

EDITORIAL

Making world decisions

A trip around the world sounds pretty good right about now. Get away from this snow bound city. The Environmental World Game offered a trip around the world to any Dal student, faculty, or staff on Tuesday. But it wasn't a retreat from the world's problems, instead it was crash course in global environmental problem solving.

Fifty people spent four hours in the McInnes Room wandering all over the largest map of the world. After being divided into the major regions of the world, these teams had to solve their food and energy need through sustainable development. Failure to deal with environmental problems lead to health problems in their human populations.

Each team had to develop strategies to overcome their environmental hazards, while attempting to meet their minimum requirements. This required cooperation between regions, and a lot of initiative and imagination.

All regions agreed to donate money to establish a world medical system. Much of the money was taken from the no longer necessary military budgets.

North America proposed transforming military bases into reforested parks.

Africa planned to establish an institute of agricultural and environmental studies, where sustainable development using appropriate technology would be stressed.

Alternatives to pesticides and herbicides might be found in tropical rainforests, therefore Europe decided to fund a research project in South America to investigate the possibilities of farming the rainforest, instead of clear-cutting.

Like in the real world all of these projects required a commitment of mega bucks, most of which was drawn from military spending.

While many of these ideas sound simplistic and unrealistic they offer a glimpse of what the world might be, what could happen if we worked together.

However, many of these solutions are unworkable, given the present reality. Banks are not prepared to forgive the massive debts many developing countries hold. Most of the world is not ready to convert their military spending to sustainable development.

It is refreshing to dream up ideal solutions to our problems. But it would be much more refreshing to come up with solutions that we could actually implement in reality, and not just in a game situation.

Shannon Gowans

THE GAZETTE

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1992 • VOL. 124, NO. 17

CONTRIBUTORS

HEATHER MACMILLAN
SATISH PUNNA
ROLAND LINES
MICHAEL MACDONALD
ROBERT CURRIE
GAYLE HEINRICH
MIKE GRAHAM
PAUL THE PIZZA GUY
CHRIS LAMBIE

CUP

EDITORS
MARY JANE HAMILTON
MARY LITTLEJOHN

WOMEN'S

LIAISON
MIRIAM KORN

ARTS EDITOR

JENN BECK

SPORTS

EDITORS
SUZY KOVINSKY
STEVE MILLS

CALENDAR

EDITORS
NATASHA RYAN
MIRIAM KORN

EDITORS

SHANNON GOWANS
JERRY WEST

BUSINESS ADVERTISING MANAGER

ALEX DOW
494-6532

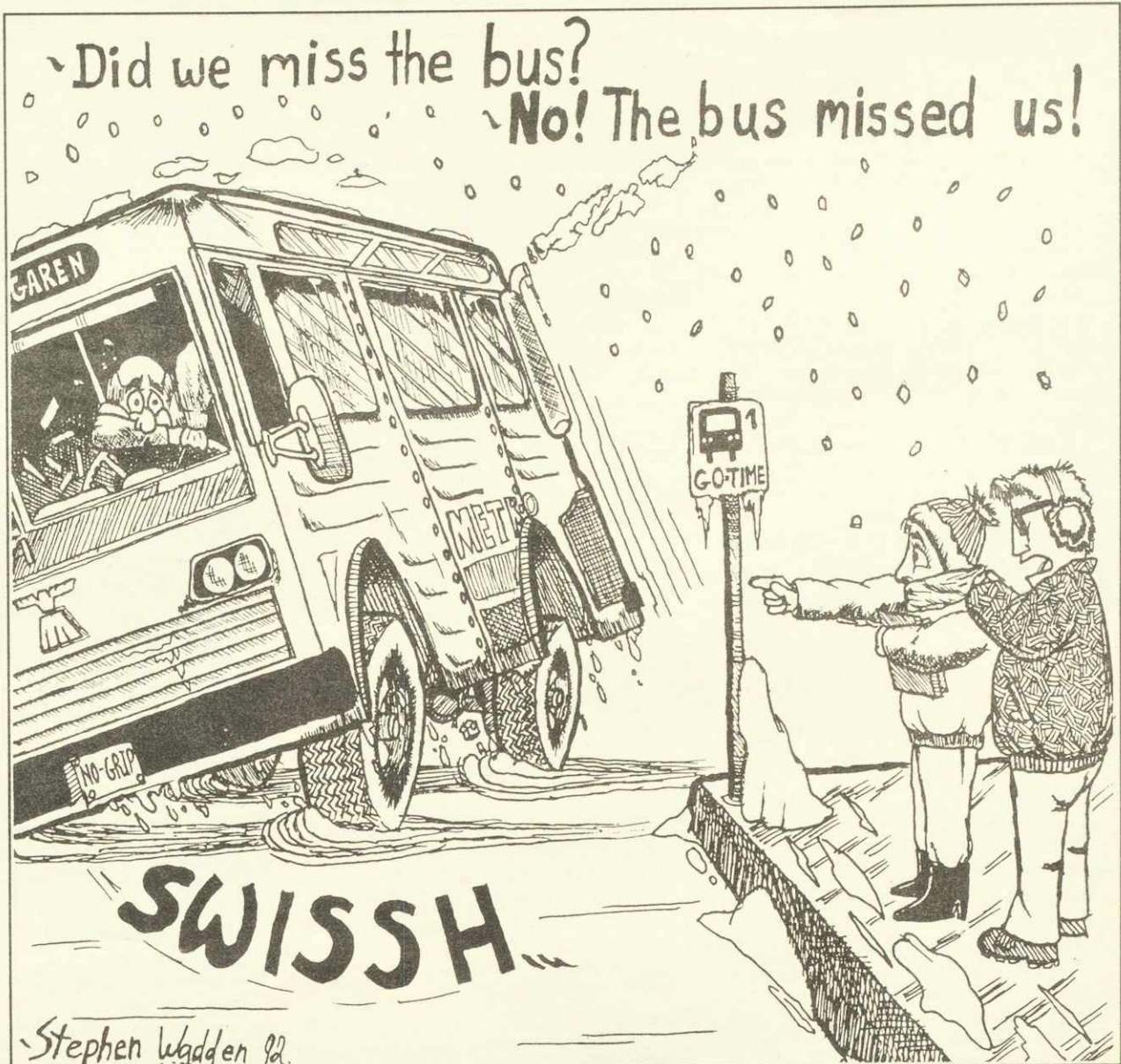
TYPESETTER

ROBERT CARLSON

THIRD FLOOR
STUDENT UNION BUILDING
DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY
6136 UNIVERSITY AVE
HALIFAX, N.S.

B3H 4J2
(902) 494-2507

THE GAZETTE IS PRINTED ON 100% RECYCLED PAPER



LETTERS

The Dalhousie Gazette welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should not exceed 300 words in length and should be typed and double-spaced. The deadline for letters is Friday noon before publication. Letters may be submitted on Mac or IBM-compatible 3.5" disk.

The Body Shop against animal testing

To the editors:

I am deeply concerned with an article that recently appeared in the ED/OP section of the Gazette, Jan. 23, entitled "Greening garbage in pretty blue bags."

The Body Shop has always led by example when promoting environmental and social responsibility both within our company and to our customers. As such, we also share many of the concerns raised in your newspaper. However, the author of this particular article, Troy Myers, clearly made no attempt to check his facts before submitting this cynical and tainted with untruths and misinformation.

Sitting here at my desk (10 year old Ikea propped up with books), I want to be sure that I communicate clearly how passionate and concerned The Body Shop is about animal testing and our position against testing cosmetics on animals.

The Body Shop objects to animal tests in the cosmetic industry on four grounds: such tests are cruel, irrelevant, unreliable and unnecessary. The

Body Shop does not test its ingredients or products on animals. We have never done so, and we never will. Neither has The Body Shop authorized anyone to carry out animal testing on its behalf, nor will it do so in the future.

The Body Shop also insists that the suppliers of its ingredients provide regular written confirmation that they do not test any of their substances on animals.

The Body Shop decided to change its statement "Not Tested on Animals" to "Against Animal Testing" for a number of reasons. In 1976 when the Body Shop was founded, the statement "Not Tested on Animals" meant

just that — these products and their ingredients have not been tested on animals for, or by, our company. However, today,

with so many other companies 'jumping on the band wagon' this statement means nothing of the sort. It could mean that the ingredients were tested on animals but not on the final product, or it could mean that the manufacturer did not test the product on animals but they farmed it out to an independent laboratory to be tested on animals. Neither of these scenarios render the claim "Not Tested on Animals" false, but they are entirely misleading.

The Body Shop did not want to align itself with this duplicity, so we changed our statement to "Against Animal Testing." We believe that animals should not suffer for our vanity and that cosmetic animal testing is cruel, unethical, and unnecessary. This is our honest declaration! We believe it is important to make a clear stand, promote discussion and concern, and ensure that we follow our hearts.

The Body Shop is a holistic company that does not operate in a profit driven vacuum. We are as concerned with the safety of people, animals (including cuddly Pandas with big bellies), and the natural environment, as we are about making good products. The Body Shop's uncompromising policy on animal testing is just one aspect of this corporate philosophy.

I trust that you will immediately recognize your responsibility to your readers to clear up any confusion Mr. Myers' words, by printing this letter in your next issue.

Margot Franssen
President, The Body Shop

Troy Myers' views do not reflect those of the Gazette. We would like to apologize for any inconvenience caused to the Body Shop by the printing of his opinion piece. —the Editors

The Dalhousie Gazette is Canada's oldest college newspaper. Published weekly through the Dalhousie Student Union, which also comprises its membership, The Gazette has a circulation of 10,000. As a founding member of Canadian University Press, The Gazette adheres to the CUP Statement of Principles and reserves the right to refuse any material submitted of a racist, sexist, homophobic or libelous nature. Deadline for commentary, letters to the editor, and

announcements is noon on Friday before publication (Thursday of each week). Submissions may be left at the SUB Enquiry Desk c/o The Gazette. Commentary should not exceed 500 words. Letters should not exceed 300 words. No unsigned material will be accepted, but anonymity may be granted upon request. Advertising copy deadline is noon Monday

before publication. The Gazette offices are located on the third floor of the SUB. Come up and have a coffee and tell us what's going on. The views expressed in The Gazette are not necessarily those of the Students' Union, the editors or the collective staff.