

opinions

David Suzuki well worth ten grand

The DSS would like to commend Mr. Nimmon ("Suzuki fee a scam", Gazette, February 3) for such an honest criticism of our attempts to promote scientific and environmental awareness to the student population and the community at large.

Mr. Nimmon has touched on the crux of the theme of our conference: "Economics and the Environment". Where do we draw the line between economics and the environment? How can we sustain our natural resources yet maintain employment and economic growth in the Maritimes? What are the alternatives, and how do we cope with the current situation?

To address these issues, the DSS has invited internationally renowned scientist and environmentalist Dr. David Suzuki and guests to give a perspective on the dilemma between economic and environmental factors. Although Suzuki's speaking fee is expensive (\$10,000 + GST), much of the cost has been absorbed by our corporate sponsors.

Mr. Nimmon views our sponsors as "villains in the destruction of our environment". However, in order to maintain the livelihood of coastal communities across Nova Scotia,

large corporations in conjunction with biologists, economists and sociologists must work together to form a viable solution that will lead to the sustainability of the fisheries. Sponsorship from these companies for our event has demonstrated that there is overlap between economic and environmental concerns.

Mr. Nimmon has failed to mention our other major corporate sponsor, the Companies that Care. Two of the twelve companies that make up this organization have been profiled in Suzuki's Nature of Things as leaders in their field for environmentally friendly practices. The DSS has been in close contact with Dr. Suzuki's office regarding sponsors and has been pleased that our sponsors are companies that "care". Mr. Nimmon himself, as Director of the Environment for the Nova Scotia Public Interest Research Group, is also one of our proud sponsors. Would it be appropriate to call NSPIRG a "villain" too?

The Dalhousie community is fortunate to get a man of Dr. Suzuki's stature to come and speak of an issue that has affected all of us in one way or another. Dr. Suzuki's speaking schedule has been booked solid until

1995, so we are lucky that Dr. Suzuki is coming at all. Moreover, due to his reputation as one of Canada's leading public figures in science and the environment, it is not unusual to see a speaker of Dr. Suzuki's calibre charge such an enormous fee. As Mr. Nimmon stated, the money Dr. Suzuki generates is funnelled into the David Suzuki Foundation, a non-government organization. The Foundation does not receive any government grants nor any money from external sources. Funding for environmental projects, let alone operational costs, accumulates and requires a means to be paid off.

Although Dr. Suzuki hails from the west coast, the concern for the environment is a global one that extends from the forests of British Columbia to the polluted rivers of Eastern Europe. It is our hope that by holding "Economics and the Environment with Dr. Suzuki and Guests" we promote local and global environmental awareness that will motivate individuals such as Mr. Nimmon to take action. The DSS is glad that Mr. Nimmon holds strong personal values and is not afraid to express his views publicly. It was our intent to encourage discussion and an oppor-

tunity to voice opinions. We hope that other students that hold similar convictions attend Saturday's lecture and ask Dr. Suzuki questions

during the 'Q & A' session since Mr. Nimmon will not be in attendance. The DSS Executive

we are
BURSTING
to tell you about our March contest!

Watch this space for more details.

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the Gazette

The Gazette will be electing a Managing Editor and Copy Editor for the 1994-95 publishing year.

Both are salaried positions to run for a year, officially beginning May 1, 1994.

Nominations will open at 9:00 am on Monday, February 14. Nominations must take the form of a signed letter indicating a person's intention to run for a specific position, submitted to Ryan Stanley or Leslie Furlong, Room 312, SUB. Nominations will close at 4:30 pm on Friday, March 4. No nominations will be accepted after that time. Voting will take place March 8-10.

Any currently registered Dalhousie student is eligible to run, as well as any other member of the Dalhousie Gazette Publication Society (defined as someone who has contributed to three issues since September 1, 1993).

A person may run for only one position in these elections. People may run jointly for one position.

Job descriptions for both positions will be available at the Gazette office starting on Monday, February 14.

VOTE
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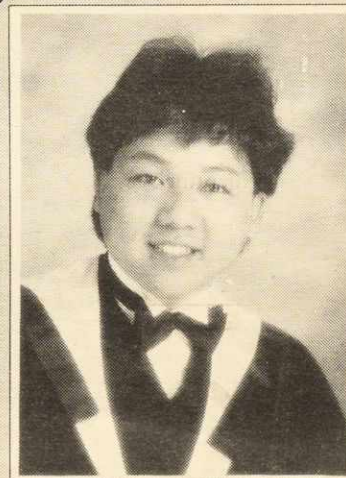
Saturday February 12th

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