

# Dal parking sucks

by Kristin Denault

As the year progresses, problems in the lives of some Dalhousie students are temporarily coming to an end. First term tuition fees have been paid and the lineup at student accounts has become smaller, midterms have been written, Mardi Gras is finished and Imagnus has left. Our bank accounts can now take a rest.

Despite this momentary lull in seasonal stresses — until Christmas exam time comes around — parking on campus seems to be a year-long struggle for those who attend Dalhousie. For both students and faculty alike, there seems to be a constant search and struggle for parking spots around campus.

The parking permit that students must buy at Dalhousie costs around one hundred dollars. Red tags are for students and faculty get blue tags. Even at the current parking permit prices, there never seems to be adequate space available when it comes time to use the permit. In the event that you do park in a reserved spot or one exempt from the permit jurisdiction, a parking ticket is put on your windshield by Dalhousie Security and costs fifteen dollars. It must be paid within fifteen days of issue or the first court summons is sent.

Keri Robinson is a Dalhousie student who has had many parking problems (and parking tickets) at Dal. She complains about the availability of parking spots on campus. Despite

living in residence, she mentioned the severe lack of parking spots both on campus and in the surrounding area of the university.

Her main problem on the topic of parking is that for the-price students pay, there should be sufficient areas where people can station their cars. Although having a car is great, Robinson says that parking is more hassle than it is worth and many times she has thought about leaving her car at home.

These complaints may sound familiar to many but there are unfortunately not many realistic solutions to this problem. (If you want unrealistic solutions, I suggest throwing the truck into 4x4 and parking on top of the car that is in that parking spot most convenient for you.)

If there are too many cars and too little space, one would imagine that there needs to be either an increase in parking areas or a decrease in parking permit sales.

Despite the unhappiness that many students express with the inadequate parking at Dalhousie, the issue does not look as though it is a top priority. The Dalhousie parking dilemma can be explained simply in scientific terms: it evolved and people have adapted to it.

Looking for a space to park has become a daily ritual for many who attend Dalhousie. The consensus seems to be that if you want a good parking spot, come early in the morning to get it. If your classes are later in the day,

then the Killam Library opens at eight o'clock in the morning.

For those of you who do drive a car and spend more than too much time looking for a space, there is only one more thing that need be mentioned. There will always be those of us passing by watching those of you in your cars with mixed feelings. We will be watching in envy because some of us would like a car, but also in comfort because our vehicle only needs to be locked up to the nearest bike rack.

Bikes are no-nonsense and the biggest bike hassle is having to carry the seat all over the place. There is also the added bonus of a bike because lugging a bike seat looks to have become a form of university fashion along with plastic mugs, wool socks and sandals. There is no such mode for the people who have vehicles. No one ever sees car owners carrying around their seat belts or steering wheels to class but we do see them bitching about the parking ticket that they just found under the windshield wiper.

To reduce some stress, maybe those students with cars should leave them at home and invest in some good rollerblades. The cost of a parking permit would almost pay for a pair, you just throw them over your shoulder and it is not a problem to drive them after you have had a few beers as long as you have some knee pads.

# Christmas Craft Show

Nov. 18, 1994  
10 am-10 pm

and

Nov. 19, 1994  
10 am-6 pm

at the  
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Contact: Lynn MacMichael  
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# WEEK OF REFLECTION

On November 17, the *Gazette* will be printing a Week of Reflection supplement to commemorate the fourteen women killed in Montreal on December 6, 1989.

We welcome photos, poems, drawings, opinions and your help in creating this supplement.

Please drop off submissions at the Enquiry Desk or at the *Gazette* office in room 312, Dalhousie SUB. For more information, call 494-2507.

Submissions deadline:  
Thursday, November 10

# WEEK OF REFLECTION