

letters

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Unrecognized violence?

To the editor:

More and more people are turning on to tofu; this trend began with the realization that we are intelligent beings, and we do not have to choose to support the many savages who raise livestock under brutal conditions, and ensure that this torture continues, by eating meat. This is admirable. "Humane" people have since turned their ravenous appetites loose on veggies.

But a study once proved that tomatoes emit extremely high frequencies when torn off the vine—clearly an expression of pain. We are forgetting that nature dictates that we must kill in order to survive, and living things (plants AND animals) have feelings.

Ideologies can be misleading. Let's take one example: many people swear that they would not hunt, because they don't enjoy the feeling of killing other animals. Still, many of them are comfortable with a fishing rod, an aquatic death weapon, in their hands. When pressed, some people have said, "Well, I can't relate to fish. They breathe water."

What if I were to tell you that I can't relate to carrots, they live underground. Does that mean I should have freelance to kill them?

Vegetarians are putting an end to human violence against animals, but are ignoring violence against plants. We continue to support the terroriza-

tion and destruction of life forms that are unfamiliar to us, the animal supremacists.

Adam Newman

Let lying DAGS sleep

To the editor:

As members of the 1991-92 Honorarium Committee, we are writing to clarify the issues concerning the 1991-92 DAGS honoraria.

First, the mandate of the 1991-92 DAGS Honorarium Committee was to present recommendations to council regarding honoraria amounts. At the March 24, 1992 meeting, at which quorum was duly constituted, these amounts were presented as recommendations. Council then had the opportunity to amend the specified recommendations, and in fact, several of the recommended amounts were changed.

With reference to the letter printed in the October 1st issue of the "Gazette" re: "DAGS debate", several points should be clarified.

1. Regarding the statement that Council members "should have been given the common courtesy of being informed in advance of the meeting of the honoraria amounts":

It should be reiterated that the recommendations made by the Committee were just that, recommendations, and it was up to the 1991-92 Council to make adjustments to and to pass the amounts as they deemed appropriate. Thus advance notice is irrelevant.

2. To state that the Honorarium Committee neglected to give reports at the DAGS meetings regarding honoraria is simply untrue. As recorded in the official DAGS minutes, Honorarium Committee reports were given at the following meetings:

November 21, 1991
January 15, 1992
January 29, 1992
February 12, 1992
February 26, 1992

3. As to the statement that the 1991-92 President of DAGS "was not invited to attend a single Honorarium meeting", the President was in fact well aware of the meeting at which the recommendations for honoraria were determined which took place on March 19, 1992 (as attested to by the telephone conversation regarding honoraria which she held with an Honorarium Committee member that same day). The President did not exercise her choice as "ex officio" member to attend. It is also false to assume that the recommendations of the Committee would have been different had she attended.

In closing, we would like to quote Webster's definition of "honorarium" for your consideration:

Honorarium: an honorary payment or reward usually given as compensation for services on which custom or propriety forbids any fixed business price to be set or for which no payment can be enforced at law. (p. 1087, Webster's Third New International Dictionary, 1981)

Kim Ohashi
Chairperson, 1991-92 DAGS
Honorarium Committee

Valerie P. Nofle
Member, 1991-1992 DAGS
Honorarium Committee

the reputation and status which DAGS has maintained over the years. For example, last year's Council voted to increase the financial support for a South African student after the federal government withdrew its funding, organized a fund-raiser for Bryony House, and initiated an investigation into the inherent inequities of the Teaching Assistantship awards. Also, DAGS councillors sit on Senate, Faculty Council, the Dean's Bursary Committee, SUNS, CFS and the library committee just to name a few. In fact, our library representative last year lobbied to extend Christmas library hours in an attempt to make the library administration aware that graduate students have different needs, in that we do not finish the term in mid-December and are year-round researchers and scholars. Once a year, DAGS produces a refereed journal "University Avenues" which gives graduate students an opportunity to present their research to the academic community. DAGS Council is a vital, active organization which participates in all aspects of student life.

It is sad that the lack of nominations resulted in the acclamation of the President who did not possess the necessary skills for the position. Mr. Wellstead was a good councillor who perhaps should not have tackled the President's job. Nevertheless, shame on Mr. Wellstead for using his 'resignation' as ammunition in an issue that goes far beyond monetary considerations.

B. Niles
1991-93 DAGS Councillor

No-smoke signal sent

To the editor:

Non-smokers should be allowed to enjoy the same privileges as the smoker. That is to eat their meals in an environment which reflects their preference to cigarette smoke.

An area for non-smoking students, physically separate from smokers, is needed. A non-smoking area is unacceptable in the Student Union Building where ventilation and air purification systems appear to be nonexistent, at least inadequate.

If a person believes it to be their right to be able to eat in an area where they may smoke it would follow that the right to be able to eat in a smoke free environment also exists. A non-smoking eating area must ensure that second hand smoke does not interfere with those wishing to eat without the annoyance of smoke in the air.

It is time that the Dalhousie Student Union spends the money to put up glass barriers and ventilation systems so that all students, whether they be smokers or not, be able to enjoy their meals in the environment of their choice.

The idea of banning smoking is not yet practical due to the large minority of smokers within the student body. It is possible though to accommodate the needs of both groups within the confines of the cafeteria. It is time that the DSU looked out for the health of its students instead of wasting resources in futile battles with the administration.

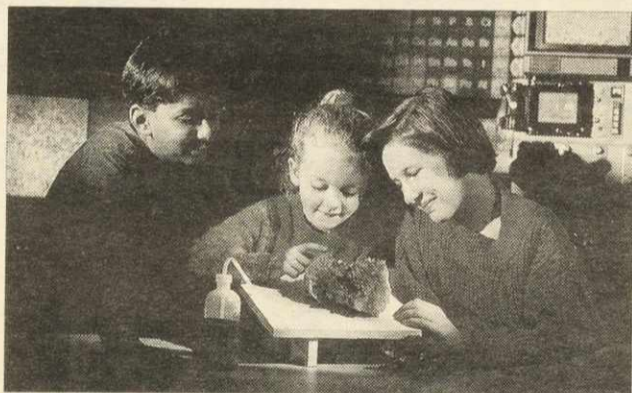
Peter Patterson

In defense of DAGS

To the editor:

In the article "A DAG eat DAG world" (Sept. 24, 1992), it appears that while Mr. Wellstead wished to air DAGS dirty laundry in public, he neglected to empty the hamper. Mr. Wellstead contends that the major reason for his resignation was the honorarium issue. How interesting that Mr. Wellstead forgot to mention that there was a non-confidence vote on the floor, and that the Vice-president and the Secretary could not support the continuation of his presidency. Only after the seriousness of these charges were apparent to Mr. Wellstead did he submit his resignation! The non-confidence vote was not a spur-of-the-moment decision; rather it was the end result of Mr. Wellstead's performance since his acclamation as President in April. It should also be noted that both the Vice-President and the Secretary were not members of the 1991-92 DAGS Council and therefore had nothing to gain from an honorarium redistribution.

It is becoming increasingly obvious that the impeachment of Mr. Wellstead would have ultimately been a good decision for DAGS. His major concern is vindication, without regard for



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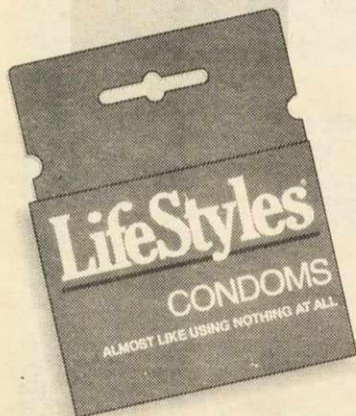
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