

Bitter Pill

To the editor:

Dr. Morgentaler's discussion on abortion was very informative and educational. He's gone a long way in promoting the inalienable right of women to control their own bodies. It's too bad Dalhousie hasn't done the same.

A comment from a speaker in the audience stated that education and access to birth control were important in the prevention of pregnancy and avoidance of abortion. Very true. So tell me this, how come the J. Ingles Insurance Co., which reimburses students for drug claims through the Dal Health Plan, excludes only birth control pills from that drug list? Are birth control pills so medically unique they can't be incorporated into the policy?

I don't know, but for a "liberal" school such as Dal not to insist on having cheap access to oral contraceptives tells me something about their progress for women's rights and their promotion of education and access to pregnancy prevention for their students... it's once again a cost to the student body.

Kimberly Ritchie

Comatose reps

To the editor:

It is rarely that I am so incensed as to risk the conflict of interest inherent in being both staff for a student organization and a Dalhousie student. However, wearing, for the moment, only the Dal student hat, I feel I have to comment on the lack of representation I am getting from my student government. It becomes clearer to me every day that the people who were elected to represent all of us as students have abrogated all of their political responsibilities in favour of the social aspects of life at Dalhousie.

Please, Dalhousie students, wake up and tell me something. Is it more important to you that we have a flashing sign in the SUB lobby that advertises current social events and Hollywood Jeans? Perhaps it's enough that great bands like Pursuit of Happiness are playing on campus? Or, would you rather have the comfort of knowing that your student councillors are actually working - to keep tuition fees down; to help ensure that the GST will not apply to your textbooks; to help ensure that you will not be charged a 3% administration fee on your student loan; to see that the university is adequately funded by the government so that library and lab facilities continue to be available and to ensure that your residence buildings are not falling to pieces?

Two recent incidents lead me to believe that we should all be in the pursuit of happiness while wearing Hollywood Jeans and not worrying about whether there will be an accessible place for your

younger sibling and children to study:

1) Recently, the forum on tuition fees could have been an opportunity for Dalhousie students to come out in numbers and voice a real concern, numbers that might have made a difference. Instead, a couple of councillors were running around 15 minutes before the forum trying to scrounge up a few dozen people to attend the forum to make it look good for the TV cameras. Small wonder the university doesn't think students care. How's that for representation?

2) Last Wednesday, a Rally was held as part of the National Student Day. Not only were there only a handful of Dalhousie students in attendance, only one representative of our entire student council was there. It's a little difficult for organizers to get students to care about an issue when it's obvious even to the most casual observer that the student government doesn't give a damn. It really makes you wonder how much resume building is going on out there.

And how's this for silly...In a recent article in the Chronicle-Herald, a member of the student union executive is quoted as saying that they're (DSU) thankful that they're not facing the same problems as another university where student councillors are being impeached. Where do you think your Student Union executive's priorities are?

I hope this letter will draw some response from students and student councillors alike. Even if it's negative, at least it will show me that you're not all comatose out there.

Is there anyone out there who does give a damn?

Sue Drapeau

Bonus

To the editor:

Everyone seems to have a gripe about Dalhousie. If it isn't parking, it's the fees, or all the strikes, or the construction, or... maybe I'd better stop I'm beginning to get depressed. But the list goes on and on.

People have forgotten the little things; the things that make you want to stand up on your desk, in the middle of a midterm, and scream at the top of your voice: "As God as my witness, I love Dalhousie!"

You read this and say: "Tell us about these wonderful things!" Well, here they are, The Top Ten Perks About Going To Dalhousie:

10. The tape-arrows on the floor of the A&A Building. (Without them, who would be able to find their classes?)

9. The choice of small and large hot dogs at the LSC cafeteria. (I can't remember if they have corners on their pizzas. If not, who's eating them?)

8. Our very own student newspaper, which allows boring, shallow, under-average persons (like me) to get in print.

7. The friendliness of the people in the book store as they take the last bit of your money from you.

6. The fact that your fellow students are the markers for your

courses. (If markers for CS 3040, 3170, or 3250 are reading this, call me. I have a proposition for you.)

5. The fact that we have our very own radio station. (Remember: if it's not CKDU, it's just not radio!)

4. All the exercise you get. If you have class in the Dunn Building, chances are it'll be on the third floor. (I don't know what any other floor looks like.)

3. The philosophy of professors' grading schemes. (An actual quote: "If you made at least 25% on this midterm, you're doing fine in this course.")

2. The compassion of administration not to put the bank machines right next to the Registrar's office.

And the number one perk about going to Dalhousie:

1. Toilet paper in all the bathrooms!

Craig Falkenham

Co-op blues

To the editor:

I am writing in response to the letter by Craig Falkenham in the September 27 issue of the Gazette. Unfortunately Mr. Falkenham presented his several inaccurate facts concerning the recent fee increase for the Co-operative Education Programme (Co-op) here at Dalhousie.

Over the past two years Co-op fees have increased twice: from \$75 to \$175 in early 1989 and from \$175 to \$350 this September. Contrary to what Mr. Falkenham has stated, both fee increase proposals were presented to the Co-op students of Dalhousie and a vote taken on their acceptance. This Spring, when the most recent increase proposal was made, a meeting took place concerning the future of Co-op. Those in attendance at that meeting included Vice-president McKee, former Dean of Science, Dean Betts, all of the members of the Co-op steering committee and over twenty Co-op students. While not all were happy with the proposed fee increase almost all agreed with its necessity. The vote to accept the proposed fee increase to \$350 was passed with only one nay ballot. A brief account, authored by Tom Legrady, of the meeting and its outcome was even printed in the Gazette the following week.

I felt obliged to respond to Mr. Falkenham's letter as I feel his attitude and comments reflect badly on the Co-operative programme. Our programme has suffered financially due to the neglect of the university administration, but the majority of students involved in Co-op feel so strongly about the benefits of the programme that they are willing to absorb the resulting fee increases.

Co-op needs more money, better offices, competent administration and most of all, more students. But even without these things I think I speak for the majority of Co-op students when I say that Co-op has been the most rewarding aspect of my university career.

If Mr. Falkenham is "grateful to co-op" perhaps he should endeavor to put forth some of the positive

aspects of the Co-op programme instead of complaining about increasing fees, which, unfortunately, is a problem common to all programs here at Dalhousie and not Co-op alone.

Mike Kelly
Student Rep to the Co-op
Steering Committee

Vandal scandal

Dear Editor,

I am writing to solicit your help in combatting a problem which is assuming epidemic proportions.

I thought it might be interesting for your readers to learn that, since the beginning of this school year, at least five campus traffic signs have been stolen, most of the flowers torn out of the planters outside Studley Gym, and the United Way kiosk, located on the boulevard opposite the SUB, destroyed. Although this is not an all-inclusive list, it is representative of a wider problem which is costing the university several thousands of dollars per year.

It is difficult to imagine what satisfaction was gained from some

of these actions or to guess at the reasons which lay behind them but, whatever the motivation, the net result will inevitably be reflected in the cost of education. In addition, and quite apart from the monetary aspect, there is the impact such actions have on the morale of the staff who strive to make this institution a more attractive place to live, work and study. Several of my staff have told me that it is more difficult to take a pride in their work when it is vandalised or stolen within hours of completion.

I have no evidence to suggest, nor do I necessarily believe, that the individuals who have caused this wanton damage are members of the Dalhousie community. However, I do believe that in publicizing the problem, we have a better chance of tackling it positively. To this end, I am asking if you would be kind enough to bring it to the attention of your readers, not only through the medium of this letter but, perhaps, through an editorial. Any assistance you can give in this respect will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

W.H. Lord
Director

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