

LETTERS

Student burdens

An Open Letter to Students:

If you have borrowed money under the Canada Student Loan Program, you should be aware that the government of Canada has decided to impose a three per cent "administrative fee" to all Canada Student Loans as of August 1, 1991.

This kind of action by the government is nothing short of reprehensible. It imposes a further financial burden on that group of people least able to afford it. This will almost certainly cause some people to be forced to discontinue or to reconsider beginning a university or other post-secondary education program. And it will impose great hardship on those of us who are already in such a program and who were forced to do so. This should make students very angry.

But anger is not enough. We

must act to let the government know that it is not okay to add to our debt. They cannot unilaterally renegotiate our loan agreements, without even a whimper.

It is difficult to keep on fighting when you're a student, given the number of issues you are forced to fight for (such as the possible strike by faculty, tuition fee increases, reduced funding, and so on) and the seeming indifference of those against whom you're fighting. However, on important issues such as this one, don't give up. Speak to your CFS rep, write to your government representative, protest.

More information is available at the SUB Enquiry Desk, where you can also pick up post-card style protest cards addressed to the President of the Treasury Board of Canada (no postage required).

Make an effort to do something about this outrageous government decision, make government aware that they are accountable. Make a difference, for your own sake.

Pamela J. Clarke



Chickenshit in the wind

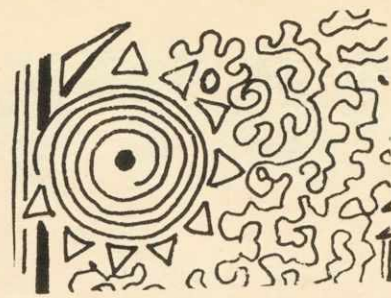
Dear Editors,

I noticed a little hypocrisy in action in your September 27 edition. On page 8, you exhort people to write letters, TLF, "Focus on Dalhousie", amongst others. You also exhort everyone writing to/for the Gazette to include their names and phone numbers.

However, on page 9 of the same edition, a snarky little article about the "Hey Dudes" has the by-line of "Mia Culpa". It is a false name, and I submit that if non-Gazettists must submit their real names, then so too should Gazette staff attach their real names to their articles.

To do otherwise is just, as the poet Burns put it, "So much chickenshit in the wind". Besides, I assume the real writer is (pr) editor A. Burton (or perhaps C. Lambie), who would be a "Hey Dude" except for the fact that he listened to disco in its heyday.

Love and Peace,
Sandy MacKay



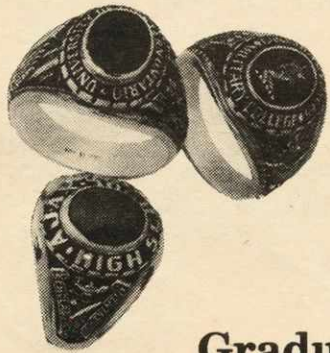
Strike time management

Dear editor:

As (most) Dal students should know, we almost had another faculty strike a few weeks ago. The last one was two years ago, just around the same time (coincidence?). Luckily (for all concerned) a tentative settlement was reached by both sides and the fear of a strike was gone. But, ask yourselves what would have happened if that settlement had not been reached. Luckily for you, we are able to take a look at an alternate world where the strike did occur, as we find The Top Ten Things Dal Students Would Do If There Had Been A Strike:

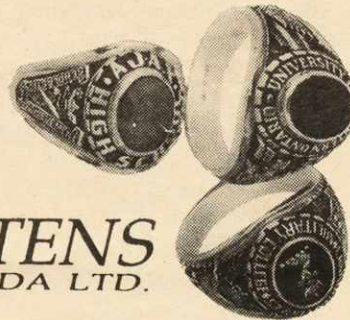
10. Go to a bar, eat pizza, get drunk, and sleep all day. Repeat until strike is over.
9. Attend church more regularly, pray for forgiveness, join the choir... (Sorry, wrong list.)
8. Get a full-time job to start paying for this year's tuition.
7. Check the details on a transfer to Saint Mary's.
6. Start listening to Dal's own radio station, CKDU 97.5 FM, something we've all put off for much too long. (That's CKDU 97.5 FM. If it's not CKDU, it's just not radio!)
5. Drop out of university and run for premier of Nova Scotia.
4. Ask King's College if they want help building their library.
3. Interrupt the negotiations between administration and faculty to convince them to settle, like when Hawkeye interrupted the Peace Talks on MASH.
2. Shave their heads, go to airports, and chant for spare change. And the number one thing Dal students would do if there had been a strike:
1. Catch up on all homework, assignments, labs, and projects, and lots of studying. (Yeah right!)

Craig Falkenham



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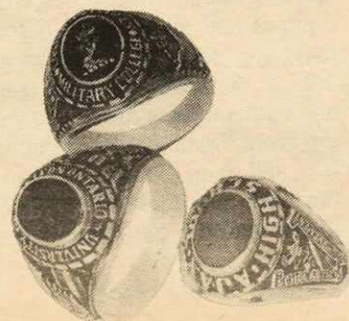
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