

Jumping the gun

Last week, an article in *the Gazette* suggested that the Nova Scotia Education Minister Jane Purves would like to reward students with free tuition for their final year.

That's if she had the money. She doesn't.

So, if the government doesn't have the money to even pay one year of students'

tuition, how can we expect them to provide "grants, not loans" as suggested by Access 2000 walk-out two weeks ago, spearheaded by the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS)?

According to the Nova Scotia council of higher education, the government says it can't even afford to pay for one year's worth of students' tuition. And we're asking for them to provide us with grants that will pay for all of it. Let's be realistic here. We're not getting it.

Maybe we need to focus our attention elsewhere. Come up with a solution the government can handle. It'll be a start at least.

I'm not disagreeing with having a walk-out to protest rising tuition, but I do question the strategy of asking for grants instead of loans. Mostly because I know it's not going to happen.

Those who believe the government can easily afford grants must also believe it's well within their grasp to provide free tuition for the graduating year. So why don't we all work together and campaign for something to that effect? Start

small and work upwards.

Grants aren't a solution the government is going to buy. Grants essentially mean having the government pay for students' tuition. How many people honestly believe the government is going to do this?

EDITORIAL

But if we start campaigning for something on a smaller scale that will help students, we might actually get somewhere. And from there we could move forward to bigger and better things — like grants.

Having a year's worth of tuition, especially for your final year, isn't a bad idea. That's the year you need it most. Your savings are shot. Your yearly loans are getting smaller (while the grand total keeps getting bigger) and the workload is getting harder, making it more difficult to juggle jobs.

With the final year paid for, that would be 12 months where students could save money. There would still be rent and food and other necessities, but at least the tuition and books for that year would be covered. When you graduate and immediately have to start paying back loans, at least you would have had 12 months to prepare for it. That's got to be a big help.

And it's something the government might actually be interested in if we lobbied enough.

An election campaign plat-

form in the last provincial election in Saskatchewan promised the first year of post-secondary would be free for all students. But I have to agree with DSU council executive Mark Galley when he said "[that's] going to make the class sizes swelling." It would force university entry level requirements to increase just to keep the number of first year students down. And think of all the people who'd go to school to kill a year while trying to figure out what to do with their lives. It'd be a free ride.

But that final year. Just think about it. It's a reward for getting so far and committing yourself to your work. You could argue that loan remission programs are the same thing, but that doesn't cover all the costs that a year of tuition would.

I'm not just saying this because I might graduate next year. If the Nova Scotia government said today they'd pay for the final year of university, I wouldn't apply. I'm from another province. But if all provincial governments offered to do it, or better yet, the federal government offered to do it, so all students could benefit, then we'd be laughing. And we'd be on our way to more accessible education. It'd be one step forward, and from there we could pressure for something else.

This is just one solution. But it's a smaller and more realistic solution than asking the government for grants. And that means we might actually get somewhere with it.

Lee Pitts

OPINIONS

The cell phone menace

LONDON, ON (CUP) — Of all the 20th Century gadgets, the most annoying has to be the cell phone.

While I understand that some people just want to be wired to the world at all times, the cell phone has become an intrusive force in today's society. The cell phone is spawning a new generation of rudeness, in young and old alike.

Take, for example, the other day when my wife, youngster and I decided to treat ourselves to breakfast. We weren't seated 15 minutes when some guy decided to make a cell phone call. Now that isn't bad in itself, but for this person to leave his table to get up and walk around in a restaurant talking on the phone is downright rude.

If a call was absolutely necessary, this person should have removed himself from his table — and from the presence of other patrons — and headed to the lobby where he could conduct a phone conversation properly. But not in the middle of a restaurant.

This isn't a new phenomena either. It seems every time I go out for a coffee there is always some ass making or receiving a call. A call that 99.9 percent of the time could

have waited.

And if you haven't noticed, those on cell phones tend to talk louder so that everyone, including those outside the building, can hear them.

While many may think it looks cool to talk on a cell, most times you look silly. I suppose it's all part of the 21st Century. You can't go anywhere without being in contact with everyone imaginable.

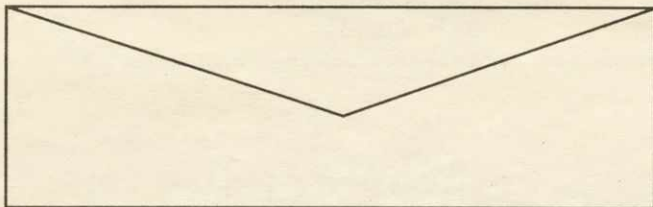
I've seen various editorial comics sharing the view that cell phones should be banned from public places, namely theatres and restaurants. Frankly, I support that view. Cell phones have become a menace that needs to be curbed.

One of the most pathetic sites I have ever seen was the lonely girl at a restaurant, fork in hand chatting away on a cell phone. At the time I thought this person must be very lonely for a dinner companion if she'd actually make a phone call through dinner. Then it dawned on me that she's eating alone because no one wants to eat with someone so wrapped up in themselves and their cell phone.

Welcome to the "me" generation!

John Said

Comments?
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gazette@is2.dal.ca
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Student Union Building, Dalhousie University, 6136 University Ave., rm 312, Halifax, NS, B3H 4J2.
 editorial tel. 902 494-2507, facsimile 902 494-8890, e-mail. GAZETTE@is2.dal.ca

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All submissions must be typed double-spaced on paper, e-mailed, or on a Mac or IBM 3 1/2 inch disk, in a WP version not greater than Word 6.0 or equivalent. The deadline is Mondays at 4:30 p.m.

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CHUCK WAGON

BY CHARLES LACERTE

More meals are being eaten out now than ever before and the trend is still on the rise. And with the variety of cuisine available in the area, there is something for everyone. The majority of these meals involve going out to eat as opposed to dining out. Dining out is not a matter of spending a lot of money. It is a matter of attitude. It starts by making reservations to ensure a table upon your arrival. And to add to the evening out, one should dress up to signify its importance. If you require a cell phone or pager, you should turn these down or have call forwarding to the desk. And make any phone calls away from your fellow diners. You should allow plenty of time for the meal, even if you plan to attend another event after. If you have any questions or requests, talk to your server. They are there to help you. They can also assist you in choosing a wine, if so desired. And if your meal is not as expected, do not be afraid to return it. It is better for you and the restaurant that you are a happy customer. So sit back, relax and enjoy your evening.

CHOCOLATE NUT COOKIES

(makes about 48)

- 1 cup unsalted butter (room temperature)
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 3 cups flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 large eggs
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- 1/2 cup white chocolate chips
- 1/2 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 1/2 cup chopped nuts

Preheat oven to 325° F. Beat butter until light and fluffy (3 minutes). Add both sugars and beat until well combined. In a separate bowl, combine flour, salt and baking soda. Add eggs and vanilla to butter mixture, beat until smooth (2 minutes). Add flour mixture in 3 additions. Stir in chocolate and nuts. Place on ungreased baking sheets by the tablespoon (1" apart) and bake 10-12 minutes.