

letters

Greatest men on campus

As trainer of the Dal Men's Rugby Team this season, I just wanted to let students know how wonderful it was to be involved this year with the greatest men on campus.

These guys love each other like brothers. You have never felt this type of love before. Who else do you meet everyday for lunch at the 'wood? Who will lend you a mouth-guard or socks that have not been washed this season? Is there any sport where duct tape is a necessary medical item?

Rugby is a gentlemen's game and these men are perfect gentlemen. They gave everything this year to Dal and I am so proud of all of them. If there is anybody out there who would like to play rugby next year, do not hesitate! It is the most fun you will ever have.

Marsha Stagg



Andrew Simpson Is A Loose Canon

I must be getting old! Andrew Simpson's editorial piece entitled "Animal Love" has upset me enough to waste my time, ink, a good piece of paper, and my breath in a hopeless effort to counter idiocy in print!

As a 22 year old male, I am all too familiar with the desire to get together with the women of my choice! However, I do not believe that this editorial does justice to either myself or the vast majority of young men and women who study at Dalhousie.

Three weeks ago, I read (in the Gazette) that there were 9000 cases of STDs reported to Dalhousie Health Services over a nine month period! Was it in 1969 I wonder? No, it was three years ago!

I find it ironic that in this age of AIDS, rampant STDs, and an increasing pregnancy rate among those aged 14 to 19, some people my age delight in portraying university students as sex crazed animals that screw first and ask questions later!

I believe that the vast majority of young people are responsible, hard-working individuals who respect themselves and their partner(s)! Maybe you should focus on them instead of that tired old stereotype of the beer-swilling idiot whose only concern after academic pursuits is to sew (sic) his wild oats! Good relationships do not begin with waking up somewhere you don't recognize and wondering if the person next to you is someone you like.

The sexual revolution is dead and buried Mr Simpson. And if you practice the lifestyle that you joke about you could end up that way to! It's time to re-introduce the concepts of respect, personal responsibility, and patience back in to the sexual equation!

Andrew Knowles

Information age, my ass

BY DANIEL CLARK

In 1995 80 percent of Canadian households owned a car and 50 percent owned at least two cars. Welcome to the automobile age.

Information is to the 90s like cars were to the 50s.

The transformation of North Americans into an automotive culture began in the 1950s when the car became affordable. Communities began to spring up outside of major cities which required their residents to own cars for them to be able to work in the city.

This phenomenon has reached its pinnacle in the 1990s. Commuter communities are forming outside of cities like Toronto as far away as two hours drive from downtown. Metro Toronto's population is around 3.5 million, whereas the population of GTA (the Greater Toronto area: an area stretching 200 kilometres east and west of the city and 100 kilometres north) is nearly eight million.

This is not just a Toronto phenomenon. In New York the only people who live on Manhattan are either the very rich or the very poor. Commuters swarm into the city from Long Island, Hartford, and New Jersey.

The latest manifestation of this automobile culture is what I call the shopping mall for cars.

Business Parks are located far from any residential areas, on cheap land, and offer a cornucopia of possibilities for retailers and cars alike.

Not only do they feature roads like highways, enough parking for a presidential visit, and virtually no traffic policing, you can find everything from groceries to office supplies to athletic wear. Retailers used to paying \$30-\$40 a square foot at a shopping mall can house themselves on virtually unlimited space for the same bottom line.

Bus routes barely give these areas a second thought and to walk would be like trying to swim to Australia. Only a culture in love with cars enough to propagate their species in them could create such a place.

The Internet, on the other hand, is still a babe in the woods. It is true that information is becoming more and more accessible every day, but it will be at least two decades before the Internet rules our lives as much as the "Detroit Death Trap".

It is my opinion that to take the car out of our society (as many environmentalists would like us to do) would fundamentally change our culture (for better or worse). To feasibly live without cars our efforts will have to turn inward. Using Moscow as an example we will have to cram

as much of our population into as small a space as possible.

Rather than try to eliminate the car I think that our society should focus its energy of creating a car with the performance of today's combustion automobile, but as clean as electric and solar powered cars. Until that happens I think we're kidding ourselves by thinking we can change the fundamental motion of our society with a series of commercials that receive less air time than Tony Little gets.

ASSB questions

The recent decision by the Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) council to contribute \$1 million for construction of the proposed Arts and Social Sciences building is a troubling one. Several questions come to my mind:

-Does DSU President Brad MacKay really believe that making this decision now, at the expense of interested students and 11 council members who argued for more information and time, gives his student government credibility?

-Do the council members who voted "yes" to make the contribution really believe that cutting off debate was a fair and necessary action?

-How will the council be effective in the future if there is little patience and trust among its members?

On the Thursday the student forum on the building issue was held, a flyer entitled "What's All This Talk about a New Building?" was circulated to students. It was a promotional piece for a "yes" vote, full of new economic world doublespeak and we-know-best attitude. I asked DSU Vice-President Chris Lydon about the flyer, and he told me it was circulated by the DSU; he didn't know, however, who had written it. He promised to find out and get back to me.

A week passed, so I went to President Traves' office and asked the same question. After checking a secretary told me someone in the Public Relations office had written it in consultation with MacKay.

It seems that if the DSU leaders were interested in a fair, open and balanced debate about the pros and cons of the \$1 million contribution, it would do its best to spell them out. Instead, they seem to be promoting the building project while only going through the motions of organizing student discussion and debate.

One of my chief concerns is what will happen to the existing Arts houses. While some will probably be demolished to make way for the new building, what guarantee do we have that the others will not be demolished, in lieu of more parking lots? None, I think. And the character of the campus will be significantly changed if most are done away with.

Finally, if Brad MacKay really did say that passing the above motion sooner rather than later was important to clear the council's agenda (see Gazette 10/24, page 1), then I wonder what is his agenda? Expedient decisions rather than true consensus.

PETER FERRIS

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TORONTO	19:20	14:10	08:00	23:00	-	-	-
	-	18:35					
ST. JOHN'S	-	13:30	-	17:55	-	-	-

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