

letters

The last of the tree huggers

BY CHRIS BENJAMIN

Rave done wrong

I am writing this letter in response to an article published last week by the Gazette in general, and Stuart McMillan in particular. His article, "Sardine drug fiends" provided a stereotypical but somewhat amusing view of the growing "rave" scene in Halifax. Unfortunately, it is written from the point of view of a regular college student, not a journalist out to uncover "the truth".

Unlike anything else published on these parties, McMillan has done no research, has not talked to the people involved and has been unable to show any insight as to what actually goes on. Whatever, that's what I've come to expect from the Gazette over the years.

What really pisses me off about this article is the title — "Sardine drug fiends". Regardless as to what goes on at these parties, what are you thinking? The only reference to drugs in your article is your pathetic attempt at a clever simile: "All of our bodies packed like sardines on dope." This title propagates every stereotype about these parties. What you witnessed at "Two" was the relatively new and growing party scene in this city. The last thing the people responsible for these parties need is press of this nature.

Again, every other article on this scene has managed to be objective and promote this scene as an open and friendly environment, rather than a collection of people hopped up on crack. I'm probably giving your article too much credit in that it may actually sway the opinion of any of our student population, but still — it isn't needed.

I am also disappointed with the Gazette for publishing an article with a title like this. I expected more from a student paper than I did from local press. I was wrong. The local press is being objective and you are making the sweeping generalizations. If that is what you think of what is going on, buy yourself a six-pack and stay at home and act mental to "Firestarter". Don't bother coming back.

Andy Haigh
DJ @Two
ahaigh@is2.dal.ca

CRO defence

While I have kept a determined stance of no public retaliation to some of the nonsense and misbehaviour during this recent election period, I feel I must respond to Dan Clark's recent letter to the editor (Gazette, March 27th). His assertions of Monica Gillis' incompetence with regards to her article written for the Gazette the week previous were cheap and vindictive. I would like to dispel any distortions of fact.

FACT: The CRO, let alone the Elections Committee who are responsible for the wording of all referendum questions, were not made aware until February 16th, 1997 of any referendum questions. The Election Nomination week began on February 17th, 1997.

FACT: These questions were passed by council without consultation by the Committee and were inappropriately worded and were not suitable to be placed on the ballot. They needed to be reworded and sent back to council.

FACT: The final questions were not passed by council until March 11th, 1997. Voting began on March 10th, 1997.

FACT: Council did not "follow the referendum procedure correctly." The DSU Judicial Board has made a ruling to this effect. And as the CRO, I can safely assert that the CRO was not given the "questions in plenty of time."

FACT: The Election Committee is one of the hardest working committees of the DSU. You put up with all kinds of nonsense and you have to do it with a smile. Cheap shots abound and you have to stay the course. Transfer of power is a delicate process and the committee has proved themselves beyond par. Monica doesn't have "to protect" sweet diddly.

Monica has been given the often thankless task of election coverage. She has done so with energy and enthusiasm. Any interviews that I was asked to make with her were always well prepared and the questions she asked were intelligent and well researched.

These are the facts of life that Mr. Clark must learn to live with.
Jenny Riordan, CRO

This one goes out to all my Commerce friends who, since I wrote an article for the Gazette last month about boycotting, have called me everything from a tree hugger to a communist — all in good fun of course. For the record, I don't believe in communism, I have never embraced a tree and I don't even lean to the left. But having expressed concern for my fellow human beings and all life on earth, I have found myself in the role of nonconformist — at least in the Commerce world. I have been told that readers were surprised to discover that the anti-corporate crusader who wrote the article "To boycott or not to boycott", was actually a Commerce student.

Well, as I said, I'm not a leftist and I am not anti-corporate. What I am is against unethical behaviour that injures the living or causes unnecessary pain and suffering — especially when such behaviour is deemed excusable because dollars are at stake. Don't get me wrong, I love money, I want money, I need money, and I fear a life without money like colonialists feared malaria. However, unlike many other people in the world, I know that there is more to life than dollars, and I

would rather live in poverty than know that innocent people were hurt so that I could own a lavish home, eat like a pig every night, and wear Hilfigers and Italian shoes. When I make my millions I will make damn sure that I do it right, and not at the expense of others. Yes Virginia, it is possible to succeed without deception.

Fortunately for me this is a country of free speech, although sometimes it does not feel that way. In my business classes when I speak of anything that could result in an injured bottom line I feel like I am looked upon as a fool. People don't understand why I take offense to the term "tree hugger", even when it's used in jest. The reason is that it makes anyone who gives a damn about other people, or about the future

of our planet, sound like some moron who just fell off the boat (and maybe had a few too many drinks while on board).

The real fools are those who are too shortsighted to realize that their actions have long term consequences. Deforestation projects, business deals with mass murderers and releasing pesticides into the air are all practices that leave dead bodies and destroyed ecosystems. To paraphrase a Cree proverb, once we have killed all our food and destroyed all our culture, then we will see that our precious dollars cannot be eaten.

Although I have no plans to hug my nearest tree, I don't plan on pulling out my chain saw and butchering the hell out of it either.

What's so stupid about that?

See you in September.



CKDU 97.5 FM PROGRAMMING HIGHLIGHTS

M O N
10:30 am

Changes In Latitude with Ivan the Terrestrial
Folkloric rhythms and modern global *melanges*.

T U E S
03:30 pm

Wallflower's Revenge with Lyse Boyce
An eclectic combo of music, audio art & literature.

W E D S
06:00 pm

Songs Without Words with Tim Crofts
Classical Music emphasising 20th Century Composers.

T H U R S
10:30 pm

The Avacado Surf Lounge with Babe & Exacta
Post-modern surfboard hula-hoop in a time warp.

F R I
10:30 pm

Ocean of Soul with Kwame Young
Ols school Soul & R'n'B, served up with a political slant.

S A T
07:30 pm

Caribwave wit Marcella Andre & Lorraine Ferguson
Music, news, features & recipes from the Caribbean.

S U N
09:00 pm

The In Sound From Way Out with John MacMaster
The latest In techno and Industrial dance music.

Pay your pledge by April 10 to be eligible for the Grand Prize Draw!

WORLD WIDE WEB PAGE: is2.dal.ca/~ckdufm/

thanks

Special thanks for this issue goes to Sue, Fred and all the great people at Bayers Road Bowlarama.

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CRUISE BY OUR WEBSITE TO WIN A '97 NEON.

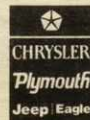
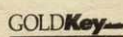
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