

Take a break

How ironic that my first editorial addresses procrastination.

I mean, here it is, well past the almighty deadline, and I'm finally settling down to spring forth great thoughts and all I can come up with is a friend's recommendation that I talk about procrastination. But don't be alarmed, this blatant lack of preparation will in no way reflect on next year's paper. It's our goal to keep turning out a fine product and hopefully, to improve upon it.

For starters, we hope to finish it on time.

But let me introduce myself. I'm Sam and I'll be your copy editor next year. I'm taking over from my mentor (mentress?), Lilli Ju. Lilli may or may not be moving up the SUB food chain to become next year's DSU Executive VP (depending on whether or not our votes will eventually count). With me at the helm of next year's *Gazette* crew is Jen Horsey. She's the new managing editor, taking over for the incorrigible Judy Reid. Good luck to you Jen; hopefully we won't cause any permanent damage to this paper, the university, or the soon-to-be-supercity of Halifax.

Already I digress. Back to procrastination (how often have you heard that?).

Actually, I think that procrastination isn't a bad editorial subject, considering the time of year. Final essays, projects, and exam preparation are all on the go. What better time to talk about something and do nothing? By reading this right now, you're undergoing some mind-numbing entertainment (or drivel, I suppose) instead of blossoming, as all Dalhousie students do (sorry, I was temporarily happy into the happy, smiley days of the *Dalhouse News*).

Isn't it great that anything, absolutely anything, is more appealing than buckling down at the library for a weekend from hell? I'm taking a calculated risk here that I'm not the only one at Dal that sometimes leaves the odd assignment to the last minute. Television, newspapers, parties, people, walks, talks, and pavement are a few of the more interesting things that spring to mind when I'm contemplating an essay.

I know I'm not the only one in the Dalhousie Procrastination Club (biggest society at Dal, according to an independent procrastinometer because I was at the Grawood on Tuesday night and it was busy. Of those 150 people swilling ales, you're going to tell me that all work was completed, all classes were prepared for, and the next morning would see all of those moshing bodies sitting quietly in their 8:30 tutorial? I don't buy that. In fact, if you believe that the Grawood was full of the next generation of doctors and lawyers, I've got an election for you to vote in.

Anyway, I'm not saying procrastination is bad. Not at all. It's relaxation, a chance to bond with friends, to catch up on the outside world, see some sights, think some thoughts, and basically, give the grey matter a rest. I think the problem arises when procrastination moves from part-time to full-time (pretty perceptive, eh?). It's around this transition time that the grey matter stops relaxing and starts voting (gotta milk it).

I'd love to keep yapping, but it's time to stop writing and head downstairs to check on the next generation of doctors and lawyers. Come back next year and read the *Gazette*.

Oh yeah, this is also the spoof issue, so be sure to laugh.

Sam McCaig



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 Monday 4 pm before publication. Letters may be e-mailed or submitted on Macintosh or IBM-compatible 3.5" disk.

Hate politics too, but...

To the editor,

I too would like to say that I hate politics but feel compelled to let people know about Erin Ahern that I know.

After having worked with her for the past year on the Arts Society I believe I can say that she is professional, concerned and sensitive to students. This did not come out in the letter or the article accusing her of slander. I would further like to see this election based on the merits of the candidates and not degenerating to the lowest common denominator.

Erin Ahern, in my opinion, is still the best candidate and I would like to see her win due to her involvement and character. I would hope that voters have the good judgements to not believe everything which is written [sic] and to investigate what they do read in the press. If the press were always to be believed, O.J. Simpson is now having babies by a blue-scaled alien.

Sheila Morgan
A concerned student

the meeting, out of 40 or 50 Arts students in attendance. Pretty heavy stacking, eh?

And heaven forbid that we were there to protect our funding (while also protecting that of International Insights, an unrelated group). If you knew more than a thimbleful about our society, you would know that what we don't fundraise (that's real fundraising, not just grants), the members pay for. With an \$18,000 trip, we would not be particularly accessible without our Arts Society funding—as it is, we each pay \$200 to represent Dalhousie and King's. And we all know how important accessibility is these days.

Finally, you recommend that next year's DSU exec "abolish the whole idea of general meetings."

I'm amazed; I had no clue you could abolish an idea.

You must be a graduate of the Oliver Stone school of conspiracy. Those evil United Nations types — first the Arts Society, then the DSU, then the WORLD!

Sssh... you're giving away our whole plan!

Michael Munday
DUNMUNS Arts Society
Representative

no stake in the outcome of the DSU elections, yet I feel fair representation is essential for any election process to be valid. Erin Ahern is a very different individual from the corrupt politician many have portrayed her to be.

Ayman Yassa

Recycling the election

To the editor,

In response to the onslaught of letters about the DSU election's paper waste, I would like to let those concerned students know of the final resting place of the 'infamous' posters and offer up a suggestion for next year.

I know that this year, at least, the posters will be cut down and handed out as notepads to societies and students. Then, hopefully, those who use these notepads will throw them 'sans staples' into a recycling bin. So we've covered the Reuse and Recycle of the 3 Rs.

Now, what about the first and most important R? Reduce.

One solution would be to have one wall in each major building set aside for the election posters. Each candidate would be allowed one poster of a set size per area. This would reduce the amount of paper wasted and the money spent on campaigning. Candidates would need approximately 20 posters, an amazing reduction from the 1,500 posters-per-candidate that has become the norm. Another bonus is that this system would be easier to patrol, reducing the likelihood of a candidate being disqualified due to an excess of poster violations.

Just a suggestion, but I truly believe that suggestions count for naught if no action is taken on them. Please join me in voicing our concerns to the new DSU.

Lola A. Doucet

Short 'n sweet

To the editor,

Did you guys ever notice that TV game shows aren't wheelchair accessible? The Price is Right is the one that comes to mind right off the bat.

Just curious.

Adri

Ahern in rumour mill

To the editor,

This is with regards to the rumours of dirty campaigning surrounding the Ahern ticket in the DSU elections.

The Erin Ahern that has been portrayed through the media and the ever present campus rumour mill is truly not the Erin Ahern that is running for the position of Vice President External for the 1995-96 academic year.

Erin is an individual who would never stoop so low as to win an election through devious methods or for that matter conduct any aspect of her life in a manner that isn't one hundred percent ethical. Her pleasant nature and commitment to fair student government has always permeated any discussions we have had on the topic. And while slander is an ugly concept and should never occur, the idea of Erin Ahern as a villain seems impossible to me.

Myself being a King's student, I have

Dunmuns take-over

To the editor,

To the courageously anonymous soul, who ranted so bitterly about the Dalhousie/King's National Model United Nations Society (DUNMUNS) "taking over" the Arts Society in your most recent issue, I have a few comments.

Oh, the scandal of having two of five executive members elected, who happen to be members of the same society. Not to mention that service on the Arts Society exec constitutionally eliminates eligibility for executive positions in any of its B-Societies, obviating the possibility of a conflict of interest. Besides, only one of the five positions was contested, and two of them had to be filled in a by-election due to a lack of candidates the first time around. It's not exactly like we staged a violent coup d'etat or anything.

Secondly, there was an overwhelming total of 8 DUNMUNS members at

the Gazette

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