

Dal suffers from parking madness...

Admin not green enough

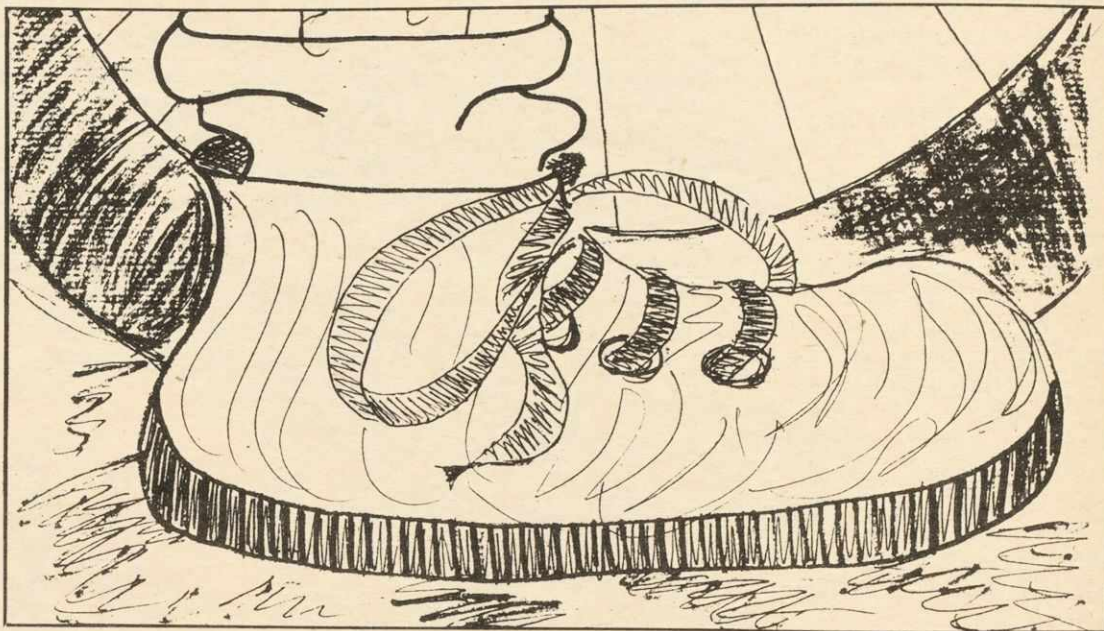
Dalhousie university administration employed an anonymous information service last week to conduct a student opinion poll regarding on-campus parking. I was stopped and questioned for five minutes on Thursday by a young woman who was interested in where I wanted to leave my car while I attended class. Questions were worded in an entrapping fashion that was looking for pre-programmed answers.

This is not the U. of Disney World. Student parking is a privilege, not a right. The administration is planning a massive tuition hike, they are looking to cut curriculums anywhere they can, libraries are crowded and understocked, important courses just aren't being offered and the burning issue on the table is... parking?

The pollster was pleasant; she told me they planned to conduct a week long survey. However, one question on the survey was totally unreasonable. The question was: when you used the facilities, would you prefer to pay an hourly rate of one dollar, or a monthly price of fifty dollars. There was a distinct parallel between this survey and a

manipulative Napoleonic referendum that offered the French higher taxes, poorer wages and a free election, or lower taxes, better wages and Napoleon as president for life. Either way, when anyone answers this question, they are forced to support the idea of a new parking facility. Dalhousie can now publish a poll that says 100 per cent of students asked are in favour of the proposed construction, the only debate is how they'll pay for it. While 0 per cent were asked for their genuine opinion.

In an age when the emphasis should be on viable environmental alternatives to driving such as riding a bike, walking or public transportation, the university is supporting a lame duck. Have the student populous lived in fat city so long that they have forgotten what the feet are for (other than the accelerator and the clutch)? If tuition fees get any higher, will you be able to afford the car payments and Kraft dinner too? Why aren't there any promotions designed to get students on the bus? We can't all be as sloth-like as the surveyors' presence implies. Halifax is situ-



Alternative modes of transportation

ated on a peninsula where very few places are beyond a fifteen minute walk.

It is important to note that there are a large number of students living off the peninsula who may find public transportation unacceptable. Do you think, however, that many of these people have missed a class simply for the lack of a parking

spot? Nietz, no, not a chance. Many seem to have been living the life of Riley for too long; if you have to walk three blocks from a parking spot you might get rained on or slush in your new sneakers... well, bring an umbrella, wear your boots. The idea that we are going to pander to a sneaky survey is ridiculous. Pressure should be brought

to bear on the administration to bring their plans into the open. Issues such as security problems in dark, underground facilities, athletic's locations while this behemoth is under construction and cost (!!!) should be discussed in a public forum, not in the back-rooms of survey companies.

Chris Lambie

Fee Hikes

Dear editor:

As an international student, I must express my absolute disgust at the proposed tuition fee increases. International students are already victims of a differential fee policy, which was introduced and implemented by the provincial government in 1979.

The differential fee policy results in foreign students paying approximately double the tuition fees paid by Canadian students. The rationale given for such a blatantly unfair policy is that since foreign students nor their parents finance post-secondary education through the payment of taxes, it was reasonable that foreign students should bear an increased proportion of the costs for their education.

Even if we accept this rationale, does the fact that we do not pay taxes justify having to pay twice as much for the same education? In minutes of the Student Union of Nova Scotia's July conference on International Student concerns, there is an interesting statistic on page 7 which states, "There are no strong economic reasons to continue differential fees. In 1984 the real cost educating foreign students was almost \$14 million for the Maritimes. These students spent about \$21 million on tuition, local

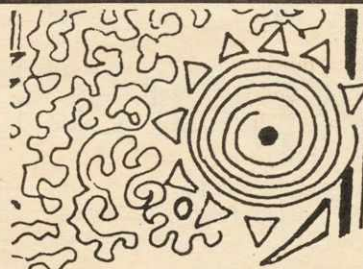
travel, entertainment, household and personal items and services, clothes, books, school supplies and food. The total amount the taxpayers paid to educate these students was \$7 million".

It should be clear from these statistics that foreign students bring in to the Nova Scotian economy considerable amounts of funds which are spent on real services. It is unjust and simply unfair for the government to continue to ask us to pay this outrageous fee.

Foreign students are a benefit to Dalhousie and to Nova Scotia. Having a balanced education requires that a person is exposed to people of different cultures and backgrounds. Such interaction provides an opportunity to learn from the other and grow as a person.

It is my opinion that Dalhousie will be much less of a university if it does not address the whole issue of differential fees. In 1984-85 eight per cent of the student body was comprised of students from outside Canada. That percentage has declined steadily over the years. The increased tuition fees on top of the differential fees means that many foreign students may find that the cost of a Dalhousie education is too much. It is unfair to limit the opportunities to the children of wealthy foreign families only. Education after all is a right not a privilege.

John Burchall



Stop Lecturing

Dear editor:

Joe made three points in his complaint about the Take Back the Night march in the October 4 issue. 1. That he was forced out of the Green Room; 2. That he had difficulty doing his job and; 3. That he is confused.

As I recall, he was forced out. Women spoke to him. When conversation failed they stood sufficiently close to make him want to leave. This he later described as being "pushed" out of the room.

Joe is night manager of the Student Union. Once he was refused entry to the Green Room he had the presence of mind to delegate that area of responsibility to a female security employee. He was not denied management of the situation. The task was successfully completed. Difficulty arose because he contradicted the logic of the situation, not because there was anything difficult within the situation.

As for being "confused and annoyed", I suggest "It's hard to un-

derstand people who won't even talk to you" because you are not listening. Joe claims men should be "forced to attend" such gatherings because this is the only way they will "hear how it feels to live in fear". Evidently hearing is not enough. Joe heard women say Take Back the Night is designed to provide women a respite from the fear that male presence recalls or invokes in women, yet he complains about being excluded.

There is nothing "perverse", as Joe put it, about men being excluded from a women's event. Certainly some women and men are and must continue to be allies against oppression of all kinds. This does not mean that women's every action must be designed to educate men. Take Back the Night is not the time for women and men to struggle. It is a time for women to celebrate and commemorate each other. Just as a funeral is not the occasion for lectures on preventive health-care, Take Back the Night is not an occasion for men to lecture women on human behaviour, neither during, nor after, the event.

Andrea McIntyre

Top Ten

Dear editor:

Well, it's official now. The 25 per cent fee increase has been implemented at Dalhousie. There's one question that's on everyone's mind now. No, it's not, "Will this affect the price of beer?", it's,

"Where is the money going?" Is it going straight into our government's pocket? Is it going into other projects? (For example, the proposed roller coaster at SMU.) Well, in a Gazette article, it said that most of the money is going back into Dal. How, you may ask? Well, we have here The Top Ten Things The Fee Hike Will Be Spent On At Dal:

10. Weekly sabbaticals for exhausted professors.
9. Pay increases for the programming assistants at the computer centre in the Killam basement, the hardest working and most underrated people at Dal!
8. Maps for the subterranean passageways of the Life Sciences Building.
7. A sun roof on top of the A&A. (Admission: \$3.50)
6. A new transmitter for CKDU 97.5 FM, so that we all can get better reception. (Remember, if it's not CKDU, it's just not radio!)
5. Two words: more scaffolding.
4. A lawn-dart range between the A&A and the Life Sciences Building.
3. Handi-wipes in all the bathrooms. (Right next to the condom machines.)
2. A new parking garage under Studley Field.
- And the number one thing the fee hike will be spent on at Dal:
1. A brand new Acura for Brian Mulroney.

Craig Falkenham

