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As for the field, at the moment it's a bit muddy, however, it's not obscene. Spending 3.5 million dollars; better \$3,500,000 to cover it with plastic and park cars under it is obscene. But let me be fair, the Astroturf project without the garage (which we've already done away with-see above) is only \$1,500,000. It was proposed that this money be spent so we can have a field that's always playable and so we don't have to spend the \$5,000 a year on plowing, seeding and preparation for the fall. (Last year \$15,000 was

Note: Astroturf has been used in a generic sense and includes all species of artificial surfaces - Tartan, Polyurf, Astroturf, etc.; none of which is much better than the others.

..... spent but that was way above the normal annual cost- take the average \$10,000- that means that for the next 150 years we could maintain the grass on the field before we'd spend the equivalent of one Astroturf covering.

With today's "progress" often you can get way ahead by staying way behind - if you use your noodle and keep your eyes open (or at least glance around from time to time.)

Canada and especially the Maritimes on this account has actually come out in the lead. After 12 years of use in the USA Astroturf and it's offspring have been almost universally condemned by everyone except those in charge of washing football uniforms. The National Football League Players Assoc. on the basis of a comprehensive study done by the Stanford Research Institute have asked the commission "to re-examine the unreasonable risk of injury presented by synthetic turf". The Stanford report findings "all point to the conclusion that synthetic surfaces cannot be justified on an injury prevention basis." Also stated in the report which particularly applies to Dal's dilemma, is that even the alleged advantage of "better a land economics" (ie. multi purpose use) seems to be a poor trade-off". In conclusion, the Stanford report said that "the Significance of synthetic turf problems should result in a movement toward the new natural turf systems."

At present the National Football League has a moratorium on the installation of artificial surfaces. Any stadium with natural turf is required to keep it and any stadium were the artificial surface needs replacement is required to replace it with a natural surface. In Miami the city officials have decided to spend \$268,000, plow up their still "functional" Polyurf Orange Bowl and replace it with natural grass. Obviously the original appeal of artificial turf is rapidly disappearing. The reasons for this are multiple but most stem from the new time tested conclusion that the claims for Astroturf just don't hold up:

-Astroturf cuts down on injuries. In fact it produces more injuries and even some types that were never

seen before. (ie. Posterior cruciate ligament tears of the knee)

-Astroturf lasts forever and is therefore economically a sound investment. Some stadiums have had to replace thier surfaces 3 times over the last 10 years.

-Astroturf is destroyed by U.V. rays when exposed to sunlight. It also cracks, splits, gets torn up and worn away.

-Astroturf provides a good playing surface and to verify this you have to ask someone who's played on it. Lydell Mitchell, Colt halfback after practicing for a week on Astroturf: "my legs and body never ached so much. It's like landing on concrete." "Astroturf", says Tommy Prothio, San Diego Charger coach, "is like putting a throw rug over a driveway." These comments are reflective of the increased "punishment" factor which artificial surfaces add to any game. Not only is Astroturf bad in good conditions, it's also worse in bad conditions. When it rains there is no footing. When it's hot it's ten degrees hotter on the Astroturf. When it's freezing there is ice on the surface. (When other teams come to play, Dalhousie is required to supply them with the special Astroturf shoes.)

Aside from the poor physical and economical aspects of putting in an artificial surface there's also the esthetic consideration. Going for a jog and then lying your sweaty body down on a plastic mat to do sit ups is not quite as appealing as laying in the cool grass. Also, there seems to be a certain continuity between the old campus, football field, Sherriff Hall, etc. and that continuity is maintained by grass. It would certainly be destroyed by a giant plastic mat connecting all these structures.

In the end it comes down again to the question of "need" and the ability to plan rationally. Dalhousie has only one field and it is used 6 times as much as any natural field can withstand. In the summer it is often closed off in an attempt to grow grass for the fall. By the beginning of November the middle is bald and muddy. But by the end of the year it has always served it's purpose. Playing a game in the mud is not such a horror - it's often fun.

One and a half million dollars for an artificial field is not the answer to the over-use problem. The artificial surface used to cover the track 12 years ago was gone in five years and there hasn't been a track meet at Dal in the last seven years.

The student population has leveled off and can be expected to drop significantly within the next few years due to the decreasing value of a college degree, the decreasing population, the decreasing Student Aid and the deteriorating economy.

One can easily extend this to an artificial field. The students for whom this surface is being provided might find it so disagreeable that all intramurals will be shifted to the Commons and Goresebrook to avoid being burned and bruised by the \$1,500,000 improvement.

Again it is not certain that the use (abuse) the field is now getting will continue or increase.

There are numerous alternative solutions. The university can continue to seed the old field in the hopes that is will continue to improve it's durability. (This year it held up fairly well and next year it can be expected to hold up even better.) In conjunction with this they can attempt to schedule more time at the Commons and Goresebrook for team practices. If football, which doesn't ever seem to be a rousing success, were eliminated, the annual life expectancy of the field would at least double.

If money ever became available to re-do the field, the new PAT surface might be a viable alternative. This is a sand culture natural turf, which

is now being used at purdue, in the Orange Bowl, at UBC and at Lansdowne Park. The system involves a sand base with drainage and irrigation pipes, covered with grass. Maintenance cost is only \$50,000 per year and installation is \$180,000 or one tenth the cost of Dalhousie's proposed artificial surface. Where in use, this surface has won the praise of both players and management. Obviously being "behind" can put Dalhousie far ahead if, when considering the field problem, the administration (and students) take a quick look around and realize that the only place for Astroturf is in the Astrodome where they can't grow grass.

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Clairol Loving Care ads insult women

NEW YORK (LNS-CUP) -- Women at the University of Washington in Seattle are protesting the Clairol Loving Care Hair Color ad for gray hair that appeared in the June, 1976 issue of Good Housekeeping Magazine.

The ad pictures a businesswoman with the headline, "On men, gray hair is distinguished. On me, it's just plain old." The copy beneath the headline begins, "Sure, it's

unfair. I have only a few grays. If I were a man, I'd be growing them gracefully. Instead, I'm plucking them furiously."

The Seattle women state that the ad is based on a comparison between men and women that capitalizes on inequities that women face in the U.S. today. Men are given automatic prestige for aging; women are made to feel ashamed of the natural process of aging.

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