



Nasty Photo?

Think you can do better?

Then why haven't you come to room 312 SUB?

We need Photographers. Meetings every Monday at 4:30 pm.

Letters continued... Parking woes

To the editor,

I am a Dalhousie student and bought a parking pass at \$107 for the year, only to find out that I can never find a parking spot! I'm livid! It seems that Dalhousie sold as many passes as they possibly could without being able to produce anywhere near the amount of spaces needed. I understand the concept of selling more passes than spots under the assumption that not everyone will be on campus at the same time, but there has to be a limit. This is ridiculous! I'm certain that I also speak on behalf of all the other drivers out there that compete with me for that possibly one lucky spot in the morning. This is a serious problem that must be dealt with. Either make more parking or sell less passes. Plain and simple.

Amir Nevo

Fill the void...
write for
the Gazette

Staff meetings
every Monday at
4:30 pm.
room 312 SUB.

Attention Jewish Students!!!

The Atlantic Provinces Jewish Students Federation (APJSF) is the organization to represent you. We have a large variety of social, cultural and educational events ranging from parties, Shabbat Dinners, multi cultural events, regional conventions, our annual ski trip and more. We currently have over 225 members across Atlantic Canada. Our membership is primarily Jewish but we are open to anyone who wishes to join. For information about the APJSF Representative on your campus, please contact Yakov at (902) 422-7491 or e-mail at ai993@chebucto.ns.ca Also visit our web site at www3.sympatico.ca/ajc.halifax/main.html

Big Brother is watching

where's your helmet?

It may not have caught the attention of every Nova Scotian this summer, nor of every part-timer from the rest of the country (or the world) who is just now returning, but don't be mistaken folks, a change has come over the province. The wise men (and a few women, to be sure) who pass for leaders in this fair province have decided that the ordinary citizen is once again not to be trusted with his or her own life, and that the masses should be protected from themselves. The bittersweet irony is that the legislation is designed to protect the very part of the body which our government must think is not working right: our heads.

Not long ago, in a province with which we are all too familiar, there was a government "of the people" whose members — along with their Rhodes-scholar leader — also thought they should do the people's thinking for them, and decreed that all cyclists should wear helmets. This sort of shut-up-and-listen i-to-your-father tripe was short-lived however, along with the intrusive photo-radar vans, when the government was overthrown by a common-sense revolution. Ironically, of course, it is the new régime which is usually labelled as fascist. Look again, I say.

As for the "cyclists-without-helmets-are-potential-burdens-on-

the-healthcare-system" argument, I don't buy it — major reality check required folks. Cyclists as a burden on the health care system? What about all the lard-assed fast-food junkies tooling around in their gas-guzzling smog-belching Impalas? What about the glue — and gasoline — sniffing underclass? The same argument is hauled out time after time in persecution of that increasingly lonely band of society members known as smokers. Not content to simply let them quietly (and quickly) puff their lives away, the overanxious zealots hound the poor addicts at every turn. Nevermind that they have enough problems, being addicted to such a useless drug.

Of course bicycle helmets have saved lives and prevented serious injury, and of course they will continue to do so. But the only life they can save, the only injury they can prevent is that of the wearer. And therefore choosing to wear or not to wear a bicycle helmet is his or her decision to make. We all

make decisions like that every day — whether to eat two KFC snak-paks when we are already obese (and heart disease runs in our family), whether to rollerblade without knee pads, whether to smoke, or play squash, or ski. We all get out of bed each day and leave the house knowing full well that in doing so we increase the chances that accident may befall us, and thus render us a nasty burden on the public purse. If public health care is to be available to one and all, then it must be just that; not restricted to those of us who always put on a helmet, always do up our seatbelts, don't drink, don't smoke, don't ever leave the house; and it must not be used to compel (or impel) us to do (or not do) anything.

And if every individual in our society is to be free, then that freedom must encompass not just the freedom to lead an exemplary lifestyle, but also the freedom to lead a despicable one.

Milton Howe

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