

Greg McFarlane: a perfect synonym for prostitute?

What's a little academic fraud in the grand scheme of life?

Seventy-five bucks. Call me cheap, call me money-hungry, call me whatever you want — but for a student, that's a lot of coin.

In fact, seventy-five dollars, straight-no-chaser, was what I was offered to write a five-page essay by a character who coincidentally shall remain anonymous throughout this editorial.

While my sense of work ethic implored me to yell a resounding "no" to his request for academic fraud, my sense of what money does for society forced me to bite my tongue. I won't even insult your intelligence by saying that rebelliousness lured me towards the dirty deed. Let's be honest: I'd be writing an essay.

But let's say I wrote the paper. Is that so bad? Would I be corrupt? Is it my right to impose my own sense of work ethic on another student?

Corporations do stuff like this all the time — it's called 'outsourcing' in officespeak, and I'd just be the source, right? I'd simply be utilizing my skills — writing ability — to make the world a bit sunnier for someone willing to pay for the golden shine. Right?

Maybe. But a mental image of my future business card scared me just a little.

I read, "Greg McFarlane, Prostitute. It's not called 'getting fucked' if you do it for money. Quality service since 1999."

This was a *business card*. Instead, the phrase belonged in a bathroom stall, where debates of morality are always played out. Somewhere between Jesse, whom you should call for a good time, and Allison, who could do something with gerbils that's guaranteed to make you squeal, would be my tempting call to indiscretion.

Ironically, the odds of someone writing "Jesse saves all" above that same toilet are pretty high.

But we're all prostitutes. We sell our goods, skills, abilities and experience to chase down money.

world has been corrupted already, then the ivory tower is stained as well. I don't think a minor thing like academic fraud would take out the cornerstone. Compared to half the stuff that goes on around here, I don't think I'd even be responsible for a little paint chipping. And that's somewhat disappointing, too. Whatever.

Let's say I don't do the paper. Where would that get me? Or anybody? I'd remain in the same economic position in which I started, and the person who made the indecent proposal would end up without a paper, or he'd find someone else to do the job. Either way, I'm no further ahead. But, gosh darn it, I'd have my values.

And where do values get you? Often, a compromise of values is needed to get ahead in this world. But we all have to sleep at night.

The dilemma is clear. The decision involves pain.

But would I hurt with all that money? Seventy-five bucks.

GREG MCFARLANE

EDITORIAL

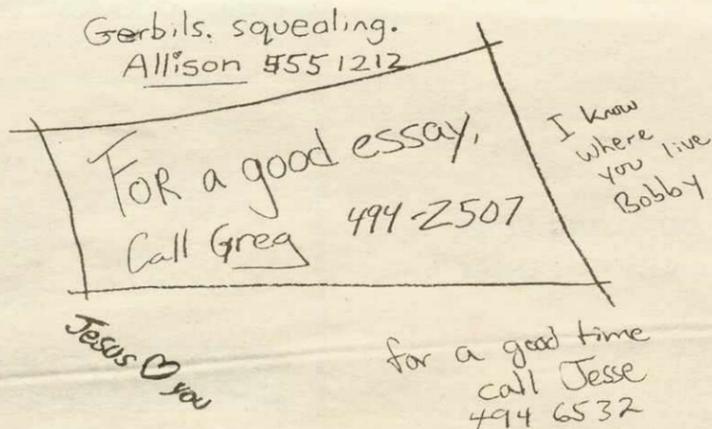
And the idealistic can chastise me for saying that, and I'll let them, but capitalist societies are constructed in such a way that any active participant cannot survive without a requisite amount of cash. So it would seem selling my services (soul?) is just one step towards

Somewhere between Jesse, whom you should call for a good time, and Allison, who could do something with gerbils that's guaranteed to make you squeal, would be my tempting call to indiscretion.

gaining that needed amount.

And who's to stop me? Academia?

Not at all. We all live in a connected world, and universities are part of that world. And if our



LETTERS

The corporate bunny

To the editor,

It's unfortunate the media has simplified their coverage of *Playboy* on campus by framing the story strictly in terms of the objectification of women.

I'm not suggesting that objectifying women is an acceptable endeavour (it's downright abominable), but by framing the story that way it's reduced to a simple, frustrating stalemate: the Dal Women's Centre claims objectifying women is inappropriate and *Playboy* wraps itself in a freedom-of-expression blanket.

Shoulders shrug and the story ends, right? Wrong.

The real problem here isn't *Playboy's* presence on campus; it's any corporation's presence on campus. But by limiting the story to *Playboy*, a ridiculous thing happens. *Playboy* defends its presence at Dalhousie with the very freedom-of-expression argument that ought to be used against corporations on campus: namely, that their presence infringes on the academic freedom of expression of students and professors. I wish this side of the story had received the coverage it deserved.

Dave Caulfield
Community Board Member
Nova Scotia Public Interest
Research Group

Biased opinion

To the editor,

I would like to respond to the opinion piece by Mr. Holton titled "Lecture a facade for Christian evangelism".

Mr. Holton is entitled to his opinions about why the seminar might be lacking or even biased — information we are hoping to hear so that we can improve such seminars in the future. He crosses a line, however, when he alleges that the motives for the seminar were "religious evangelism wearing the disguise of objective historical inquiry" and "those responsible for organizing this lecture should be ashamed to have promoted such a blatant attempt at Christian evangelism as an objective historical inquiry."

As one of the organizers, I know these allegations are false. If you believe what Mr. Holton says on this subject don't hold it against DCF (whom he purports to be the sponsor), but the Navigators, who were the main sponsor.

If Mr. Oborn could not establish that the text of the New Testament is intact (meaning only that what we have today is what was originally written), then how could

he go on to reasonably establish that the New Testament is historically reliable? Mr. Holton says establishing this was wasted time and then alleges that Mr. Oborn's motive for doing this was "a distraction technique to persuade the bewildered and naive". Again he is laying poisonous charges that are untrue and in the process implying that students at Dal are naive — unlike himself.

I would like to thank Mr. Holton for his opinions about the seminar. His allegations as to our motives for hosting it, however, are inflammatory, nothing short of gossip and reveal his own sensitivities and bias.

Ron Abarbanel
The Dalhousie Navigators

Who's pulling the strings?

To the editor,

The government is trying to influence the designation of endangered species by changing the structure of COSEWIC, The Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife. This committee consists of 26 voting members both government and non-government, requiring a two-thirds majority for designation of endangered species.

Last September Canada's wildlife ministers met and decided to change the structure of COSEWIC, independent of legislation. The proposed changes include the removal of non-government representatives, replacing them with government appointed positions.

This increase in government representation provides government with the two-thirds voting majority. The lack of impartial members undermines the credibility of COSEWIC. Both scientific and conservation groups have already indicated their opposition to changing the manner by which endangered species are designated. However, their protests seem to have fallen on deaf ears. It is therefore necessary for the general public to raise its voice in protest. If these changes concern you, contact the Honourable Christine Stewart, Minister of The Environment, Parliament Buildings, Room 658, Confederation Building, House of Commons, Ottawa ON, K1A 0A6.

Mark Galley, Chris Graham, Beth Halfyard, Maya Mukhida, Nicole Pike, Jason Taylor, and Zoey Zahorodny.

LETTERS
continued on page 8

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Student Union Building, Dalhousie University, 6136 University Ave., rm 312, Halifax, NS, B3H 4J2.
editorial tel. 902 494-2507, facsimile 902 494-8890. e-mail. GAZETTE@is2.dal.ca

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All submissions must be typed double-spaced on paper, e-mailed, or on a Mac or IBM 3 1/2 inch disk, in a WP version not greater than Word 6.0 or equivalent. The deadline is Mondays at 4:30 p.m.

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Next week is the
Gazettes last
issue: savour it,
enjoy it, take
it to bed and