

Deadly decadence

Halifax is a youthful city, filled with numerous universities and colleges, not to mention a boom of industry that keeps the flow of people continuous.

To accommodate the influx of people that crowd into Halifax, the city has been developing numerous different cultural eddies that appeal to the extremities of the population, from local bars hosting Dead/Phish nights to a whole spectrum of sports clubs and teams.

One of the biggest scenes to skyrocket in Halifax is the rave scene, and although it has been growing in the last few years, this summer saw its popularity soar.

Raves are all night parties that occur anywhere from once a month to three times a month. They are held in various locations, some in the city, some outside, and usually feature various kinds of electronic music.

Raves are the breeding ground for drugs like ecstasy, although there is often a larger assortment of drugs at these parties.

Although not everyone who attends raves pops pills or smokes doobs, a large percentage do. A lot of people go simply to enjoy the friendly safe atmosphere.

But safety isn't a prevalent thing when referring to raves. Generally, raves go off without hitches, maybe a few injuries, drug related and otherwise, but overall, nothing serious.

This past weekend, a rave was held at Exhibition Park, just outside of Halifax, attended by several thousand people. Early in the morning, a man was dragged off the dance floor outside onto the grass. Within a few minutes, an ambulance was on the way, and witnesses had begun CPR, but to no avail. He was pronounced DOA at the hospital.

Maybe he didn't die from drugs. Maybe he had a fatal illness.

But that's not the most likely scenario. No one knows the entire story, but it is safe to assume that drugs played a prominent role.

EDITORIAL

Don't get me wrong. I wouldn't criticize someone for their own personal choices, as long as I remain unaffected by their actions. Bad things happen, sometimes people make bad choices and don't get the chance to renege.

But just because you're going to enjoy your youth, live dangerously and sample all aspects of social society, doesn't mean you have to poison yourself in the process. Other people can be affected by tragedies.

The very idea that someone could conceive of an argument that would discourage the use of drugs is preposterous, and the law enforcement is always three steps behind the sources, so users and non-users should concentrate on the real problem.

People need to understand what drugs do to their body. Don't stop if you don't want to, just don't kill or steal for your fix. As much as it sounds like a total contradiction, be responsible. Don't pop pills until your brain explodes.

I'm not encouraging the use of hard drugs, because that would be atrocious. I'm not condemning anyone because that would be futile. I'm just suggesting that perhaps people should understand what the hell they're doing before they do it.

Patrick Blackie

The collegiate spirit is dead

To the Editor,

There was a time when residence students, in a display of house pride, developed playful rivalries with other houses.

Unfortunately, certain childish Bronson House residents appear to have abandoned that long standing tradition.

The story began when Bronson House "borrowed" the O'Brian Hall flag during orientation week. They proudly displayed their acquisition at all subsequent Frosh week activities and guarded it with their lives.

The O'Brian Hall crew, not to be outdone, managed to unbolt and liberate Bronson's giant couch, replace it an O'Brian Hall banner and then carry the couch across town back to O'Brian.

After such an ingenious display of spirit, they expected Bronson to return fire with another tasteful and harmless rebuke.

To their surprise however, the Bronson council, in a display of childish frustration, complained to their residence assistants who threatened to involve the Dalhousie Residence coordinators. Talk of fines and sanctions against O'Brian executives if the couch was not returned promptly ended the rivalry and the harmless fun.

We all know from childhood that the rules and their enforcers (in this case, Bronson's RA's) are here to maintain order. In games of rivalry like this one, where no person or object is harmed, we do not ask authority to fight our battles for us, we either give up or we put our minds to the test and find an honorable way to ante.

The Bronson executives could at any time have asked for the couch back in exchange for the flag, or they could have devised a scheme to get it back on their own.

Instead, they chose the equivalent of crying to mommy and revealed a shocking lack of the collegiate spirit that Dalhousie is normally known for.

The residents of Bronson house should question their council's actions since those actions reflect on each member of the house the council represents.

If the council didn't want to be stung, they should have not stung in the first place. They have sent us all a clear message that Bronson would rather play in their sandbox by themselves, and nobody would mind that. Let's just hope they don't find themselves getting too lonely later on.

Vince Natori



"FERRY & HIRE"

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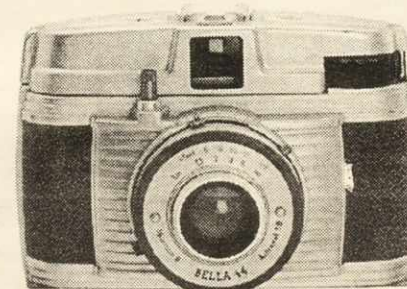
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