

Councillors should store their energy over the holidays

Whereas the holiday season is a time to reflect on who we were a year ago, and how we managed to get to where we are now, the Gazette would like to celebrate its last issue of 1981 with a glance at the term nearly past (or just passed for this noble publication, hooray!).

No doubt the year started with a splash, with a demonstration that headlined across the country, and a less splashy election ('who cares, I'm a student and I can't vote').

We kept our beady eyes alert, prepared for the worst, when budget day brought us a surprise from Ottawa.

The cuts came, but were smaller than what had been expected. But troubles at the federal level were magnified at home, and we turned our cameras inwards. Universities across the country are abounding with deficits, not surprising as governments find education less and less of a funding priority. And the hole Dal is in has to be the worst. Our academics debated it at length in the Senate, concluding that cuts in the area of academic programs are a no-no. The proposal to approve a non-replacement policy for those professors that leave the institution every year was soundly defeated, for political, not practical, reasons. Why? Because the issue is hot, and the Faculty Association, it was apparent, does not trust the administration too feet.

So what? As was pointed out, it matters very little what Senate has to say about the whole deal. Cuts there will be, and Senate has taken itself right out of the ball

game. One of the conditions for involving the Senate in the financial process was approval of the proposal 'to show Senate cares about Dalhousie'. If the Senate does not want to show its trust in the administration, it may matter very little. The real bargaining power left is in the contract negotiations, the faculty and the staff associations, and as President MacKay cleverly put it in a letter to the DFA President, the number of people Dal may not be able to replace depends in part on the salary increases that the faculty get in their next contract.

The debate has gone behind closed doors now, into the hands of the Board of Governors, with many difficult and juicy items on the agenda for cutbacks to this proud institution.

MacKay assures us that tuition hikes will be high on the agenda, benevolently allowing students to partake in the decisions. Likewise a new turn, budgets for faculties and their departments are being determined early, in strict line with that popular phrase, 'fiscal restraint'.

It's the Board of Governors that have made this institution rich in real estate, in programs and in respect, and therefore it is only the Board of Governors that can take the blame for Dalhousie's financial disaster, underfunding of its projects, and for being too aloof to 'go public' and demand more money from the provincial government.

In parting for the Christmas holidays, the Gazette would like to say these words of encouragement. Student council has received



THE HASH SMOKERS

some criticism, and there's lots of selective criticism it deserves. However, there's lots of work that council must do next term, and early next term, to pull the weight of student opinion into the frays of the debate. It has to understand how the politics

work at Dalhousie and set its strategy accordingly.

The decisions and debate in each and every committee that councillors sit on must come back to council for close examination.

All our expectations and hopes are in a strong return

next year. We've got the resources, the technology, etc.... So get some rest and eat lots of plum pudding, councillors, we await the comeback of a strong and opinionated council, who won't take the shit about to come down.

To the Editor:

I am writing in reply to Ken Burke's review of the National Film Board's anti-pornography film **Not a Love Story**. Mr. Burke, as he suggests, attempts to give an opinion on the film that deviates from that which the majority of us would hold.

Mr. Burke criticizes the film for not clearly defining what is pornography and what is eroticism. It is interesting to note that the Oxford Dictionary defines pornography as descriptions which "intend to stimulate erotic rather than aesthetic feelings". The dictionary also states that eroticism aims at arousing sexual desire or excitement while aesthetic feelings are ones of beauty. One has to realize that the definitions of such terms are rather subjective, but it seems Mr. Burke's argument would have been more forceful if he tried to distinguish between what is beautiful and what is pornographic, and that is very hard to do.

Mr. Burke tends to view pornography as giving negative images of sex and eroticism as giving positive images of sex. Too many of the people who appeared in the film, openly

and those which are not. Erotic images can break down the already weak existing morals in our society. They can encourage a glorified view of sexual activity which can be

he tends to overdo it. "Not a Love Story" is a bold attempt by the National Film Board to make people aware of the sordid attitudes that our society encourages. To conclude, I

To the Editor:

Re: Closure of Scotia Hearing Aid Dispensary
1472 Tower Road, Halifax, N.S.

The action by Mr. Sheehy in effect denies disabled persons the opportunity to acquire independent support aids - "Hearing Aids" at a reasonable cost.

This action by the government will cause a number of people to continue living as second class citizens, as those on limited incomes will not be able to afford the extra costs to acquire the "Aids".

If the government feels so strongly that such a clinic should not compete with the private sector, they should underwrite through M.S.I. the addressed costs of the Aids to the disabled due to the closure. This action must be immediate.



displayed erotic images that can be negative. They effect the children and the young adolescents in our society in a negative sense because these people are often too young to distinguish between what sexual images are morally acceptable

very dangerous to young adolescents. To try to distinguish between pornographic and erotic images is really just excusing a certain type of pornography.

Mr. Burke makes some valid criticisms of the film, but I feel

generally think the film is a job well done. It fulfills its purpose of making the public aware of what really constitutes a large part of North American society.

S.L. Hills

Paul Jamieson