

"Residentialism" is the new vice of Dalhousie students

This campus does not suffer from Afghanistanism, that often cited fault of Canadian press more interested in happenings abroad than at home. We are ailed more by a preoccupation with self, a single-minded sensitivity to any direct affront or injury to our characters or the way or life we lead at Dalhousie. The sad fact of our solipsism often translates itself into a pathological concern with trifles accompanied by an equally pathological non-concern to the most important issues facing us today as students and as human beings.

The feedback our newspaper gets from its articles provides the surest proof of this point. When we write articles about the exploitation of local labour, abuses of political power on and off campus, Canada's role in contributing to world poverty, institutional discrimination against women in Nova Scotia, in short, all of the really big social issues directly confronting us today, we get minimal responses from the student body. But when we happen to challenge the character of some group on campus, the angry cries of protest we receive are truly overwhelming. When for example, last fall we ran a cartoon depicting Dalhousie's SUB staff in an unfavourable light the uproar was incredible. People got word of the cartoon before it was printed and urged us to alter it. After it was published we were jolted by a barrage of complaints and verbal abuse, individuals took us aside to



have heart to heart talks about the impropriety and unfairness of our actions and we received threats to our physical and mental well-being—some in jest, some not.

Last week we printed a commentary by a first year resident of Shirreff Hall who raised some severe criticisms over what she perceived to be an unliberated environment

offered to women students there. She raised some provocative points which definitely merit further discussion, but the deluge of irate phone calls and letters to the editor we received seemed entirely disproportionate to the newsworthiness of her comments. We don't know what motivated this flurry of defensive responses righteous love for Shirreff Hall, conservatism, hypocrisy, but it is certainly illustrate of the kind of misplaced social consciousness we have on this campus. The problem is not Afghanistanism but "Residentialism" at Dalhousie.

With the MPHEC's recommendations on funding for post-secondary education for next year out and the government's actual funding announcements several weeks away it is crucial that students shake off this Residentialism. In fighting the rising costs of obtaining university degrees

and the declining quality of this education you are addressing not only the interests of other students and potential students, but if you are one of the many hit by the cost

of living crunch, you are fighting for your own self-interest. The Student Union of Nova Scotia has already started a campaign at Dalhousie and sooner or later you may be asked to don a button supporting their demands or at least read some of their literature. Terry Donahoe, the Minister of Education, may soon be speaking here and, as the culmination of the SUNS campaign, all of the post-secondary institutions in Nova Scotia could get together and march on Province House to vocalize our demands. Now is an opportune time to forget the petty feuding, to shake off the Shirreff and Howe Hall residential mentalities, and stand up for the rights of Nova Scotian students to a good, affordable education.

the Dalhousie Gazette

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The views expressed in the Dalhousie Gazette are not necessarily those of the Dalhousie Student Union, the editor, or the collective staff. We reserve the right to edit material for reasons of space, legality, grammar or good taste.

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VOICES VOICES VOICES

"There are 7,000 people languishing in Canadian prisons for simple possession of marijuana. They are the victims caught in a twilight zone between public acceptance and the time takes for politicians to codify that acceptance into law.

The Other Press
Douglas College
British Columbia

The Supreme Court of Canada judges, all male, who heard Pappajohn's appeal against conviction, agreed that if an accused rapist claims he honestly believed the woman consented to sex, then he need not provide any reasonable grounds for his belief. In other words, the would-be rapist can feel free to ignore his victim's begging for mercy, screams or kicks.

Regina vs. Pappajohn rape case
Canadian University Press