

Freedom of the privileged

Freedom is never an absolute.

Secretary of State Gerald Regan demonstrated this concept in a comment last Monday. The need for more technically skilled graduates should be achieved by encouraging certain courses at the community college level, he said. Canadians, however, must retain their freedom to choose what university courses they desire, and not be channeled into technical fields such as computer science, merely because of a government whim. One might ask Mr. Regan if it is Canadians who go to training colleges.

Freedom to have an education, and to choose what kind of education it is, are ideals for which we strive. According to the results of the student union's survey on accessibility, however, we must question how free our society really is.

Freedom tends to accumulate as a person goes up the social ladder; it's easier to find a good summer job, easier to stomach the concept of a large student loan if you come from a family that is used to borrowing, and a little emotional help here and there can be really helpful to a student racking his or her brains out studying. Imagine trying out university when none of your peers or family have had experience with it, or if you have any extra burdens to add to your exam pressures, such as responsibility for children.

Everyone knows without the help of a survey that university students are generally the privileged kids, but the hard cold facts, and their magnitude scream out for a reexamination of what we claim post secondary education to be; the backbone of society? If so, then whose society? Is it merely that poor people do not want an education? Or are the barriers stacked up against them?

To say 'anyone can go to university who wants to' is to imply freedom of choice and it has a nice ring to it. But the survey has shown this opinion as nothing more than catchy phraseology to validate the status quo.

Let's strive for the ideal, and make our university more accessible.



LETTERS

ID card queries

Dear Editor:

We have a few queries regarding the Dalhousie vs. SMU basketball game which was slated for 8:00? 9:00? on Tuesday, February 2. (At least the date was right!)

We made every effort to support our Dalhousie Tigers on the previously mentioned evening but we were turned away at the door one hour prior to the start of the game. Why? Student ID's were no longer acceptable - only seasons passes and guest passes were being allowed in. We had no previous knowledge that special tickets had been available at SUB and the Dalplex. The Public Relations for this Winter Carnival event (The Gazette, Dal Dispatch, Winter Carnival booklet and basketball posters) also seemed to be unaware of this fact. The only mention of these tickets was on a special sheet attached to the basketball poster at the Dalplex which we noticed when we arrived for the game.

According to the fire marshal regulations, only 1500 people are allowed to spectate athletic events in the Dalplex. Is this facility adequate for accommodating fans at major sporting events, considering the large student population (approximately 10,000) of this university? This makes us wonder if the new rink, with a seating capacity of only 1500 fans also, will pose similar problems.

We suggest that in the future if our fan support is desired that students be given an equal opportunity to acquire admission

to the games. Our student ID card is supposed to entitle us to attend regular season ACAA sporting events at Dalhousie, a privilege for which we have already paid. Why is this different from a seasons pass?

We would appreciate some answers.

Sincerely,
Claire Gillis
Shelley McKay
Joan Poole

Dal swimmers

To the Editor:

I recently read a letter in this column from Mr. Rusty James making comments on the swim team's trip to Cuba. As varsity swimming coach I would like to set the record straight on a couple of points.

We made our trip to Cuba during the Christmas break for several reasons. It was a chance to do some intensive training in a pleasant atmosphere and to enable all team members to know each other better. We feel these objectives were realized. The team trained on the average 10 kilometres per day, over 50 kilometres for the week. We enjoyed ourselves but as you might imagine five hours a day of swimming doesn't constitute a leisurely holiday.

Yours truly,
David Fry
Swim Coach

Spice speaks out

To the Editor:

I'm writing on behalf of our group "Spice" in regards to "Arthur Night" last Thursday. Our show was late starting as group member Paul Eisan and myself were unavoidably detained at a C.B.C. shooting which was taking place that same evening at the Cohn. We tried our best not to let this T.V. appearance interfere with our performance at the SUB, but C.B.C. ran into technical difficulties and as a result the taping ran behind schedule and we were late. We'd like to apologize for any anxiety this might have caused the SUB staff, and say thanks to Terry Kelly who came in at the eleventh hour to help us out.

There has also been some confusion regarding the wrap up time

of our show. We were initially asked to play until 2:00 a.m., instead of 1:00 a.m., to make up lost time. We were more than willing to do the extra show and made an announcement to this effect. Unfortunately, another decision negated this possibility, and we were told at 11:50 to go on stage and play straight through 'til 1:00. This we did and then continued to encore until 1:20 when the lights went up and the house was cleared.

Thanks to everybody who attended for your patience. Once things got rolling we had a great time and you folks were as enthusiastic and responsive as ever. With the delays and confusion it could have turned out to be a bum night. Thanks for saving it.

Kevin Macmichael
and the guys in "Spice"

Kate Clarke, where are you?

To the Editor:

Kate Clarke... are you on Dalhousie campus? Mount St. Vincent's? Or St. Mary's?

Like the odd four dozen or so, your entry in the Poetry Competition '81 was more than fair. In fact it was a prize-winner in the commemorative awards list, admired by several judges, but...

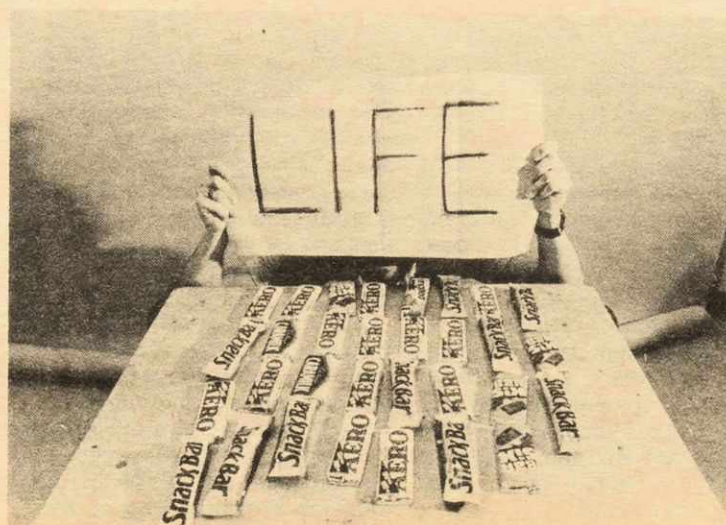
Again, like many entrants, real names, pseudonyms, and addresses were not given as regulations directed ("The pseudonym on every page, THE REAL NAME AND ADDRESS ATTACHED, but on a separate page...").

Strangely enough, Aristotle, Teddy Roosevelt, Caesar Augustus, Charles Darwin, etc., all did the right thing, but their entries did not match their illustrious names. Their real names and present addresses were given, but not really needed, except Ch. Darwin's - winning as Honourable Mention. **But Kate Clarke's is lost.**

"Nova Scotia, My Homeland," a charming thirty-six line poem, almost too flawless to be the work of a modern-day student, shares the Marshal Saunders Award with Rose Miller McGill, whose prize-winning poem is "Hoar Frost in Halifax." (An internationally known writer and scholar, and a Nova Scotian, the late Miss Saunders would appreciate the winning writings.)

"Wide concern and deep feeling, not always flawlessly expressed" were characteristics noted by several judges and international anthologists aiding in the work of judging a widespread field of Canadian talent.

If reading this, Kate Clarke, please contact the Dalhousie Gazette.



A person's life behind bars.

Ben/Dal Photo