

EDITORIAL

The message is the message

Most people have probably heard the Marshall McLuhan phrase "the medium is the message." Significantly less have thought about what this really means.

This summer there was a kerfuffle in the local media when Brenda Thompson complained about a T-shirt on sale in a local store. The offending shirt, as I understand it, had a picture of the Tasmanian devil with an axe in his hand, dripping with blood. The caption read "I used to love her but..."

The message is obvious. I thought the confrontation between Thompson and the shopkeeper on CBC's *As it Happens* left a message that was equally obvious. The shopkeeper played dumb about the issue in the manner of a child caught red-handed in the cookie jar. His protests of ignorance about the shirt seemed to me an insult to the intelligence of the listening audience.

Apparently not. When I arrived at work the next day there were some men, whom I had always thought of as intelligent, making jokes about the violent implications.

At the time I lost my temper and didn't do a very good job of explaining my viewpoint. For their sakes and for mine I'll try again.

In Canada every year more women are killed by their male partners or ex-partners than die of any other non-natural cause.

Think about it. More women shot, stabbed and beaten to death by the men who are supposed to love them, than die in car accidents.

The biggest question that leaps out of this statistic is why do women stay with men who beat them? There are a myriad of psychological and economic reasons. To me the most tragic is social.

One of the traditional myths we all pin our hopes on is that people are supposed to love each other for ever and ever. When you declare to the world that you want to spend your life with someone, it's hard to admit that you were wrong, and that someone is no good.

What makes it even harder is the attitude that only losers get beaten, or that what goes on in the home should stay in the home.

If you take family violence lightly enough to make jokes about it, you belittle a life and death struggle that is probably happening to people you know.

Not all bruises are visible, and not all scars are physical. Maybe by making that joke in the presence of your sister or your friend you rob her of the courage to tell you what's really wrong in her life. There are plenty of jokes out there that don't hurt anyone. Next time use one of them.

Jerry West



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.

No Coke - Pepsi

To the editor:

No, Dal does not have "the right one." In fact this is the one change I noticed and disliked immediately. I thus began searching for alternative ways to get Coca-Cola, and I found some. Pepsi will not be purchased by many Coke drinkers especially if there are alternative places to get it. One I can name quickly is Fader's Drugs just off campus but there is still at least one on campus, and they'll get my business exclusively. I can't explain how much I was angered and frustrated by this change and will not begin, thus respecting your request for short commentary.

Darren Boucher

Top ten irritants

To the editor:

Well, here it is, another year at Dalhousie. Welcome back to university and the "good life." And what is the good life, you ask? Read on.

It's time once again to stand hours in the line-up at the bookstore, only to find the book you need hasn't arrived yet or it is sold out because your kind

professor has signed an extra 30, people into his/her class. And of course, you meet them all as you step over them to get a spot on the floor. You see, 60 people show up for a class with 40 registered, in a classroom with seating for 30 and no ventilation. Make s you appreciate good soap!

And what is the surprise Dalhousie has in store for students this year? Surprise, surprise - it's true the student parking lot that can't be used! What a treat to arrive for class to find the parking lot 3/4 empty, only to learn you can't park there because it's being paved! Don't get me wrong - pavement is good and maybe we'll get lines painted too so those people with the "nice cars" won't park at an angle and use three spots. Hey! Who knows? Maybe they'll leave their cars at home to prevent those unavoidable dings and scratches. Personally, I find they add character to my car! But back to the real fun!

Yes, you and I have paid \$100 for the inexplicable pleasure of cruising the side streets to find a spot. Only to return every two hours to

move your car so you don't get a ticket. Like I said, Welcome Back!

In my travels this first week back, I've compiled a list and here it is:

The Top Ten Irritants at Dalhousie

10. Line-ups at the Registrar's Office - only to find out you had to go to Student Accounts first.

9. Line-ups at Student Accounts.

8. Line-ups at the Bookstore for books that aren't there.

7. People on bikes who act like a car one minute and a pedestrian the next.

6. Pedestrians who walk diagonally across University Ave., through two intersections, and don't even look.

5. New library fines. As if the 25 per cent tuition hike wasn't enough!

4. The 25 per cent tuition hike.

3. The three per cent fee on Canada Student Loans - to be paid up front! Give my thanks to the Alumni!

2. Professors who overload their classes.

And here it is - the Number One irritant at Dal-

housie:

1. The Student Parking Lot!! You haven't lived til you've played the parking lot lottery. Game passes are available now at the Security Office for a mere \$100 a shot!

Well, gotta go - I have to move my car to avoid an additional \$16 ticket!

Oh! and P.S. Have a good year!

Dumbfounded at Dalhousie

Plan B time

To the editor:

I must take this opportunity to thank Dalhousie on behalf of all students for their infinite wisdom and skills in organizing the evening class schedule for this year.

Since I am working full-time this fall, I decided to take the tiger by the horns and have an evening course at Dal, regaining some of those much needed extra credits. I was somewhat disappointed, however, when I received the course selection booklet in the summer and scanned the evening courses section.

Being a student of the com-

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THE GAZETTE

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