

Letters cont'd

I suppose someone such as you or your academic peers could call me a dumb Maritimer. Yet my roots lie in the north end of Halifax where my grandfather has two streets named after him, Kane Street and Kane Place. As for myself, I was one who ended up in university because of parents. I think back upon it, only to realize that I wanted to go to vocational to take photography. In the end I got a degree from Dalhousie, and as you know I went on to other universities and further degrees, taking courses both in the United States and Canada. Somehow, I always base home as Dalhousie.

When I was at Dalhousie I always thought of it as a jock school. Then one day I was asked to work in the gallery space in the A & A building. My mind realized that the university had a chance. I was overworked and "really" underpaid. Yet art was being shown at the university that I had grown to love and respect. When the gallery moved into the new space Mr. Ernest Smith, the then curator, began to teach a course on art, for credit. I then knew the jocks had a chance for being human beings. Mr. Smith's showings at the gallery were academic bores yet quite good. When Bruce Ferguson came upon the scene, the gallery began to step into the life of the community. Ms. Linda Milrod has made us (Dalhousie and the Visual Arts in Nova Scotia) shine with pride across the country.

I don't understand the position you are taking. It appears to be a negative one. The Art Gallery rather than being a loser has stood up to every financial

cut that has been given. It has gone out and matched dollar for dollar from other sources in the country. The country has respected the life of this gallery by granting these grants and donations because there is a solid, sensible, responsible structure completing programs and showings that are interesting, both to the university and community. What other department matches their budget with outside funding?

Does it not make sense that the university should understand the cares, needs and desires of its student body? Why not take positive steps towards giving credit courses in visual arts that would bring funds into the university? The success of this is obvious.

Or are you as the President caught in the position where departments are coming to you saying "I can't get a grant from Mobil because the Art Gallery is getting one"? Is petty jealousy hitting the heart? Department heads realizing that they are not doing their jobs, so the easy thing to find to attack are the cultural successes?

I suppose one can always come up with the argument "the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia is only one block away." When was the last time you or your peers walked up to that art gallery? If one compares the two the most sensible reality that comes out of researching what is going on in each gallery is: Dalhousie Art Gallery not only outshines the other gallery by a few feet but, rather IT OUTSHINES THE OTHER GALLERY BY A FEW MILES. If your claim of the other gallery is

something, how come the visual arts community of Nova Scotia haven't got a home for this so called provincial gallery.

As an artist, arts administrator and friend of many Dalhousie graduates and a graduate, I demand that you, as my representative, President of Dalhousie University, save my art gallery.

I would also like to speak to the committee that is responsible for this decision. Please inform me as to what would be the proper time.

Thank you. Please excuse my spelling and my typing, these are things that I did not learn at Dalhousie. I would like a written reply.

Don Kane

University insensitive to art

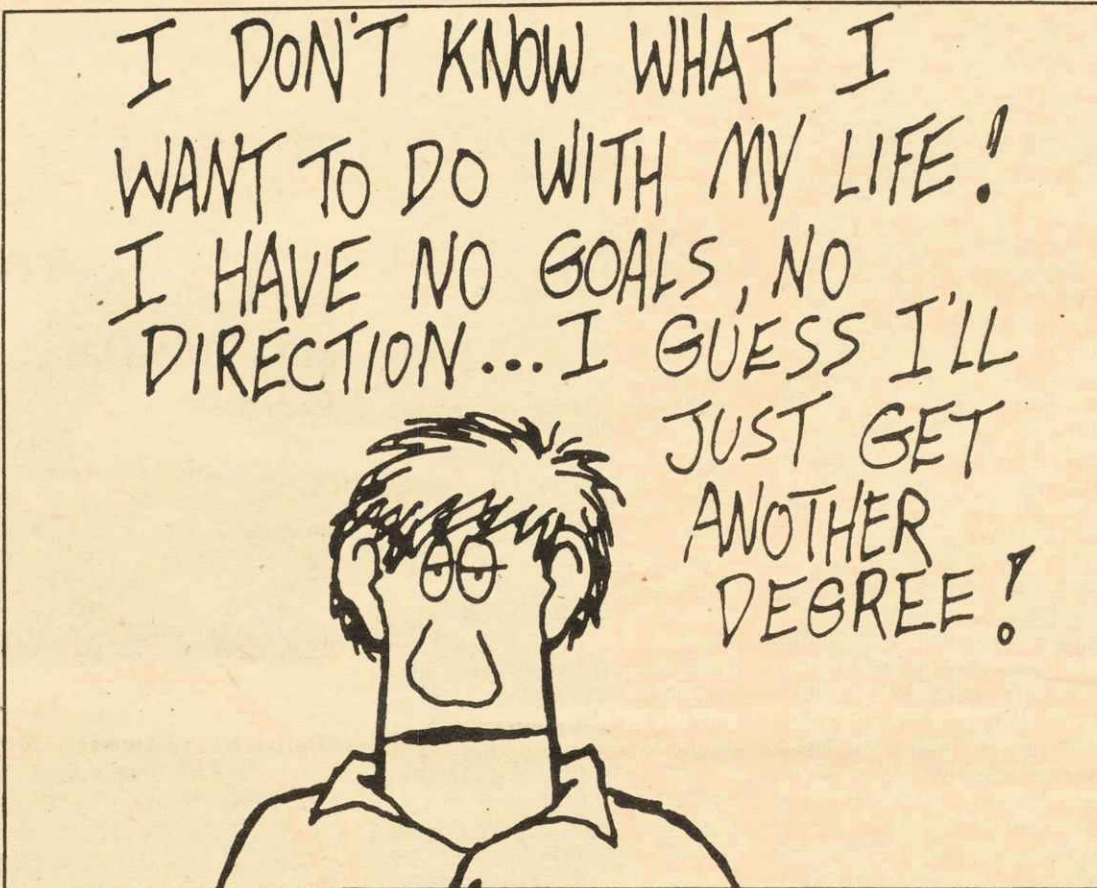
Dear Editor:

It was amusing to hear a spokesman for the Dalhousie University indicate on CBC radio yesterday that because there is another art gallery -- the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia -- a couple of hundred yards away, Dalhousie Art Gallery is redundant. The fact that the same university, in its role of landlord, has been threatening the existence of AGNS itself, is a good one

indeed.

To add further to the comedy, Dalhousie Art Gallery is tucked away in a sub-basement with very limited space, and the AGNS has been forced to cope with inadequate quarters (when it has had quarters at all) since its inception.

Edward Lindgren
Vernon Street
Halifax, N.S.



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