

The morning after . . .

Dal's three-day love-in

So, why are we here, anyway? I mean, at Dalhousie, getting an undergraduate education. Perhaps we had better start deciding this for ourselves before others have decided it for us.

Last week, people here got together to discuss undergraduate education in a big way. The president had a symposium. Fifteen to twenty thousand dollars were spent. It's too bad there weren't very many undergraduates there.

"What it was, was an in-depth look at apathy," said one student. Everyone agreed that, most importantly, attitudes had to be changed, only people couldn't seem to agree on whose attitudes needed changing. The president doesn't feel his attitude needs changing. The faculty doesn't feel their attitudes need changing. And the students don't feel

their attitudes need changing.

One man, almost certainly identifiable as a non-undergrad, commented after the session on lifelong learning that Dalhousie should change the admission standards to measure the students' attitudes and commitment to lifelong learning. What about screening the faculty for attitude, then?

President Clark also thinks a change in the attitude of the faculty is called for if the purpose of the undergraduate curriculum is student learning.

"The faculty forget this purpose from time to time," says Clark. He is planning on meeting with the deans and thinks they should be reminding the faculty of the importance of teaching.

Leaving the mandate for attitude changes up to the Deans may not prove to be too fruitful if they all hold views similar

to those of Dean Betts, Dean of Arts and Science, who thinks "we should attend to the practical matters first, and let the purposes tend to themselves."

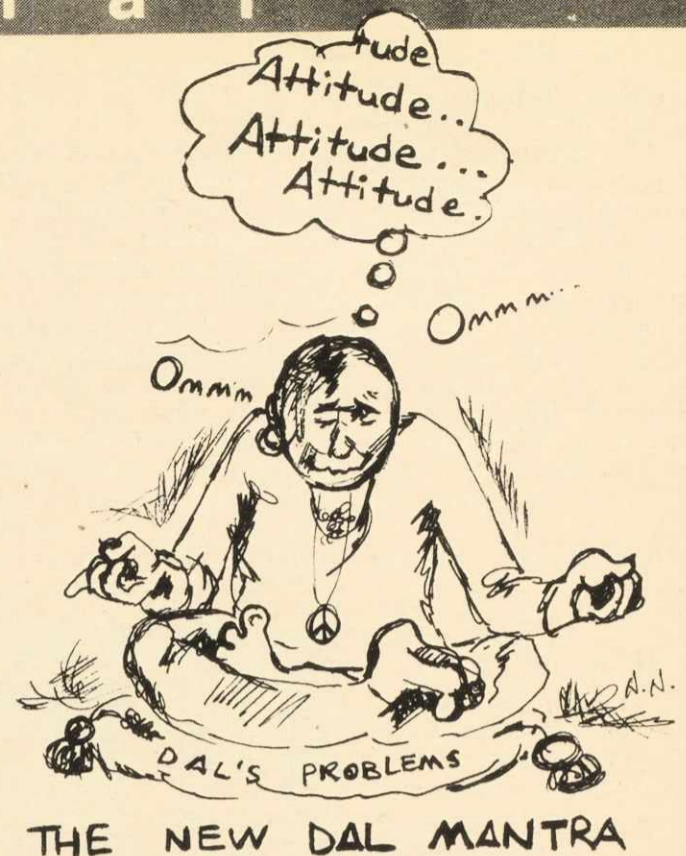
As well as changing attitudes, there was a general consensus that just about everything else had to be changed. If there are so many things wrong here, there definitely should be changes made, and undergraduates should be concerned with getting involved in making them.

"The symposium is but the beginning of a journey," said Clark in his concluding remarks. A grumbling professor sat next to me:

"Where are the tangible signs? How do we know this is not just rhetoric, i.e., bullshit?" he said.

If the journey is for us, when are we leaving?

Ariella Pahlke



l e t t e r s

CARALity

To the Editors:

I write on behalf of all people who support a woman's right to choose abortion.

The Supreme Court of Canada struck down section 251 of the Criminal Code as being uncon-

stitutional: the majority of justices believe the law impinged on a woman's right to life, liberty, and security of person. Women have been given a constitutional guarantee of access to abortion.

As a nation we are now in a position to move beyond that tired debate of pro-choice versus anti-choice and progress to an

intelligent discussion of prevention. The solution to this question, after all, is to make the need for abortions obsolete.

We must pull together and work towards the establishment of sex education programs in the schools and birth control clinics in the communities. Responsible decisions can only be made with complete and full knowledge of the options available.

We urge our provincial and federal legislators to put their energies and resources into meeting the health needs of Canadian women: the Canadian Abortion Rights Action League supports the establishment of community health clinics that would provide a full range of services to women, including birth control counselling and abortion services.

We believe women are caring and moral beings fully capable of making difficult decisions for themselves. Until such time as there is not one single unplanned and unwanted pregnancy in any community, abortion must be an option available to those women who choose it.

Amanda Le Rougetel
Chapter representative,
CARAL Halifax

R-E-S-P-E-C-T

to the Editors:

I am writing this letter on behalf of myself, a few friends, and some others who, I am sure, feel the same way I do about an event that happened at the Studley House smoker on Saturday, March 5th.

We were there, a group of friends, to have a good time socializing and drinking the cheap beer — a pretty common pastime at Dal. When we arrived, however, the beer was sold out, so we stood in a group discussing where to go next. A group of Studley residents broke out into song, and what a song it was. We learned later that it is the House Song, and that all Studley residents learn it in frosh week. Neither I nor my friends paid much attention to the singing until the verses suddenly became crude and offensive. As I listened, I became angry. It is hard-core porn with lyrics and a tune. We came to the smoker to have a good time, not to be insulted. When my friend said this to one of the singers, he said, "It's our party. If you don't like it, you can fuck off and leave."

We fucked off and left. On the way out, another friend told Pat Donahoe, Dean of Men, what had happened. He seemed concerned. He told us to get it down in writing and make a formal complaint. I thought about what happened on Saturday night, and I do not want to "complain". I want to voice my opinion and make people aware of what looks like sexual tension and what most obviously is disrespect for women. What can a committee decision do? It is something that needs much more than an apology, a reprimand. A change in attitude would, perhaps, ease this situation. But that change begins with the individual, and cannot be enforced by anyone, even the Dean of Men.

I know my friends and I were not the only ones who found the song disgusting. I could tell by some of the faces of other residents who were not singing and jeering that they were not impressed.

We understand most people were drunk. We understand our views on this situation were not taken too seriously by some of the people we talked to on Saturday, as we got called "bitches". A letter to the Gazette will at least let people know what happened and how we feel.

Substitute any ethnic group into that song in place of women and there would be an uproar. Why, therefore, is this degradation against women allowed to take place? Under the assumption that the affair was open to Dalhousie residents, we did not go expecting to be insulted by the song and to be told to "fuck off and leave". I doubt that sexist and impolite are terms a house wishes to be associated with. The lyrics are terrible. If you're curious, you can ask a Studley resident.

Concerned students

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- * Full- or part-time Dalhousie student

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Submit applications and a resume to Student Services, Room 124, Arts and Administration building. Applications close noon, March 15th.