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"Somebody should do something about that."

SOMEBODY DID.
In Nova Scotia, the Maritime Fishermen's Union wanted to continue its campaign of encouraging fishermen to bag their trash and bring it back ashore. With help from the Shell Environmental Fund, the campaign is going strong.

In Midland, Ontario, the Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre wanted to bring the concept of composting to its 42,000 annual visitors. With help from Shell, the Centre now has a full-size composter and a portable mini model.

In West Vancouver, 4,500 obsolete underground

residential oil tanks were posing a threat to the environment. With funding from Shell, the local fire department hired students to locate the tanks and advise owners about safe disposal.

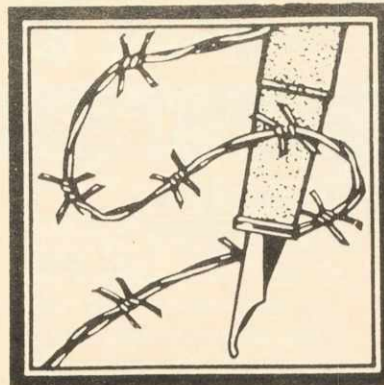
The \$1-million annual Shell Environmental Fund provides grants for action-oriented, innovative environmental projects in communities across Canada. If you have an idea for helping the environment, the Fund could help you do something about it. For more information, call us at the Shell Helps Centre 1-800-661-1600.



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LETTERS



Consult students

To the editors:

On March 3 at the Dalhousie Student Union Council meeting I suggested that an independent survey of all Dalhousie students be conducted seeking their views and opinions on the content and format of their student newspaper. Here are my reasons.

When an individual buys the Mail-Star or Chronicle Herald, it is an expression of their own individual free will. It is, if you will, freedom of choice. If they dislike the content or format, they can stop purchasing the paper. This luxury of choice is not given to Dalhousie students. At Dal all students pay a fee to the DSU for the *Gazette*. In effect, the DSU uses "Taxpayers" money to fund a campus paper which all students then receive whether they want it or not.

My suggestion to survey students regarding the *Gazette* was not and is not and is not intended to interfere with the policies or positions taken by the *Gazette*. It was simply an attempt to be responsive to the wants, needs, and concerns of all Dal students. Since all Dal students pay for it, why not consult them on their views towards their paper? After all, if we take away freedom of choice associated with getting the paper, yet at the same time use their money to fund it, should we not be responsive to their concerns? It is, after all, their money.

Joe Lougheed

DSU representative
Board of Governors

P.S. On March 18 the *Gazette* held an open forum for all Dal students regarding its structure and content — well done *Gazette*.

Job well done

To the editors:

With the conclusion of AUA competition for the 1990/91 Tigers we would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the teams on their tremendous amount of success. From Mens Volleyball to Womens Track, Mens Hockey to Womens Soccer, all teams were extremely competitive with eight AUA championships and three teams only one win from an Atlantic title.

There were many exciting games this year. Dalhousie Athletics kicked off the season with Mens Soccer providing an incredible final game in early November and finished with an outstanding three game series involving Mens Hockey, just to name a few.

Not only was there a tremendous amount of success on the field or in the pool for our teams, this season provided us as athletes with a great deal of camaraderie within the teams. The support given by the teams was simply amazing. This was most recently shown with representatives from each team supporting Mens Hockey by "whoopin' it up" at Dalhousie Memorial Arena two weeks ago. This scene not only occurred at the hockey final, Basketball, Volleyball and Soccer all received this kind of support at their respective games. This was a dramatic improvement over the last few years and it is the hope of us as varsity athletes that this will improve even more in the years to come.

Once again congratulations to all the teams and lets finish off the year with a bang at the 1991 athletic banquet on Wednesday March 29.

See you there!

Bob Hatheway
Rob Adams
Mens soccer

Celebrate sexuality

To the editors:

Re: Negative letters to the editors in *La Gazette* (Mar. 7/91) concerning "A Gay Men's Guide to Erotic Safer Sex".

The message delivered by "A Gay Men's Guide to Erotic Safer Sex" is very clear. The article was a mature and considerate effort on the part of the *Gazette* to raise the awareness of risks of unprotected sexual practices (in a homosexual context but obviously applicable to everyone).

A reader claimed to be disgusted by the article — especially the photo which showed two adults enjoying each others company. I wonder if that reader is disgusted by heterosexual activities seen virtually everywhere. Sexual activity between consenting adults is something to be celebrated — not ridiculed.

Some people were "turned off" by the article. That's o.k. It goes without saying that we're all "turned on" by different images, but let's not belabour this point or use it as an excuse for censorship.

Another reader thought that the article was more appropriately placed in the Gay and Lesbian supplement, as if homosexuality was something to be labelled, examined and (thankfully) forgotten. Let's not expect homosexuality to be slotted forever in it's proper place (like, say, the closet).

For the guy that owns a dictionary and defines phobia as "an irrational fear or dread" and then claims not to be a homophobe — your dread is obvious and rational it isn't.

Readers found even the warning preceding the article "insulting and condescending" as it suggests that

readers "can't cope with reality". Based on the responses received it's obvious that some people *can't* cope with reality.

Well I happen to have a dictionary too (*Webster's Third New International Dictionary*, Unabridged) which defines offending as "causing discomfort or injury". Well, the article obviously caused discomfort in many people, but the article injured none. Discomfort is good as it causes people to question their views. Calling homosexual sex "disgusting" is to injure people and rather than causing discomfort it makes (some) people more comfortable in their cocoon of homophobia and intolerance. So it is possible to sat that both the "Safer Sex" guide and the negative responses to the guide are offending, but whereas the former tries to save lives the latter would rather make some peoples' lives more miserable.

Michael Schweigert

Rape on campus

To the editors:

I read with concern the anonymous letter entitled Campus Rape (*Gazette*, February 28, 1991) in which the writer claims to have heard, from a "reliable source" of five rapes on the Dalhousie campus since January.

If, indeed, this information is correct, we should be doubly shocked. First, that the rapes occurred and secondly, that no one in any position to take action has been informed. Your correspondent expresses anger that the issue is being "swept under the Dal carpet" and yet, in speaking about the matter with the Security Department, my colleagues in Housing and elsewhere in the Dalhousie Administration, I have been unable to find anyone who has any information at all, let alone solid evidence, about these alleged rapes.

I recognise that victims of sexual assaults and/or harassment are often reluctant to come forward with information. However, for Administration to be able to take any sort of effective action, it is imperative that such incidents be reported immediately to the Security Department or to the Sexual Harassment Committee. To this end, I would ask the person who wrote the letter referred to above to contact Sandy MacDonald, Chief of Security or Barbara Harris, President's Advisor on Women, at the earliest possible opportunity.

W.H. Lord, P.Eng.

Director, Physical Plant and Planning

