

EDITORIAL

Make a difference

Last week as if was playing pool I overheard snippets of a conversation at the next table. Try as I might to stay out of other people's business I couldn't miss the phrase "It's only student politics." This seemed to me a fundamental breach of logic, seeing as the mouth from which it came belonged to someone who was only a student.

As I examine the disdain apparent in the speaker's voice, two sources come to mind: politics in general, and student politics specifically.

Politics itself, ignoring the dictionary definition, can be thought of as the force of public opinion. Every time more than one person is involved in a situation something political happens. Someone is always trying to gauge what other people will think. Saying you're not interested in politics is like saying you're not interested in life. It may be true, but if it is don't be surprised if people walk all over you.

Saying you're not interested in politics is like saying you're not interested in life

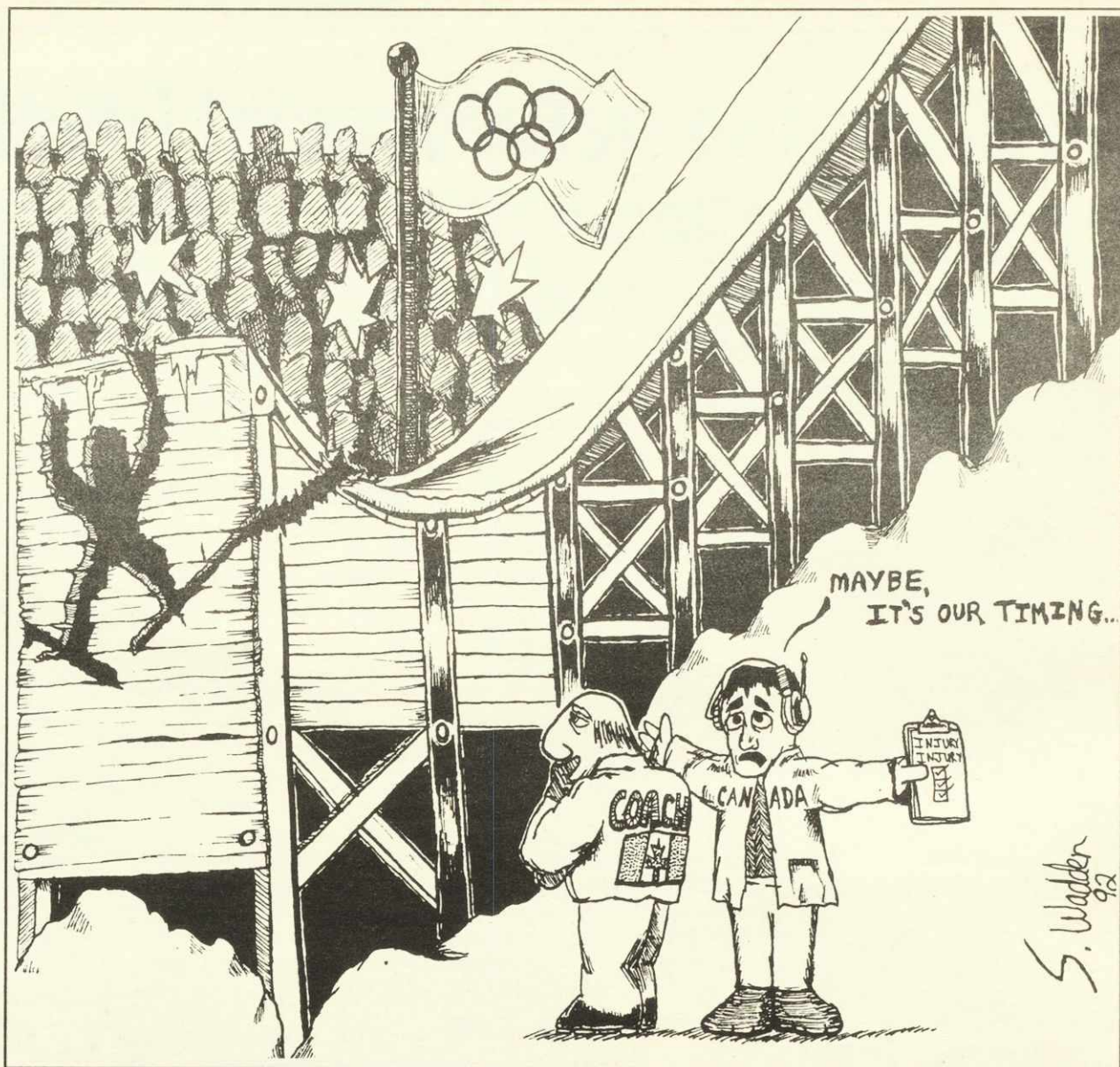
So, we've established that it is advantageous to take an interest in the way your life is run. Most people are only at a university for three or four years why bother with student politics?

The average length of employment at any given job is about two years. Over the next few years you'll be lucky if you can find an apartment you want to stay in for more than two years. The only thing constant in the universe is change. If you wait to get settled you'll be dead before you make a single bit of difference.

Students' Union elections are fast approaching and I find it difficult to believe that only 15 per cent of Dalhousie will care enough to even put a check mark on a piece of paper, let alone educate themselves about the candidates and the issues. Historically though, that's what has happened.

The present state of Dalhousie — the fact that the Administration doesn't even consider the students' opinions when making decisions — is proof that if you tell yourself you don't make a difference for long enough, sooner or later you won't.

Jerry West



LETTERS The Dalhousie Gazette welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should not exceed 300 words in length and should be typed and double-spaced. The deadline for letters is Friday noon before publication. Letters may be submitted on Mac or IBM-compatible 3.5" disk.

No money for bike racks

To the editors:

I read with amazement CEAG's response to my recent letter on bicycle parking. Of course I recognise the link to which they refer. However, I reject the notion that a lack of bicycle parking justifies impeding the passage of wheelchairs, blocking doorways, wrecking trees, etc. Would CEAG disagree?

Contrary to CEAG's assertion, Dalhousie has not increased car-parking areas in the recent past. However, within the past twelve months, we provided parking for an additional 70 - 80 bicycles. CEAG also laments the lack of safe bicycle parking but, in fact, each of our recently installed rack locations was carefully chosen with safety uppermost in mind.

As one who frequently commutes to Dalhousie by bicycle, I fully recognise the need for more bicycle parking. However, bicycle racks cost money, and, so far, I have not detected enthusiasm on the part of cyclists to pay for them. Thus, the necessary funds have had

to be found entirely within my own increasingly strained budget. Despite this, we are hoping to be able to install several more racks this coming fiscal year.

In conclusion, I find it sadly ironic that the provision of significant additional bicycle parking last year received no word of appreciation from CEAG, while my drawing attention to the problems caused by thoughtlessness on the part of some cyclists results in an outpouring of self-righteous indignation.

W. H. Lord
Director, Physical Plant and Planning

Please do

To the editors:

This is partly in response to Darren Costain's letter of January 30, but also in anticipation of the multitude of letters that will no doubt flood your office following the publication of this week's Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Supplement.

There has already been a lovely analysis done of the ratio of gay Dal students to

the amount of The Gazette space occupied by that most witty comic (Bill Coles, February 6) so there is no need for me to comment again on the ludicrousness of Mr. Costain's claim that the Gazette is promoting lesbianism.

I wish to point out to Mr. Costain and the numerous other small-minded, ignorant individuals whose opinions are already well-known, even before they write to the Gazette next week, that such blatant homophobia is often a sign of latent homosexuality (remember the Roman Catholic priests?).

Furthermore, rest assured that those of us fags and dykes who watch such debates taking place in the pages of The Gazette and elsewhere are quickly becoming immune to these bits of homophobia (I mean, face it, being gay is great and no one can convince me otherwise). Some of us even laugh in delight at the predictability of your heterosexist outrage. You teach us nothing new.

We, however, will teach you all something new this week with our lovely supplement: we are proud of who

we, are and we have the right to delight in our alternative lifestyles in the pages of The Gazette. You may as well get used to it. But go ahead, homophobes, keep contacting The Gazette; I'm sure they would be happy to do an "Insecure Heterosexuals" Supplement for you.

B. Bunting

Write to the Gazette.

300 words maximum.

Typed double-spaced, if you please. Or computer disk (we use those things too.)

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announcements is noon on Friday before publication (Thursday of each week). Submissions may be left at the SUB Enquiry Desk c/o The Gazette. Commentary should not exceed 500 words. Letters should not exceed 300 words. No unsigned material will be accepted, but anonymity may be granted upon request. Advertising copy deadline is noon Monday

before publication. The Gazette offices are located on the third floor of the SUB. Come up and have a coffee and tell us what's going on. The views expressed in The Gazette are not necessarily those of the Students' Union, the editors or the collective staff.