

Caught in the 'Net

I, for one, am sick of it.

And I hope everybody else is, too. Information highway this, information highway that, everyone and their dog is jumping on the bandwagon.

For me, it all began back in 1990, my first year at Dal. I still thought 12:00 was late at night, beer was vile, and my Atari was the height of technological advancement.

Then I learned a few things. Among them was that technologically speaking, I was going nowhere fast. So I got an email account. And I found out about Usenet, Gopher, Telnet, FTP, Archie, etc.

Then, years later, I start hearing all these things about the information superhighway. How it's coming, how the government's pushing to get it built, and how soon it'll be just like Star Trek. Well, I got some news for all you hucksters and bandwagon-riders out there.

IT'S ALREADY HERE!

It's called the Internet, and it's much bigger than anything else out there.

Yes, that's right. CompuServe? Yeah. Sure. Pay 25 dollars an hour to read some stupid yutz's favourite pie recipes on a censored forum when you can get down and dirty on Usenet, talking about all kinds of illegal things like banned trial information (hint, hint), and absolutely nobody can stop you.

Internet is all over the world. I have had conversations with people in South Africa, Singapore, Hong Kong, even Antigonish. And not a red cent did I pay for long-distance, postage or anything like that.

Try using America Online to do that. You can't, because there just aren't many people outside the States and Canada who use it or any of the other paid services. Talk about informational inbreeding.

Getting on the Internet is free. Well, free for you and I, because we're students. Of course, you have to pay huge tuition fees, but as long as getting access goes, it's free. Even if you're not a student, you only have to pay about 25 dollars a month to use the Internet. Sounds better than CompuServe, huh?

All this stuff about five hundred channels and being able to buy concert tickets through a bank machine is probably either bull or the promise of a very far-off technology made by marketers. Sure, it'd be nice to pretend I'm Captain Picard and talk to people on my big-screen TV, but first I have to buy one. Oops, guys, I need to pay three thousand dollars per half second to use the information superhighway? I think I'll just stick with my modem and get my money's worth.

Steve Tonner



"HMMM... MAYBE WE SHOULD STICK WITH THE OLD UNIFORMS."



LETTERS

The Dalhousie *Gazette* welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should not exceed 500 words in length and should be typed and double-spaced. The deadline for letters is Monday 4 pm before publication. Letters may be e-mailed or submitted on MacIntosh or IBM-compatible 3.5" disk.

Growing up green

To the editor:

I believe that educating the world's young people is one of the most important and effective approaches to improving the state of our planet. Children are the adults of tomorrow and we need to develop generations of environmentally conscious individuals who will work together to ensure that their children grow up with similar values. This is one way to initiate and pass on attitudes and habits that result in a lesser impact on the environment.

I believe that the educational system is a useful medium to impart sound environmental values because it can begin its influence at an early age and continue through to young adulthood. Teachers are powerful role models to their students and I believe that their influence becomes even stronger when they demonstrate positive attitudes and behaviours in the presence of their students. To take this influence to an even greater level, the school can involve parents as guest speakers and through homework assignments. As environmental writer Daniel Chiras states in his book, *Environmental Science: Action for a Sustainable Future*, "Education of children of all ages is the key to building a sustainable society."

Because I believe that behaviours and attitudes develop at a young age and that children are so easy to influence, I support environmental education in the school system. I also support a curriculum-wide approach which integrates environmental studies into a variety of subjects such as science, health, and home economics. I believe that if students are immersed in something such as environmental studies throughout their education and if this learning is also supported by their parents, environmentally conscious thinking will come to them naturally and they will develop lifestyles consistent with these values, thus having a lesser impact on the environment.

Of course, the school system is not perfect in achieving this process. However, an effort is being made and I believe that with the growing concern

for the environment and continued support from parents, professionals and other community members, the curriculum will continue to improve in this respect.

Michelle McGray

Campus fascism

To the editor:

I went to Dalhousie in the early to mid-1970s and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in 1974. One of my strongest subjects was chemistry. Through having done chemical calculations for Chemistry 110 homework and in the laboratory for Chem 110 and 241, I became very fast on figures and formulae. I give immediate credit to the University for my greater understanding of chemistry, especially the molecular chemistry of oil and water, ice and snow, wind and weather, and better cooperation with the weather in my job as a labourer for the Canadian Armed Forces.

I read in your newspaper (February 10) the article "Profs at odds over harassment policy", and in the *Daily News* (February 15) the article "Speak No Evil" that even talking about my religion on any part of the campus or in any building or other facility of Dalhousie University is a no-no and even an alumnus visiting or using any of the university facilities could be subject to disciplinary action if he were to so much as express his opinion or belief in God as the Source and Provider of knowledge, understanding and wisdom.

I feel very strongly that this new policy may discriminate against any sincere, humble and God-fearing Muslim, Jew or Christian wishing to express his or her religious views in good faith and in simple and decent language while talking with a friend or professor on university property. If I am not mistaken, this policy is meant to protect the rights of persons of any group against any form of discrimination or harassment. However, I feel that this new policy will only discriminate against and persecute, rather than

protect, the humble and God fearing persons who wish to express any academic or religious ideas on campus.

As a labourer for National Defence, I have come to increasingly respect the supreme sacrifices many of our parents and grand parents made in World War II to stop Adolf Hitler and his Nazis in Europe and keep fascism out of Canada. I feel that this new policy violates the academic and verbal freedoms of our parents and grandparents fought so hard to protect.

I am therefore extremely displeased and disgusted by and vigorously opposed to this very dangerous and unfair and hypocritical policy. I very strongly feel that this horrible policy must be abolished at once!

William Shaw

Dalhousie Alumnus '74

Parking peeves

To the editor:

I have a personal parking gripe. I'm not talking about lack of parking spaces on campus for permit holders, which sucks too. I'm talking about street parking, what we occasional drivers have to use.

The trouble is there are plenty of parking space around campus on our fine streets, but inconsiderate parking hogs waste it. Many times I've driven along and found person after person who've pulled up to a space near a driveway and left half a car length or more between them and the driveway. If they'd simply pull up a little more there would be more space at the end of the car line for another car.

Similarly, people park and leave six to seven feet between them and the car ahead. There's no need for it. Leave yourself enough room to get out, but three feet on either bumper is plenty.

All I ask is for people to have a mind to other parkers when they find themselves a spot. Leave as much room behind you as you comfortably can and many new parking spaces will open up around our streets. It's a simple thing, it takes no time. Just a little thought.

Garth Sweet

the Gazette

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