

Student apathy — If you don't like it, do something!

I don't know about you, but I am tired of having to pay a lot for my university education. It seems that every year, the tuition goes up, and the quality of education goes down. Teachers are cut, services are scaled down, and education becomes diluted as a result.

It also seems that every year there is a movement to protest, but nothing ever changes. It also seems like it is always the same few people protesting. But at the same time, everyone complains that things can not stay the way they are.

Everyone complains, but few do anything about it. It is almost as if people are waiting for the situation to fix itself, or are waiting for others to do it for them.

There are over 12,000 students attending Dalhousie University this year. That is a lot of people! That is a lot of voices and opinions! Imagine the power of 12,000 voices saying the same thing!

But for some reason 12,000 voices together never happens.

Why? I wish I knew.

Why do people find it difficult to act on their opinions?

Why does there seem to be such student apathy here at Dalhousie?

Why do so few people vote in the Student Union elections?

Why do so few people get involved with protests and activism?

Why do so many students prefer to just not get involved with any aspect of their university other than their classes?

Other generations of students

fought opposition. I know so many 'hippies' who, in the '60s, fought through demonstrations and civil disobedience. Those actions gave us the infrastructure that we have today. The infrastructure that we

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should be proud of — student safety webs and student services.

Where would we be without student action? In a bad place, that's where. But where are we now, and how have things changed? It is essential that we look at where we are now and correct things, if not for us, then for the students that will be here next year, or 10 years from now.

I believe that it is time that our generation of students take our destiny in our own hands. It is time that we stop being apathetic and start doing what's right. In order for things to work. And we need more than just 10 percent of the student body to participate.

We need action. But how can you act? Well, writing for a student paper, like *the Gazette*, is one.

Another is supporting on and off-campus social groups. Yet another is making your voice count by voting in elections. You can even write a letter to the Education Ministers of Nova Scotia and Canada.

Remember, nothing happens by itself. If you want anything to change, you have to do something. If you do nothing, you have no right to complain.

Andrew Gillis

Embracing roots

To the Editor,

In my first year at university, I've learned a great many things — some from my classes, and some from my friends. But the most important thing I learned came from myself. No, I didn't read a self-help book. I finally embraced my surroundings. The story starts in 1981, when I was born in Montreal. I moved to Halifax when I was three years old. For certain people it would have been natural to adopt the local culture as their own. I, being the stubborn person I am, refused. I rejected any activities that may have opened my eyes to Nova Scotia. I went to a french immersion school and lost my french accent by grade two. It frustrated me a great deal. I wanted to be anywhere but here. In grade four, I switched to an all-french school in Dartmouth. There I tried to distance myself from the prominent Acadian culture, which seemed all too closely linked to the Maritimes and not Quebec. I visited Quebec annually and missed it a lot.

Now to come to my point: I am Nova Scotian, and as much as I hate to admit it, it grows on you. I noticed this semester how I became Nova Scotian. It's as easy as feeling like you live in a community and that there are familiar faces you see there. I found myself walking down Spring Garden Road looking for people I knew, or at least had seen in one of my classes or something. I'm not a shy person with strangers so I look everyone in the eye. Once in a while I would find an acquaintance or an old classmate I would smile at or chat with in the street. What I found is that it's good to know lots of people and not be afraid to smile or say hi. A friendly face on campus would have made my transition from a small school to Dalhousie a great deal easier. So play up that stereotype that Canadians are polite and reach out to someone, anyone, it'll make their day.

Rachelle Dumas

Killam ignored

To the Editor,

I just want to express my disappointment in *the Gazette's* coverage of the changes that are to take place in the Killam Library. Your brief article reflects a single viewpoint and does not even begin to consider the benefits to students and faculty that will result from the move of Service Services to the ground floor. Increased visibility is just one benefit.

But the worst part is that no effort was made to gather opinions from other library staff whose feelings about the move might be far more positive than the one expressed. It also seems evident that the Science faculty members who were quoted have not been given all the information. Bill Maes has consulted with everyone in the library about the changes he wants to make, as well as a large contingent from the university community, and to imply that he hasn't is just plain wrong.

In future, it may be wise to gather a bit more information and consult with a broader community before committing an article to print.

Ian Colford
Killam Library

Tae What? — Doh!

To the Editor,

This is in response to Patrick Blackie's article on the Tae Kwon Do tournament. Tae Kwon Do is a martial art and you would know that if you did any type of research on the subject. The type of training and how much and how hard a person trains doesn't depend on the type of art, it depends on the person. You seemed to write a lot about the Kung-Fu school that attended the tournament and I don't blame you,

they were very well trained and put a lot of effort into their work; I judged one of the guys from Kung-Fu in forms competition and I gave him a winning score. But that doesn't mean that they were trained any better than anyone else.

The reason I am writing you is because you have the power to voice your opinion, and therefore you must be more considerate than you have been in the past. Your article seemed to favour the Kung-Fu school for reasons that aren't true and FYI that tournament was put on by a Tae Kwon Do school, meaning that if it wasn't for Tae Kwon Do there wouldn't even have been a tournament for you to go to.

I agree that Tae Kwon Do is a crowd pleasing display, but it is also an ancient Korean martial art. If you reply to my letter I would like you to not only tell me that you will never refer to Tae Kwon Do as a sport again but I want you to tell me why you did it in the first place. Every opinion must be backed up by some sort of reasoning and I would like to hear yours. I'm interested to see how a *Dal Gazette* reporter justifies changing the category of Tae Kwon Do from a martial art to a sport. Don't try to answer that.

My point is, Tae Kwon Do has been a martial art for thousands of years. It has survived generations of death and war. It deserves more respect than you give it.

Sure, since it came to America it has been changed a little but it will always be a martial art.

Do the school (Carabins Tae Kwon Do) and the martial art some credit by apologizing for that remark. That's the least you should do considering all the people that dedicate a lot of their time to the martial art and all those children that put their hearts into it.

Tae Kwon Do can be considered a sport but it will always be considered a martial art, even if you don't.

Paul Cosgrove



Somebody should do something about that student apathy thing...

Yes, somebody should... Hmmm... Soon... Coffee Reggie?

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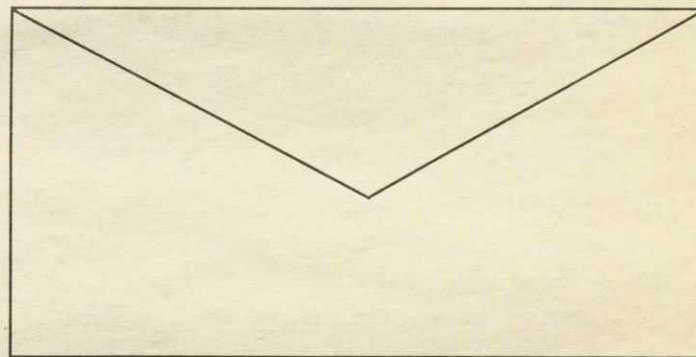
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All submissions must be typed double-spaced on paper, e-mailed, or on a Mac or IBM 3 1/2 inch disk, in a WP version not greater than Word 6.0 or equivalent. The deadline is Mondays at 4:30 p.m.

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Comments?



Too bad - see you
next year!

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