

EDITORIAL

Escape the banal

How many times have you resisted the impulse to cut and run since the term began?

Sure — say you took the rest of that student loan out of the bank and bought a VW bus you could probably get to Mexico before the parents even notice or that next assignment comes due.

Happily chewing on peyote buttons under the hot noon-day sun, it would be easy to justify screwing the roommates for last month's power bill and the only set of keys to the mailbox.

The closer you look at it, the better it gets. How much Chaucer do you remember from last year

does an intro to pop culture have anymore educational value than, say, Oprah?

anyway? And even if you did remember some, when would you use it, other than while watching Jeopardy?

Society has set itself up as an impossible place for young people to do anything interesting without at least one university degree. In doing so, standards have dropped so ridiculously low it might almost prove more educational to watch prime time TV than waste your time in class. Really, does an intro to pop culture have

anymore educational value than, say, Oprah?

The time has come to do something. If you think paying tuition stinks, stop paying it. Drop out of whatever schlep subject you think you're learning about and wander the world. Write poetry about sex and death and what you ate for breakfast. Read real books instead of pedantic tomes by lifeless professors who cower in dusty offices, licking their pencils and drinking cheap rye whiskey out of used dixie cups.

Honestly, those who can't do teach, so what does that say about those who are teaching us how to live? The real secrets of life can never be gleaned from theory.

Put down your books, pick up those Nikes, the time has come to put a little anarchy into your lousy education.

Chris Lambie

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Lest we forget...



LETTERS

The **Dalhousie Gazette** welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should not exceed 300 words in length and should be typed and double-spaced. The deadline for letters is Friday noon before publication. Letters may be submitted on Mac or IBM-compatible 3.5" disk.

Bike etiquette

To the editor:

I have a "Good News - Bad News" letter.

The good news is that I have noticed a significant increase in the use of bicycles on and around campus, a trend which bodes well for the environment, not to mention community health and fitness.

The bad news is that I have also noticed an increasing tendency for bicycles to be locked to virtually any static object, including wheelchair ramp railings, fire exits, benches, trees, etc.

There is an obviously little read, and even less heeded paragraph in the Dalhousie University Parking Regulations which states "Bicycles chained to trees, benches or signs may be removed by Security. Bicycles attached to railings or fencing so as to cause and obstruction or possible injury to pedestrians will also be removed. Bicycles thus removed by be reclaimed by their owners from the Security Office on payment of \$5.00."

To date, we have only infrequently taken action with respect to this Regulation. However, as we are now receiving

an increasing number of complaints about problems caused by inappropriately parked bicycles, I have instructed the Security Department to begin removing bicycles which are in violation of the Parking Regulations. This order will take effect as of Monday, February 3, 1992.

For safety's sake, I am also requesting that bicycles not be ridden on footpaths around campus. Two or three potentially serious accidents were reported to my office last fall, and I am concerned that we no see a repetition of these incidents.

W.H. Lord
Director Physical Plant and Planning

More irony to them

To the editor:

As a student it is natural to desire tuition fees as low as possible. But things are going too far. Students complain about the declining quality of a university education, yet are unwilling to contribute financially towards halting that decline.

The most ironic thing about the current revolt against the proposed tuition

fee increase is that it is being lead, to a large degree, by law students. Law students typically argue, in their politically correct fashion, that the government should pay the cost of a university education for everyone to ensure equal access to the underprivileged. This argument is pathetic. It ignores the fact the tuition is only a minor part of the cost of a university education — foregone income being the most important — and that cheap tuition (even cheaper than here) in Quebec and Australia have failed to increase the proportion of minorities and other underprivileged students in universities. It also fails to recognize that if tuition fees were increased, there would be more money available to help those who actually need it.

Law students also claim that the government should pay for our tuition because a more educated population benefits society as a whole. This is a reasonable argument, but not for law students to be making. The last thing that Canada needs is more lawyers. It would be more appropriate to make law students pay more than the

real cost of their education (which is four or five times the price of tuition) in order to make up for the costs to society of having to put up with an even greater number of lawyers.

The point of all this? To get students to realize how good they presently have it at Dalhousie. As a law student, I sure do.

Dave Clayton

Pathetic

To the editor

Jeff Harrington raised campus journalism to new heights of superficiality in his pathetic "coverage" of November's Canadian Federation of Students conference in Ottawa. In a valiant effort to include as many gag lines and snide remarks as the news editor could stand, he entirely overlooked the remarkable reality of CFS: It works and it will continue to work.

Everyone agrees that the CFS is not exactly an well-oiled machine. However you must accept the organization for what it is: A completely

LETTERS CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

The **Dalhousie Gazette** is Canada's oldest college newspaper. Published weekly through the Dalhousie Student Union, which also comprises its membership, *The Gazette* has a circulation of 10,000. • As a founding member of Canadian University Press, *The Gazette* adheres to the CUP Statement of Principles and reserves the right to refuse any material submitted of a racist, sexist, homophobic or libelous nature. Deadline for commentary, letters to the editor, and

announcements is noon on Friday before publication (Thursday of each week). Submissions may be left at the SUB Enquiry Desk c/o *The Gazette*. • Commentary should not exceed 500 words. Letters should not exceed 300 words. No unsigned material will be accepted, but anonymity may be granted upon request. • Advertising copy deadline is noon Monday

before publication. • *The Gazette* offices are located on the third floor of the SUB. Come up and have a coffee and tell us what's going on. • The views expressed in *The Gazette* are not necessarily those of the Students' Union, the editors or the collective staff. •