

Not dead

Government of Canada, please be advised that Suzanne Louise DeVenne is very much alive and well, and attending Dalhousie University!

I filed my income tax late this year, but that's OK. When the government owes a citizen at income tax time, that money accrues interest and there is no penalty for late filing (as long as they owe you!).

On September 22, 1994, I went directly into the Revenue Canada offices on Barrington Street and was assisted in completing my very straight forward 1993 return.

On October 20, I telephoned Revenue Canada to find out if my claim had been processed. The ensuing conversation with clerk Anne was one of the most bizarre I have ever experienced.

After giving Anne my particulars she commented that something "odd" was happening with my file. After much prodding (and several more identification questions), she finally revealed to me the nature of this oddity.

Revenue Canada had my date of death as September 16, 1994! Can you believe it?

I immediately determined the problem to be a data entry error. Clerk Anne did not sound as convinced as I felt. She continued to question me.

"Are you calling on behalf of Suzanne DeVenne?" she asked me.

I (again) stated, "I am Suzanne DeVenne!"

Well, of course, being a representative of the government, she informed me that she could not straighten this out right away. She would, however, forward my file to the appropriate supervisor and he

would call me back as soon as possible.

Well, as we all know, "as soon as possible" with the government could be anywhere from four to six weeks.

Come Friday morning, I had determined I was in no mood to spend any more time as a deceased member of society. After all, my birthday was the coming weekend and I planned to celebrate the passing of another year — not the passing of my life!

At 8:30 a.m., I contacted Revenue Canada and asked to speak with the supervisor who was handling this "investigation." Not to my surprise, I was informed that he was not in as yet!

With clenched jaw and more than a little irritation, I relayed my story to clerk Mary. I informed her I had a class at 10:30 and I sincerely hoped this situation would be rectified in time for me to attend. I did not allow them much time to straighten this out, I admit — but, hey, who can blame me?

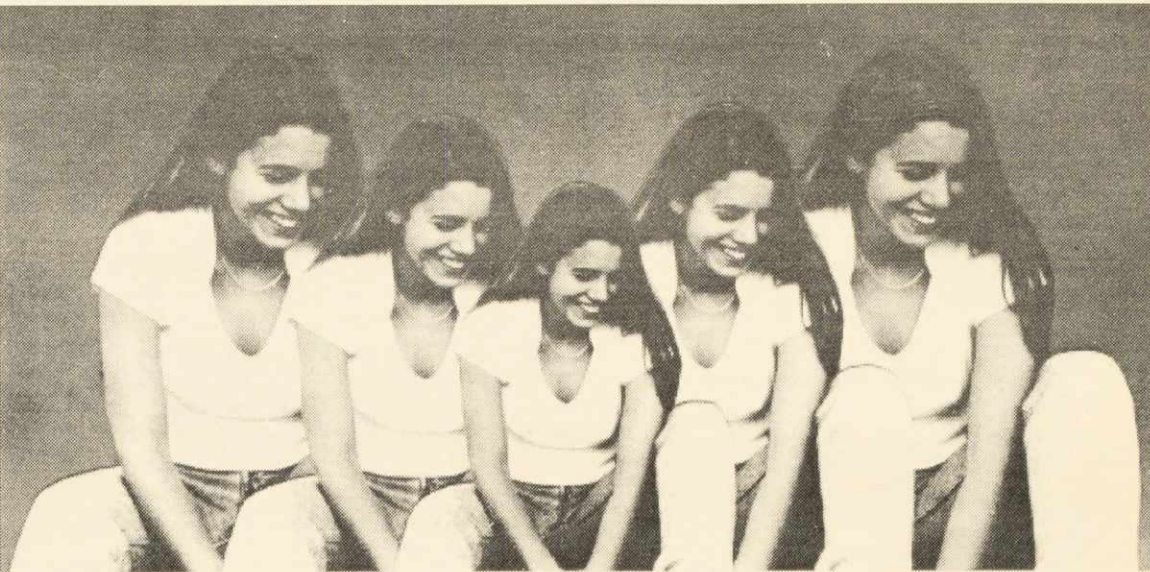
Well, much to my shock, my call was actually returned promptly (at 9:15), whereby Revenue Canada proceeded to blame the faux pas on human error and apologized for the inconvenience.

Inconvenience! Visions of tombstones, bearing my d.o.b. and d.o.d., had tormented my sleep the night before and would no doubt haunt me for some time to come. And they call it an inconvenience!

I cannot help but wonder what would have happened if I had filed my income tax on time and not had cause to telephone their offices. Would the government have contacted my next of kin to inform them of my new social status?

Suzanne DeVenne

Dal Profiles



Name: Chareen Simpson

Age: 7

Childhood nickname: Bean, Bobs

What is your most unique attribute? Strange facial expressions

What makes you happy? My dog, Willie

What ticks you off? My dog, Willie

Favourite food: Chocolate

Favourite cereal: Frosted Flakes

What would your dream job be? Working with dolphins

Favourite oldies song of all time: "It's not easy being green" by Kermit the Frog

Favourite theme song of all time: The Jeffersons

All-time favourite TV show: Three's Company

All-time favourite movie: Homeward Bound

All-time favourite cartoon character: Foghorn Leghorn from "Looney Tunes"

Favourite Sesame Street character: Ernie

What is your personal speculation on Bert and Ernie's relationship? They need a job

Funniest comedian: The Swedish chef from "The Muppets"

If you could be any character in a book, who would it be? Soda Pop from "The Outsiders"

If you could be any movie star, who would it be? Miss Piggy; she's so bossy

Have you ever eaten a meal that consisted substantially of spam? No

Do you wet your toothbrush before or after (or both) putting toothpaste on it? After

by Tim Richard

THIS IS EMPTY SPACE. I AM NOT A "NATURAL BORN FILLER." NEITHER IS MY FAULT. IT IS YOURS. YOU ARE TO BLAME. YES, YOU SPECIFICALLY. HOW MANY ARTICLES DID YOU SUBMIT THIS WEEK? DID YOU EVER SUBMIT? ARE YOU PLANNING TO? THOUGHT NOT. THE FUTURE OF CAMPUS JOURNALISM IS GOING TO ROT AND IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT. AT LEAST YOU COULD CARE. BUT YOU DON'T. I RESENT YOU. "GRIPE OF THE WEEK" E!

Hey You!!!
If you hate me,
write opinions
J. Trznick

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SUB 494-2054

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