

## you were saying

### Charter flights real cheap

#### To the Editor:

With the worsening geo-political world situation and inevitable Nuclear Holocaust almost upon us, **Three Minutes to Midnight Travel Service** has this timely announcement: super-discount charter flights and pre-arranged tours to the U.K. and Europe are now booking. Take advantage of all Europe has to offer, historically and culturally. Take in Western Civilization at the moment of its "rendezvous with destiny". Remember, these incredible tours may never be offered again. See it all before it's too late!

For more information contact one of our pleasant agents at this toll-free number: 1-800-999-1984.

Signed,

I.M.A. Fatalist; Say LeFin; Ono Weblewit; C.U. Later

### Sexist security service?

#### To the Editor:

No one would take exception with the goal of making the campus a safer and happier place. The Campus Escort Service, in endeavouring to do just that is both an admirable and worthwhile program.

However, the tone of the recent article in the Dal Gazette bespeaks a very chauvanistic way of thinking that we would like to challenge. "The girls got used to the necessity of structuring their study habits around the two escort tours." Indeed! The female students on campus

may well need and appreciate support in facing "the dangers of the night" but to make it sound as if you—the men on campus on the saviours and we are the helpless victims is not only insulting but is related to the thinking which nurtures attacks on women in the first place.

The attitude also leaves no room for the female students themselves to create alternate measures to ensure their own safety. For example a number of women could plan to travel together in small groups when going to and from the libraries and in attending other campus activities at night. Having said that some women should question their own complicity with a program which perpetuates myths of female subservience.

Mention was made of several changes to the service being considered. One change we would like to have considered would be the role of women students in the present planning and operation of the service. Also, in regards to the need for more effective advertising to promote the service, we urge you to first closely examine the content and style of your current posters and the picture on the front page of the recent Gazette. We were appalled by the burly guy image it projects. It would be more effective to market you service by appealing to the natural uncertainty and anxiety that indeed exist and to present a cooperative approach to meeting this situation.

Anne Marie Horne  
Member, Social Action Committee,  
Women and the Law

*Editor's note: In a recent conversation with Pat Donahoe, Dean of Men, an interesting offshoot to the Escort Service was revealed. Women waiting for escorts will congregate at the pick-up points, but leave together, as a group... without the escorts.*

### Intramurals a mess

#### To the Editor:

This letter concerns the sad state of disorganization that the Dal "intramural" sports are in. I have been at Dal since 1979, and never have we (the students) had more facilities. However, when I was a Howe Hall resident, we had up to 15 games of hockey (yet no rink!), free and welcome use of Howe Hall squash courts, etc., etc. Today, as a medical student, I have up to 7 games of hockey (seemingly randomly "rescheduled"), 6 or 7 games of broomball and very poor organization (call 424-2043 and get confused!).

This is the computer age - never has organization been easier. We, as students, are paying increasing tuition and "student union fees", yet we are getting decreased returns as far as services are concerned.

When will it stop?

Yours truly,  
David Iles

### Parry and thrust

#### To the Editor:

If, as Mr. Charles Spurr suggests, the Gazette were to refuse to publish "letters...which...are fascist", who would remain (apart from myself) for him to write letters about?

P.S. Who entitled poor Charles' letter "Pro-NATO"?  
Peter F. Dawson

## commentary

# Distressed Friends of the Public Gardens speak

by Stephen Mills

Friends of the Public Gardens has reacted angrily to the suggestion that City Council may reopen the issue of whether United Equities, a group of local doctors, should be given the go-ahead to build two high-rise condominiums opposite the Halifax Public Gardens.

The City Council and United Equities set the ground rules for how this issue was to be handled. It was their decision to deal separately with the issues of the appropriate zoning for the site and any particular development application. It was their decision to bring the matter to a vote on December 15. We participated in accordance with those rules and saw it through to the end. In the process we spent hundreds of hours of our unpaid time researching the issues involved in this proposal and presenting them to Council, trying to defend the public interest in this priceless asset against the high-powered lobbying of a well-heeled group of developers.

If Council now starts this process all over again simply because United Equities failed to get everything it wanted out of the process it had agreed to, this would be an outrage and a cynical betrayal of Council's public responsibilities. We would be required to organize all our submissions and arguments all over again at a time when everyone is pretty well worn out. This may be what United Equities is hoping, but Council should not tolerate this. It makes a mockery of notions of fair play, good planning, and the informed

public participation that Council says it wants to encourage.

In our view there are a number of vital matters that have been repeatedly obscured in recent statements by their solicitor Mr. Wickwire, that as a result of Council limiting the height of development on the site "there's no way anyone could build a viable development there" is just another of these. A moment's reflection will show that this is absolute rubbish. If United Equities is not prepared to show the necessary creativity and ability to develop the site within the limits that Council has determined then they should drop their option and make way for the other developers who are interested.

Equally it is utter nonsense to suggest that Council treated United Equities unfairly. The appropriate height for development on that site was one of the central issues throughout the controversy and United Equities knew it. The technique by which the height was limited (no shadows on the Public Gardens between March and November) was basically contained in the original City Planning Staff report. The only change is that the proposed date was extended from September to November. Everyone knew that this would hold down the height of the buildings on the site. This was done in order to protect the surrounding public environment during the period when the Public Gardens are open. This was clearly what Council intended. Far from blundering, as Alderman O'Malley has asserted, Council showed



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the kind of leadership on planning issues that is expected by the voters.

If council really shares Alderman O'Malley's view that the situation must be "fixed" because it doesn't suit the preconceived plans of a particular developer we don't need a City Planning Department, we don't need the City Council spending thousands of dollars of our tax monies on "planning" and we don't need the charade of public participation. We simply need Council to be open about what would really be happening—developers would be planning our City.

The fundamental question here is the kind of development that is best for this unique and sensitive site, and whether the

City Council is going to decide this question in the interests of the City as a whole, or in the interests of a particular group of

property developers.

Stephen Mills is the spokesperson for the Friends of the Public Gardens.

### Conference a success

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Sunday morning commenced with morning prayer at 8:30 a.m. and the fifth and final session given by Fr. Leon Belanger of Halifax. This session discussed the Sacraments with emphasis on the Eucharist as centre of the faith and Reconciliation as the foundation of God's mercy. The closing Mass was celebrated by Archbishop James Hayes of Halifax.

The meals (with the exception of Friday night) were catered by Beaver Foods in the Cameron

Dining Hall of Howe Hall. Special thanks go to Dean of Men Pat Donahoe for allowing the use of the Dining Room. Very special thanks are extended to Howe Hall Food Services Manager Mr. Gary Ring. Mr. Ring went out of his way to ensure that each of the meals was a resounding success. Also his prices are substantially reduced because of the Residence facilities. Other societies on campus should consider catering functions at Howe Hall—we were very impressed.