

Comment

Comment is an opinion column open to members of the university community who wish to present an informed opinion on a topic of their selection.

Smoking at Dalhousie

by Eric Hominick

Most people do not seem to realize the irritation and discomfort which the smoke from a lit cigarette can cause for a non-smoker in any enclosed area, and especially in the classroom (not to mention a cigar or pipe). It also offends the person trying to quit the habit.

Casting aside the health arguments, lest I sound like a broken record ("Smoking is bad for your health, smoking is bad for your health, smoking is..."), it is ironic that the right to practise a bad habit has been permitted to override, in the majority of cases, the right for people at large to inhale

clean, fresh air, a logical and natural liberty and a decidedly good habit. What about our right to breathe comfortably? It seems that to satisfy the desires of some to fill their throats and lungs with smoke, the rest of us must suffer. And let's face it—the rest of us are by and large a gutless lot. "Do you mind if I smoke?" "No, go right ahead" (cough), is now routine - in fact, many people do not even bother to ask nowadays. More signs of increasing libertinism.

The recent ban on smoking in the classrooms is a good thing. The habit should remain an extra-curricular activity. Permission

should never have been granted to students or professors to light up while in class. The hallowed halls of learning, sad to say, have ceased to be disciplinary environments.

Try standing over a campfire and inhaling all of that fragrant aromatic woodsmoke. Smell good, eh? Got you coughing and hacking, though, I bet. It is simply smoking on a larger scale (with an understandable decrease in life expectancy). That is somewhat akin to how a non-smoker feels when his olfactory organ is graced by the presence of another's smoke.

Ever say, "Yes, I do mind"?
Gutless!

Observe the music centres at Dalhousie. In the Cohn there are "No Smoking" signs in the classrooms. Not always do people pay attention to them. Hey profs! How about enforcing the rules—it also might not hurt to set the example, too. In the Music Resources Centre, there was a smoking survey on which well over half of the signatures favour no smoking at all at the turntables. Almost all of the signatures call for "separate turntable sections for smokers and non-smokers". The big disadvantages presented to a music student, who generally has to rely on his good breathing to perform at any presentable standard, are obvious, when he/she must breathe in smoke in the classroom and in the

listening area at the M.R.C. I myself have been present at Music Festivals where the adjudicator for a class of voice students has puffed on a pipe. Any music student will sympathize with this.

Also, in the M.R.C. are located many pieces of sensitive equipment—turntables, amplifiers, reel-to-reel tape consoles, and a couple of electronic pianos. Many times, I have observed ashes scattered over the equipment. There is usually a liberal sprinkling of cigarette ashes on the machines, through carelessness, and even on the signs stressing care for the equipment, which "is used heavily and will last longer if used carefully by each person". The Centre is also a rather confining place in which to play records, and cigarette smoke travels fast. The place is often crowded—need I say more? (Graham Kerr once remarked on television: "I wonder what the speed of smell is".)

Another place where smoke and ashes are noticeably irritating is the dining hall in residence. Last year the Food Manager at Howe Hall graciously posted a notice requesting no smoking in line-up, at the request of students. How about this year?

My support goes to the smoking ban. How about yours? Non-smokers, defend your rights! Gutsy up! Learn to say, "Yes, I mind". Fill your lungs with clean air!

Smokers, fill your lungs, too! Then try the campfire; then you'll discover how we feel. Have some consideration.

As for Those In Charge, I have but one thing to say: It is useless to make rules unless you are prepared to enforce them.

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reactor, thereby threatening the safety of residents of Hubbards. (The residents of Halifax and Dartmouth wouldn't be in a position to worry).

Lastly, for those of us who read spy stories, the threat always exists that some nut or group of nuts may successfully steal the ingredients for a little bomb from the reactor's waste bin and with it, blow up some other group of nuts somewhere else in the world (in Sydney, for example) with whom they are disputing. The threat of actual governments sending reconnaissance agents to steal the goods is very unlikely, as the Canadian government is scrupulously willing to supply **anyone** with a reactor if they but request one (and pay a small delivery charge).

So you see Ms. Moulton, although the reactor may be safer for Dr. Stuart and yourself, it is not really safe for the rest of Halifax, or in fact, the world at large.

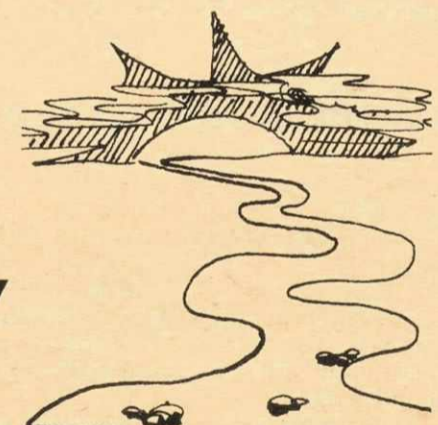
I suggest you stick to writing poetry, for although it is often incomprehensible, it at least is not misleading. I also refer you to the movie, "Frank Lovejoy's Private War", and Susan Holtzman at the Ecology Action Centre for pertinent facts.

Sincerely,
Eric Kranz

former residents of Sherriff Hall) we are aware of the fact that rooms in Sherriff Hall are now being primarily reserved for younger students. Having had our extremely expensive share of the advantages of residence life, we believe that this policy is only fair, but we can see no basis for Miss Beach's comment that students are turning down available residence accommodation. We feel that it is rather difficult to "turn down" what is not being offered.

May we suggest that in future, rather than criticizing the desire of students to leave residence, the commission should concern itself with making public just what is available to the student, who too often is treated as a second class citizen.

Bonnie Dickson
Ruth Harvey



One day,
We will walk more slowly,
Youth's vigorous speed lost,
For a more gentle pace,
And the lines of life,
Will hang on our thin brows,
Like as wrinkled parchment
For the students of life's
Lessons in pain and passion,
Learning important secrets,
With a guiding pair of hands
And not grand texts.

One day,
In the dust of our year
The young will call us both,
The wise one and senile fools,
Men to be listened to
And heed their learned words
Fools who sputter gibberish,
To entertain those in bars.
Will they love and respect,
Maybe just tolerate the old,
Or worse remove the PROBLEM.
5 / 6 / 76 Roydon Wy Akerley

Haiku snow

by Trish Aikens

The unexpected
stranger falls during the night.
Now the ground is white.

Needs publicity

To the Gazette:
Re: Off Campus Housing

The information supplied in Miss Barbara Beach's letter of September 30th was indeed a revelation. In our attempt this July to find reasonable living accommodations for the coming year, we decided to begin by consulting the Student Union Housing Commission. To say that our interview was discouraging would certainly be an understatement. We were told bluntly not to expect to find living facilities within the city unless we were willing to live in a slum, or an apartment totally beyond our financial means. No mention was made of rooms to be had in the Glengarry Apartments, Lord Nelson, St. Mary's or any of the places mentioned in Miss Beach's letter, much less their cost or location. Our statement that we would prefer something under \$125/month per person met with ridicule rather than sympathy. It was then we were advised to seek shelter in a low rental apartment building on the outskirts of the city (low rental being 215 dollars/month, not considering power plus the added expense of transportation). We accepted this advice and are now experiencing the difficulties of commuting to a university over three miles away.

As fourth year students (and

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