

Dal-lousy lives up to humourless billing

BY DANIEL CLARK

For a year now an anonymous individual known only as Dal-lousy has prevailed his opinions of Dalhousie on anyone willing to surf his web site (<http://www.isisnet.com/lousy/>). Dal-lousy has taken shots at everything from the Gazette to Maclean's magazine, and from Harvey's to the thing (phallic-like

time have never shunned defending themselves before the public. The Harvard Lampoon and *This Hour has 22 minutes* are not hidden behind mask identities. Duffy, on the other hand, has tried to deny people this courtesy.

Dal-lousy originated approxi-

not be published. Duffy has been unfairly able to repeatedly convey his message that "Dalhousie sucks" to whomever viewed his anonymous web page.

Dal-lousy has been visited more than 3000 times since its inception. Whether its "hits" are



a humourless rag for a humourless campus

Inuit statue) in front of the SUB.

Using a program called Finger (which accesses an Internet provider's server information and retrieves the real name of an account holder) it was determined that Dal-lousy is supplied by Andrew James Duffy. He is a graduate student at Dalhousie. He can be reached at ajduffy@is2.dal.ca.

Humour and satire are old art forms which have gained much respect over the last five hundred years. Many great satirists of our

mately one year ago with a campus-wide poster campaign, advertising itself as "a humourless rag for a humourless campus." In that time it has raised more ire than satire, and existed, in my opinion, to simply take potshots at people and things on or around campus. A satire can be a critical forum as long as those responsible are not afraid to be counted.

The Gazette has an editorial policy that if you are not willing to put your name on a letter or opinion piece, then it simply will

from many different people or just repeated visits, we will never know. Duffy has been passing himself as a voice of the students by listing himself as a "Club and Student Organization" on the Yahoo search engine although he directly represents neither.

Perhaps now that he has been exposed, Mr. Duffy will in fact take the time to use his satire in a constructive manner, and occasionally refrain from using the words pathetic, irritating, and desperate in his descriptions of individuals.

You better believe

BY BARBARA MULLER

A few weeks ago, my friend, who is wonderful, helped to organize a monthly activity called "city-wide prayer." She explained to me how the point of this was to get people of any religion/belief to meet once a month to pray for Halifax (or so I understood it). Knowing how loving and open she is, I attended.

Once there, I met some very nice people, and watched and tried to join in some beautiful songs that were being sung. We grouped up with people we did not know to pray. On the second grouping, I was put in a group with 3 others. One suggested we all start by saying our names and where we are from. So they said their names and which church they belonged to. When it came to my turn, I said my name, and said that I did not belong to any church. So they all looked at me with a funny look, and one replied, "Are you looking for one?" I said I was not. After an uncomfortable silence, another person asked which religion I belonged to. I said I didn't, that I was spiritual and believed in all spirituality. Boy, did that get them going. They started preaching at me that this was a House of God, that they believed in Jesus their Saviour, and so on, and how could I be there, insulting their beliefs. I left.

It was during the hurricane, so I went to what I call the Temple of Creation — Nature. I went to Point Pleasant Park. I feel much

more in a spiritual mindset in a "God-built temple", such as any natural place, than in a human-built temple, like a church.

I was really hurt and saddened by this incident. It showed me how narrow minded these people were, not to pray with someone who did not belong to their belief system. If there is a higher Being, whether people call HIM/HER/IT by "GOD", "CREATOR", "SPIRIT-THAT-MOVES-THROUGH-ALL-THINGS", or by any other name, I believe it is the same. I believe there are different paths to attain the same goal — and Christianity is only ONE of those paths. If there is not a greater Being, than the fact that many people in one area are focusing their energy in a positive way, to help the city, is a good step forward. Why does it matter whether I'm focusing positive energy, or praying to God or someone else, as long as I am there whole, with good intentions?

Christianity has often tried to force its beliefs on others. I believe ALL religions have a common base, a common TRUTH. Since everyone is different, there are different ways that work for different people to attain the same goal — spirituality, enlightenment, love, inner-peace, joy. I am still sad at how closed these people were. But what is worse is how they seem to think that they are above me, because they believe they are "God's Children" (i.e. because they are Christians/go to church regularly). Some people do

not go to church at all, but live by very high moral rules, or pray regularly or live a spiritual life. A Lakota once told me "Religion is for those who want to go to Heaven; Spirituality is for those who want to communicate with 'God'/the Creator."

On my way out of the SUB the other day, my limit was reached. A man was handing out "salvation" papers. I very kindly declined, for environmental reasons mostly. He then replied, "You need it, you're going to hell." That totally upset me. People should choose a religion for spiritual enlightenment, NOT for fear. After all, who is he to judge me? I asked him, "I'm going to hell because I'm not taking your piece of paper?" He replied that I was because either you go to heaven or to hell, and with no salvation I was going to hell. I was stunned. How can a person who believes in the Bible think that they can take on the role of God, and judge people? It is up to God and only God to judge and no one else. God loves unconditionally, not just people who think they are saved.

You cannot force a religion onto anybody, it must come from the heart. To join a religion for fear (i.e. hell), is not to truly believe. I certainly would not like to be in a church full of people who are filled with fear, but I would enjoy any setting full of loving, open people who believe in spirituality.

The coffee house scene

BY MATTHEW MCLAUGHLIN

Before going too far, I'd just like to point out that the coffee scene has not emerged simply from popular shows like *Friends*. The coffee house is a tradition that is much older than popular tv shows that launched this scene into society's spotlight.

The coffee house has long been seen as a "pit-stop" for people on their way to work, and for students needing a quick caffeine fix. But there is more to these establishments than meets the eye.

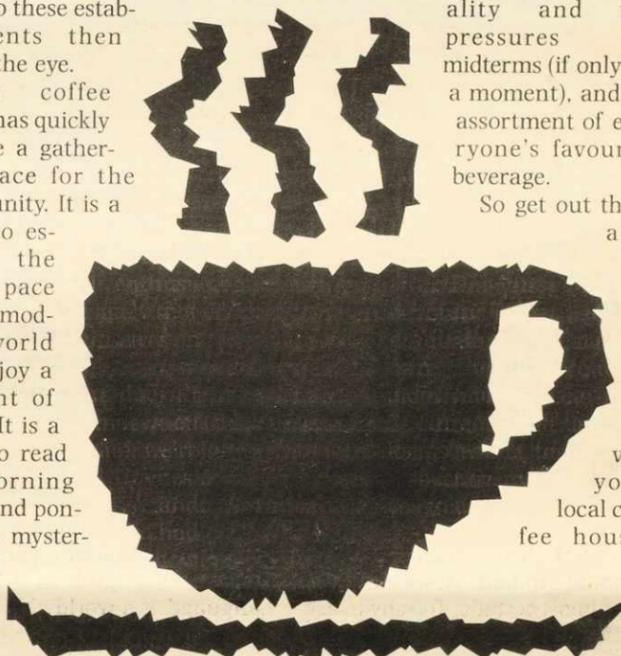
The coffee house has quickly become a gathering place for the community. It is a place to escape the hectic pace of the modern world and enjoy a moment of peace. It is a place to read the morning paper and ponder the mysteries of the world. It is also a

place to buy fancy drinks, pastries, and other delicious foods.

One might say that the coffee house has become the 90s version of the "speak-easy". Not that there's a prohibition on coffee (God forbid!), but the environment of the coffee house — with its re-

laxed atmosphere and soft music playing in the background — make it an ideal place for discussion and conversation. What better way to talk with friends about life in general and then sink back into a soft couch with a large cup of java? (If only psychologists could create such an environment in their offices!) The coffee house seems to offer it all: peace, quiet, a gathering point for social activities, an escape from reality and the pressures of midterms (if only for a moment), and an assortment of everyone's favourite beverage.

So get out there and



visit your local coffee house!

Buy a bagel or a samosa, go on a "coffee crawl", surf the net in the cyber-cafes. Remember to bring your favourite mug, your "coffee card", and your friends and spend some quality time away from reality. You'll thank me for it.

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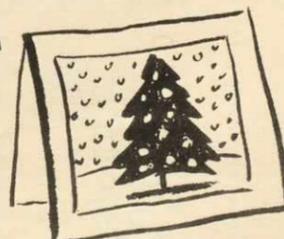
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