry disturbing messages that rely on violence, sexual degradation and stereotypes as their motive forces.

"Kick a Paki in his balls—it's a great feeling."

"Why can't you Chinks admit you are bad drivers?"

"Good, now that you have settled down a bit, get the fuck out of our country."

"All racists should be shot, pissed on, and then boiled until there is nothing left but a gross-looking stew . . ."

One writer counters: "All racists should be shot, pissed on, and then boiled until there is nothing left but a gross-looking stew that should be dumped into an active volcano."

This is the language of hate, says Don Dutton, a UBC social psychology professor.

A quick glance at the walls of bathrooms and any other buildings covered with graffiti on Canadian campuses reveals the language of hate is spreading.

In 1982, there was a rash of anti-semitic graffiti at the universities of Ottawa and Manitoba. At McGill University in October, 1982 the campus and surrounding neighborhood was also covered in anti-semitic slurs.

Dutton says graffiti writers are usually young males, between the ages of 18 and 25, frustrated about work prospects and feeling inadequate. Choosing a bathroom stall as a place to express such feelings also shows they are frightened, he says.

"People who scrawl graffiti are angry and scared," says Dutton. "They're basically gutless. Maybe if they had more courage, they wouldn't have so much anger."



JANSON
GAZETTE

This type of graffiti can be dismissed, he says, adding other more vicious attacks evoke violent images, disturbing and angering him.

One of the other Chinese students says he does not react angrily to graffiti. "I don't even take it personally. I take it as part of human nature. Racism is a dark side of every individual.

"There's nothing tasteful about any graffiti," he continues. "But it does reflect the attitudes of at least a minority on campus. All it shows is just the majority group trying to hold on as long as they can."

He grew up in Richmond, an outlying Vancouver suburb, where

racism was a daily problem. While he remains indifferent to racism on campus, as a youth he would react violently to personal attacks. "On a personal level that was the only solution."

Nancy says youth must be educated to understand and appreciate all cultures. Dutton agrees, saying current education methods about racism are too intellectual and conceptual in nature. "We're not reaching people emotionally in the education system." High school workshops showing students the alienation and hurt resulting from racism could be one method of education, adds Dutton.

On the university level, Dutton

says there is some truth to the graffiti that reads: "Ten years ago, this form of racist bigotry would have never appeared on any campus wall."

Dutton says students were more politically aware ten years ago. "UBC has always been conservative, but back then, there was more of a left Liberal stance."

But students today are more right-wing, says Dutton, and the walls of the ivory tower are marred by their fear and hatred.

Reprinted from the *Ulyssey* by Canadian University Press