

## Cutbacks sacrifice safety

WOMEN'S SAFETY HAS BEEN sacrificed to the Dalhousie deficit. The almighty buck wins a \$50,000 dollar security cut.

Women have lost their freedom from sexual assault.

Compromising the staggering facts about rape and assault for fiscal restraint is horrifying and incomprehensible, but it's being done.

Women have a right to study in the library. They have a right to

attend special functions and a right to walk on campus after dark. And they have a right to do these things without having to fear physical attack.

If women have, in the past, been afraid of walking across campus after dark, that fear is now terror.

The administration must put security back where it is needed, increase the night patrol and put a guard back in the LSC.

## Selling the shuttle

In case you missed it, the 1960's made a surprise guest appearance in the SUB lobby this week.

Mind you, the NASA display is, on the surface, a promotional campaign for the space shuttle, a child of the '80's. But the style, the atmosphere of the exhibit was enough to take you back a good twenty years, if not more.

The basic pitch of the display is: "Hey! We can all be just like the astronauts if we want to be!" And to prove the point we were offered "official" crests of the various space missions, NASA baseball caps, space shuttle fridge magnets, and even freeze-dried astronaut ice cream. Yummy.

This isn't an information booth. These people, in a very real sense, are trying to sell the space shuttle.

There's nothing new in this. Back in the sixties, Canadians and Americans alike were sold on the space program, the "race to the moon". This pitch went to the extreme of producing Major Matt Mason, an eight-inch poseable figure in a space suit with all his assorted equipment. GI Joe sold little boys on the Vietnam war; Major Matt sold us on space.

So what's wrong with all this? On the surface, nothing. Back in

the sixties, when the US was spending \$239 billion on the war in Vietnam, it was nice to see them also spend \$24 billion in space, where it actually did humanity some good. And today, despite the nationalistic jingoism associated with it, the shuttle has the potential to advance the human species.

But if the shuttle is a good thing, why does NASA need to sell the public on it, and sell it in such a crass, materialistic way? Well, despite its potential, it looks more and more like the shuttle's application will be military.

In the sixties, the US government was content to flex its military muscle in southeast Asia, and leave space to the scientists. No more. With the "Star Wars" project, the American military is moving into space in a big way, and the shuttle is the prime mover. The potential is being ignored.

Canada's shuttle astronaut, Marc Garneau, has voiced his concerns about militarism in space. Already, "secret" shuttle flights have taken place, flights to place "classified" payloads in orbit. The shuttle is already being used for evil.

It's a damn shame.

Some suggested fashions for walking home from LATE NIGHT CLASSES...



for traditional tastes... or for an ethnic flair... you'll be well-dressed to meet the new security budget!

## SRO in the classroom

AS IF THE HOUSING SITUATION wasn't bad enough, it's getting so you can't even find a place to sleep in your classes.

Many of us discovered a long time ago that a lot of courses included binoculars in the list of required materials so you could catch an occasional glimpse of the professor. But as least in a 300 seat lecture hall there are 300 seats. Now students of French,

sociology and psychology are having to make do with floors.

The problem is a chronic shortage of faculty. The binoculars are doing double-duty now, as we try to keep track of the movements and habits of this endangered and rapidly disappearing species.

The problem in the French department is particularly acute. While Psychology and Sociology

are lecture-oriented programs, especially at the introductory level, French and other languages demand two-way communication between instructor and student. How is a prof supposed to communicate effectively with a student crammed into a corner or lounging on the floor?

Saying there's standing room only is a great way to promote a concert. Somehow it doesn't work so well for university programs.

# OPINION

## Letters Calendar defended...

To the editors:

To apply what we have learned in our University study of commerce in regard to promotion, product quality, and marketing, and to add a little spice to the Dalhousie student atmosphere at the beginning of another academic session, were two of our aims in producing the "Dalhousie Gentlemen" calendar.

Calendars of the same nature have been produced, and well received, at Queen's, U. of T., and Western, as well as other and American universities. The calendars have been very successful wherever they've been produced. Student response leads us to believe that they are just as popular at Dalhousie.

All aspects of production were

valuable learning experiences and a heck of a good time. I don't think anyone is going to hell in a bread-basket for being associated with such an innocent project. Besides, everyone loves the Teddy Bear in the month of December.

Allison Hunt  
Co-Producer,  
"Dalhousie Gentlemen"

## ...and again

To the Editors:

In regard to the article "Dalhousie Gentlemen" in the previous edition of *the Gazette*, I feel there are a few points that need clarifying.

The first point is your reference to possible exploitation. I believe this is not just a minority opinion, but almost a singular one. In reality, nothing about the "Dalhousie Gentlemen" calendar is upsetting. It is a far stretch of the

imagination to imply that a group of young men, all photographed in their day-to-day street clothes, have fallen to the dangers of exploitation. It must be made clear that the calendar should not be taken as an assault on women's efforts to dispel the "pin-up" image. Nor is it an endeavour to accentuate the image of the male as a "sex symbol."

The general feeling of everyone involved with the calendar, that is, on both sides of the camera lens, was one of good nature and fun. The gentlemen in the calendar appeared for no other reason than to illustrate high spirit.

The second point I will clarify is the sales figures. Although only twelve calendars had been sold as of September 13, students' awareness has increased considerably, thus generating more sales. Within about a month or so we expect to have sold the entirety of the 500 calendars.

With sales going well and stu-

dents judging the calendar to be innovative and fun, it is our hope, as it was our intention, that the project be met with continued excitement.

Carolyn Meacher  
Co-producer,  
"Dalhousie Gentlemen"  
Calendar

## Who needs a car?

To the editors:

So the new chemistry building will be "taking up about 100 parking spaces" (*Gazette*, Sept. 19). Exactly how important is the private car in our educational system?

I don't see why Dal should "have an obligation to provide 1730 parking spaces." Perhaps the university should press for an improved bus system, and apart from that have its obligations and commitments directed toward education and research.

Karl Dilcher

## Film is propaganda

To the editors:

I hate to drag out an issue that has already been discussed at length, yet I cannot reserve comment on Marci Schultz's remarks in her letter to the editors concerning the film *Red Dawn*. Yes, perhaps the film did show students fighting and dying for their homeland, and perhaps there was even a tinge of anti-war sentiment expressed by the ex-guerrilla who has seen too much war and no longer wants to fight. But the message that screamed at me for two hours was not that sophisticated. How about, "We can fight those Commies and we can win because we are fighting for freedom and democracy — and they're not!". And what about the idea that we should all be super patriots and belt out our national anthem as "the enemy" guns us to our miserable deaths?