

VALENTINE SCHMALENTINE

After I finish classes on Valentine's Day I'm going to curl up next to my bouquet of 14 red roses and have my lover feed me chocolates while Dom Perignon flows through my veins thanks to an intravenous unit that one of my many admirers sent me.

Right, and I'll be wearing a pink dress too.

Valentine's Day sucks. Seen it, did it, ate it. No really, I did eat it. It was a Dairy Queen ice cream cake and the person behind the counter didn't even ask me to repeat my special inscription.

"Valentine's Day Sucks' please."

My roommates and I have been predicting who'll be eligible for a piece of the cake this year. The only qualification is that you are single. Alone. Dateless. Sexually frustrated. It looks like Lisa and I will be going fifty-fifty.

I'm not bitter. I just don't think public affection needs to be encouraged. Lovers are everywhere. You see them holding hands in the street, hear them next door through your bedroom wall or fall into their laps while riding on the Metro Transit. Is it necessary that we make public groping a national holiday?

"Lovers should have, if not a whole year, then at least on day for themselves," one romantic was quoted as saying.

Puh-lease. Couples already have the whole year, or however long their relationship lasts.

"We've been together for three weeks honey! Let's celebrate!"

Couples have birthdays, Xmas, Ground Hog Day, one night stands, three month anniversaries and every day of the week that ends in 'y'.

Unfortunately, many couples seem to forget that they have homes. "That's right pal, a home... with a bedroom. So how about you untangle your legs from your lover's waist and leave the Killam Library to those of us who aren't lucky enough to have someone's tongue in our ear while studying for tomorrow's German midterm. Ja?"

At the very least, Killam couples should be told to move it to the bathroom. I hear the acoustics are great. However, out of fear that their annoyance would be mistaken for bitterness, people seldom confront horizontal dirty dancing duos.

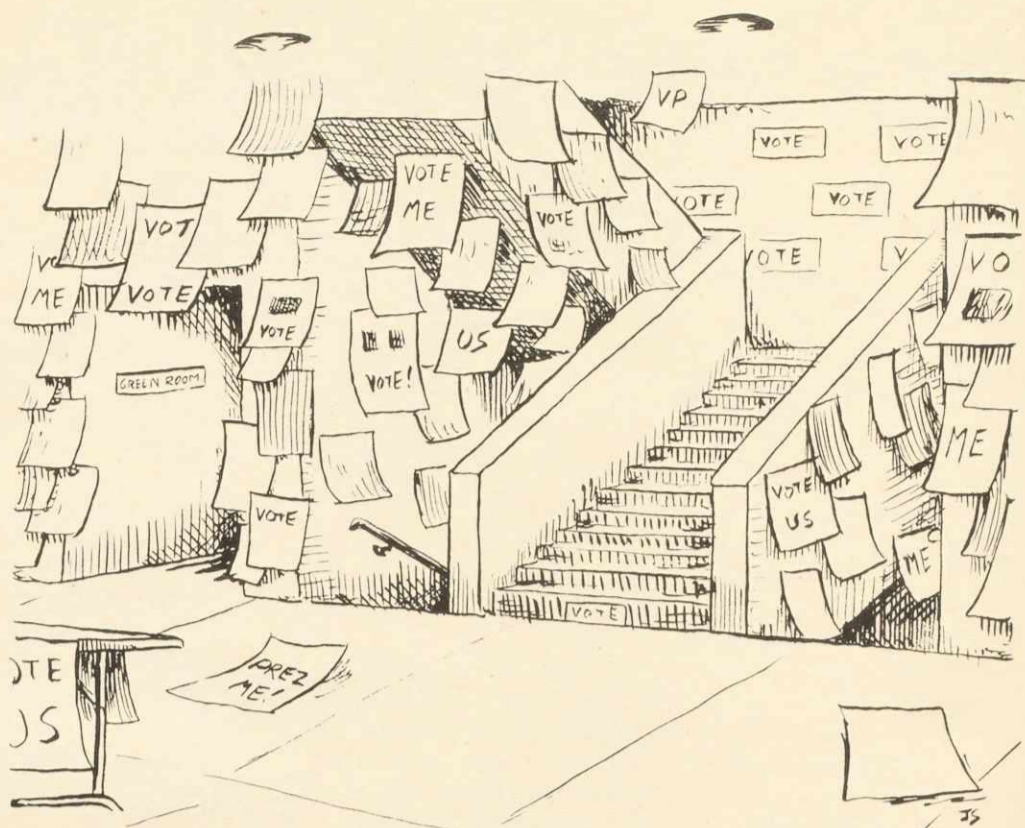
People can't be blamed for their paranoia. Hallmark is out there making millions off a public that feels guilty if they don't buy a five dollar heart-shaped card, and ashamed if they don't have anyone to give it to. Advertisers have stumbled across F.A.V.D., Faking A Valentine Disorder.

Even if you're dating someone 364 days out of the year, you're made to feel inadequate if you don't have someone to swap spit with on February 14. Men are mailing themselves perfumed love letters. Preschoolers are receiving Valentines from Snufflufagus. Most tragic of all, women are eating mushroom flavoured Mr. Noodle so they can afford to buy themselves cherub chia pets.

Just say no to Valentine's Day. Or rather, just say no to spending money on your honey. Give the money to someone who deserves it; those of us who have to put up with couples' nauseating cooing and cuddling every day of the year.

"Excuse me, could you change that to, 'Valentine's Day Sucks The Big One'?"

Judy Reid



DALHOUSIE POST-ELECTION DEBATE: LANDFILL, RECYCLING OR INCINERATION?



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.

Terminal condition

To the editor:

The article on queuing for terminals in the Killam labs mentions several of the problems evident with the quantity of computing facilities for students. However I should point out a few minor inaccuracies, and also introduce an aspect even more serious than the quantity shortfall.

Academic Computing Services (ACS) is one of four departments of University Computing and Information Services (UCIS). It is the Communications Services department which maintains the network connections, not ACS. The DALI connection limit is set at 200 usually not 250, and given performance this year, 200 may be too high.

UCIS did receive a small capital grant last year, but administrative system renewal is such a key part of UCIS' budget reduction strategy that none was available for academic facility renewal. This brings me to the more serious shortfall with our facilities for students, that being technological obsolescence. This problem is not unique to Dalhousie. The pace of technology change has hit educational institutions everywhere, and at all levels.

The microcomputers in the picture, at the advanced age of 5 years, are all far outdated, and incapable of running software that faculty would like to use in teaching, and in communicating with students. The same is true with over 40 per cent of the micros in UCIS-supported labs. The prospect for capital to replace any of these for next year is not good based on the outlook for provincial funding, the major source of capital for these facilities. We can look forward to the new capital campaign, but if no renewal occurs for the next couple of years, the queues you

mention may disappear for a quite different reason. The facilities won't be relevant.

Randy Barkhouse
Director

Nimmon's loss

To the editor:

I am writing in response to Mr. Nimmon's letter (February 3) in which he criticized the "Economics and the Environment with Dr. Suzuki and Guests" panel discussion. The Dalhousie Science Society should be commended for arranging a forum in which issues concerning the environment and sustainable development can be freely debated. The only loss which will accrue from the evening's exchange of ideas will be Mr. Nimmon's as a consequence of his refusal to attend.

Eric R. Roe
Director Public Affairs
Clearwater Fine Foods Inc.

Not his problem

To the editor:

Mr. Nimmon raises a valid issue ("Suzuki fee a scam", *Gazette*, February 3) that I assume has been discussed within the Dalhousie Science Society (DSS).

I don't believe it is up to me to defend the DSS or tell it what its priorities should be, who it should invite, or how much a speaker is worth.

I did not solicit the Dalhousie Science Society invitation. I receive literally dozens of requests each month, most offering a fee. My time is a commodity I cannot increase — it's very limited. So I have a fee which helps to regulate my speaking engagements and which supports my office and Foundation, and activities with other envi-

ronmental and native groups. Years ago, I deliberately stopped applying for government grants and I fund all of my activities from my writing and speaking.

For every speech for which I receive a fee, I give at least three for nothing to environmental and native groups. The fee lets me do this. Let me reiterate, I do not believe the issue is one that I have to respond to. It is up to the Dalhousie Science Society to decide what it's worth and what it isn't.

David Suzuki

Opera not dead

To the editor:

I wish to thank the staff of the Dalhousie *Gazette* (in particular Geoff Ineson) for the splendid article on the recent Dalhousie Opera production. One thing that did concern me, however, was the lead-in to the review, stating that "the Dalhousie Opera is playing... soon, it will be gone."

This, of course, refers to the actual run of the production itself, not the Dalhousie Opera Workshop (or, for that matter, the entire Music Department).

The Dalhousie community will be pleased to know that the Department is alive and well and is in the midst of organizing a summer-long recruitment drive for fresh musical talent. In addition, several tours of the Arts Centre have been given to various high schools. The closure of the performing arts departments is no longer being seen as a viable solution to Dalhousie's "imminent financial crisis" and alternate proposals are being seriously considered. In the meantime, the Dalhousie Music Department is celebrating its 25th anniversary, and we look forward to returning as alumni to celebrate its 50th!

Peter MacDonald
President
Society of Dalhousie Music
Students

the Gazette

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