

Altruism while Dalhousie burns

The recent trend toward non-smoking has been tremendous. From airline flights to restaurants to buses the "No Smoking" sign is ever watchful, lurking even in the traditional haven for smokers, the washroom. Only last week in the Philippines smokers faced up to ten days in jail for violating the newly enacted non-smoking ban in public buildings. In North America, any anti-smoking legislation meets with smokers sputtering about the blatant disregard for their rights, an argument quickly countered with non-smokers sputtering about their rights.

In the midst of this controversy Dalhousie has decided to act decisively. A new program initiated by the Lung Association will soon be implemented, clearing

the way for a smoke-free campus. For fifty dollars the "Countdown Program" will convert smokers into non-smokers. However, even better, Dalhousie in its magnanimity is willing to pay half of the fee — \$25 to entice all of its employees to become converts. This program was supposed to be ratified in February, but the proposal is still on President Clark's desk, where it is expected to be implemented within the next few months.

Let's hope this program will be stopped before it's begun.

The entire program is ludicrous for Dalhousie at this time. With the DSU elections where issues such as tuition hikes, athletic fee hikes, and program cuts predominated; with the strike of November; with the focus on University underfund-

ing in provincial and national newspapers — the message comes across clearly enough: Dal has NO MONEY. And yet now this new program is being initiated. I attempted to discover where the funding for the Countdown Program would come from, but none I talked to seemed to know.

Undoubtedly the Lung Association has a fine program but it is certainly not what Dalhousie needs to focus on now. Whether its employees smoke or not is the least of Dalhousie's worries, or it should be. Certainly the Countdown Program is worthwhile. However it is not the worth of the Countdown Program I am questioning; it is Dalhousie's priorities in enacting it now.

Jessica Meijer

Appalled

To the Editors:

I am writing this letter to express my disbelief in the attitude presented by an article in your newspaper.

The date of the paper is Thursday March 2, 1989. It is on page three and it titled "CARAL: no law no good". In this article there is a cartoon with six fat, bald men depicted on it. The caption beneath it says, "Well if I were pregnant I certainly wouldn't have an abortion."

The cartoon supporting this article suggests that those who oppose abortion are fat, bald men and as a result no respect for their opinion should be given. This, you understand, is coming from representatives of the feminist movement who have always upheld the notion of equality. Ask me now, how much respect I have for these people. It has nothing to do with their physical appearance, or with their sex but with the ugliness of their hypocrisy.

The substance of the article contested that women should have access to abortions that are legal, medically safe and insured. This is the ideal, so the article says. But as soon as you say the word insured, you bring all Canadians into this issue. Pro-choice supporters have always said that

abortion is a matter that concerns only the woman and her doctor. If this is true, then why get those who believe that abortion is murder to pay for it. You have no right.

In conclusion, I can only say that I am appalled at the attitudes of abortionists. Their blatant disregard for human life is a scar on the face of feminism.

Steven W. Ballem

Wake up

To the Editors:

In response to last week's letter from Heather Logan complaining about the Gazette:

Wake up and smell the coffee is a tired, worn out and dead phrase — perhaps roses would have been more appropriate? It is the wonderful smell of roses (ah, so poetic) that I encounter with my fresh copy of the Gazette each week. To go further and indulge deeply and yet so profoundly into symbolism, I will admit that every rose has its thorn.

The Gazette has clearly stated — according to my grasp of the English language — that they need people to write, edit, research and do general shit like that. Why don't a few of you commerce students get off your asses and pick up the literary pen.

It seems to me that the only people who do care about a student paper are ones with concerns about racism, sexuality, equality,

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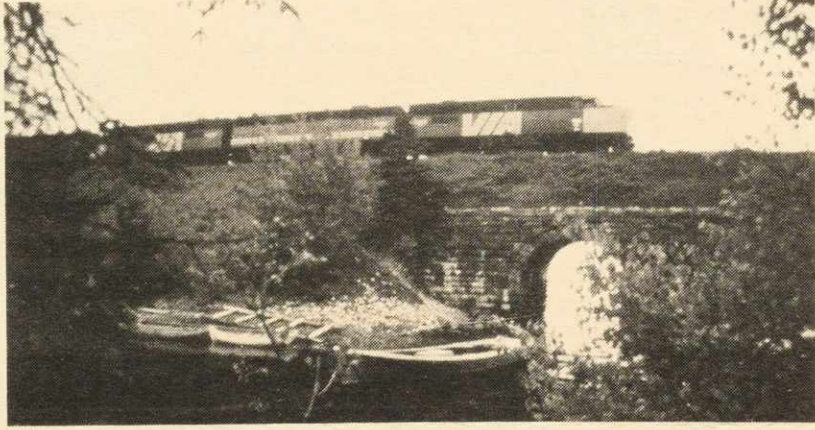
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