

opinions

Tiger Patrol unfairly criticized

There have been negative words passed around campus regarding the practices of Tiger Patrol members. I am aware that some of the criticisms may seem legitimate, but I think there are some aspects of the Tiger Patrol job that can be overlooked by those not out there with us.

The first thing that I feel needs to be noted is that the Tiger Patrol programme has been a response to student initiatives. The student body has asked that a walk-home service be provided and Tiger Patrol is catering to that need. We do not however have any ability to ensure that it gets used to the same extent every night. Tiger Patrol continues to be a reactive programme proving that student suggestions are heard when they are directed towards the right people.

Last year there were many students asking that Tiger Patrols perimeter be extended to cover a Fenwick run. In response to those who lobbied, Dal Security has enacted an experimental Fenwick route this year. I don't know where those lobbyists have disappeared to, as the route has had surprisingly low use.

Despite the lack of interest, Tiger Patrollers still walk down to Fenwick in -30 weather, freezing rain, snow and wind storms regardless of whether or not anybody is going to be there.

If people are going to comment on Tiger Patrol members hanging around and not performing their job properly I think that it is also important to note the things Tiger Patrol

does do, and the successes it has. On a single evening the Tiger patrol is likely to sweep every building on campus. We do at least three rounds in the library alone. A Tiger Patrol member will have to do two or three walks to Fenwick. At 1.2 kilometres each way that equals 7.2 kilometres. They are then expected to perform walk-homes until 2:30 am. I think that covering upwards of 10 kilometres on foot legitimizes half-hour rests when we can get them.

In 162 walking days this year Tiger patrol has escorted 1,434 students. I have witnessed Tiger Patrol members help young children find their parents after getting lost in the Life Sciences Building. I have seen Tiger Patrollers make use of their radios when campus security is needed to assist in breaking up fights on campus. Tiger Patrollers have assisted hundreds of drunk people indiscriminate of their rowdy, unsociable behaviour. We have offered directions, called tow trucks for people and even pushed cars out of snow banks.

I have not yet witnessed an accident requiring medical attention, but I can rest somewhat assured because all Tiger patrol members have first aid training to assist in the event when it does happen.

One of the problems Tiger patrollers have with the criticisms directed towards us is that they are not directed to the source. If people have complaints about the time that Tiger Patrol starts, why don't they send

them to Dal Security? Writing letters to the *Gazette* is likely to place the burden of poor public opinion on innocent Tiger Patrol members while school policy-makers remain in the dark.

By initiating the Tiger Patrol programme Dal security and the DSU are responding to a social problem.

Problems of assault and harassment are real. It is unfortunate that the social situation on campus is such that a walk-home service is necessary. However Tiger patrol is here, our radios are on and we are willing to walk.

If students want to see us walking more, a better route might be to help

create campus awareness of our programme and its successes.

In order to get more people using Tiger Patrol we need to remove the social stigmas behind the programme, not create them.

Toby Moorsom
Tiger Patrol member

Queer Contact bids adieu

We are still everywhere! Well, the end of the year is finally here. I'd just like to write a bit about how the year went for me, as the *Gazette's* first 'Queer Contact'. The second I came up with that title I wished that I had called it 'Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Contact'. I'm learning to hate the word 'queer'. Anyway...

I felt that a contact for the lesbian, gay, and bisexual 'community' was important for the paper. This year things went pretty well, even though there were a few misunderstandings, but we all know how student politics go. You can't love *everyone*...

There was one wonderful period this year when there was at least one gay, lesbian, and bisexual specific interest story every week. Remember the time there was a 'Gay-In' in the Grawood? That's when a bunch of 'Gay' people got together to remind the Grawood regulars that WE

ARE EVERYWHERE, even in their little campus pub.

A few months later I was talking to some women, or girls, in my class who worked at the Grawood. I asked them if they remembered that night. They didn't know who I was so I phrased the questions so it seemed as if I had just read the story in the *Gazette* and was just curious to know what really happened. They were talking about how stupid the whole thing was. How it was blown out of proportion. How ridiculous it was that the *Gazette* even wrote a story about it. I asked if the allegations were true that the guys in the Grawood harass men if they looked 'queer'. They said "absolutely not!" I don't know how they know that every guy that goes into the Grawood is gay-friendly, or non-homophobic, or non-heterosexist.

It was so funny at the time since I was the one who wrote the stories about it. Actually I think I was the

one who came up with the idea in the first place at a BGLAD meeting when we were talking about the recent assaults outside the Grawood. It didn't occur to them that I could be anyone. I could have just been there, let alone a major instrument in publicizing the event. They had no clue. I'm sure they're reading this somewhere and they probably still have no clue! Oh well...

So that's my funny story about my year as Queer Contact of the *Dalhousie Gazette*. I'd like to encourage some ambitious lesbian, dyke, gay man, fag, bisexual person — or whatever you are — to come up to the *Gazette* office next year and be the next Queer Contact. It's fun and you always have something you can do, so you're never bored...

See ya next year. Well... probably not. So thanks for this year. And remember, WE ARE EVERYWHERE, even in the summer!

Rita Baker

**Monday, April 4, 1994
12:30 p.m., Green Room,
Student Union Building**

**FOR ALL DAL
STUDENTS!**

Agenda: State of the
Union addresses by
Executive Members

For more information please
call 494 - 1106 or e-mail to
DSU@ AC.DAL.CA

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING