

# Letters to the Editor

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by comparison, the newly opened Dalhousie Unit appears much more spacious because the spaces are not all filled at this time. I might mention that both centres are divided into 4 units each and not five as stated in the article.

All the children in Peter Green (up to 5 years) have been referred to as toddlers, except for the Infant Unit. The word toddler means just what it implies; a young child learning to walk or toddling. Surely by 4 and 5 years, walking is a "fait accompli". The writer's mathematics also appears to be a bit rusty. She says the centres employ 25 people (which is correct), then goes on to list 27. We do not employ 4 cooks, as was stated in the article, but rather 2 part-time cooks.

I take great exception to my highly qualified and competent staff being referred to as "sitters". Basic requirements for the job of "day care worker" include at least one year of post secondary education in the field of Early Childhood Education. The University Children's Centre aims to provide children with a warm and secure learning environment. They are taught basic concepts and self-help skills as well as learning to socialize. Our goal is the total development of the child, that is, social, intellectual, physical and emotional. In other words, the service we are providing is far more than mere babysitting.

The Peter Green Hall Unit, although it was originally created to serve residents of that building, has many children of the community at large. Dalhousie University has provided us with excellent facilities for our Unit on campus and enrollment is increasing steadily. Although our service is used mainly by full-time working parents or students, implying that it is mere babysitting is a grave injustice and greatly undermines the excellent work being done by the staff.

**Ginette L. Purser**  
Director  
University Children's Centre

Dear Sir,

This letter hardly seems worth writing. Stan Kawalski, a reviewer who reports on films he hasn't even seen, hardly seems worth responding to. He says, "... I have yet to see anything of quality come out of Canada, let alone the Maritimes...". He's not from around here, right. Obviously he hasn't seen many Canadian films.

I invite Stan to come see some of the films he so flippantly disclaimed. The films from "An Atlantic Film Sampler" will be back from their six-city tour in December. He can see them at the Atlantic Filmmaker's Co-op. Maybe then he won't be so critical of films he hasn't seen. Maybe then he'll be worth reading.

Lulu Keating,  
Distribution Coordinator.



## A peek at the past Counting the pennies in old fashioned romance

by John Cairns

The student, one suspects, is as prone as anyone to occasional yearning for romance and excitement. Sadly enough, university-goers are caught amid an inflationary age. Rent, food, and tuition all take glutinous bites from summer earnings, and entertainment cutbacks can be one result.

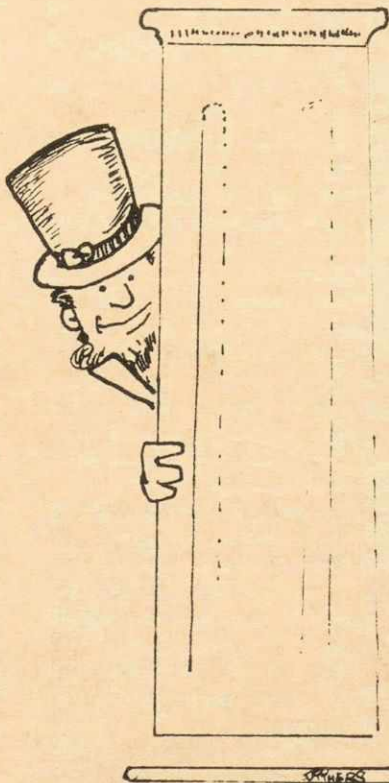
In consolation, financing a romance, among other things, is not a new concern. The economics of courtship are examined, for example, in a letter to *The Dalhousie Gazette* of May 18, 1916. Details of such affairs may have changed since then, yet the principles probably remain.

Without further ado, let's look back. Here is that letter:

"Mr. Editor—As an alumnus of Dalhousie and one who has the interests of the university at heart, I wish to criticize the Y.M.C.A. handbook which is annually distributed among the students. This contains much valuable information but seems to omit much which is of vital importance.

For example, a Freshman is only too prone to embark on some vast undertaking without first sitting down, like the king in the Scriptures, and counting the cost. The verdantus—enamoured by beauty's eyes, might rashly take on himself the task of wooing a young lady and as a consequence end in the bankruptcy court. To prevent much worry and unconsidered expense, I would recommend that statistics such as the following be attached to the handbook as an appendix.

I will consider the cost of enjoying the company of a young lady student, estimated on the basis of hours spent in her company during the week with attendant expense. This is based on statistics collected with great pains by personal observation extending over many weary years. In calculating car fare, some residence must be considered. Hence the residence of the average co-ed is taken to be on South Park St., and the residence of the average male student near the North-West Arm. The table is drawn up on the self-evident assumption that a



college man must escort a college girl to some place of amusement or instruction in order to see anything of her.

Sunday - Church - 3 hrs.	
Collection.....	10
Monday - Lecture - 3 hrs.	
Ticket.....	50
Car Fare.....	10
Tuesday - Orpheus - 2 hrs.	
Ticket.....	30
Green Lantern.....	50
Wednesday - Rink - 1 hr.	
Car Fare.....	10
Green Lantern.....	50
Thursday - Academy - 3 hrs.	
Ticket.....	1.50
Green Lantern.....	30
Car Fare.....	20
Friday - Debate - 3 hrs.	
Saturday - Runk (sic) - 2 hrs.	
Ticket.....	50
Car Fare.....	10
Total for the week -	
14 hrs.....	4.20

This gives the average cost on one hour's company to be thirty cents, that is one half cent a minute.

Now a conservative estimate of the number of hours spent per week by the average student per week of his innamorated would be eight; i.e. the cost would be \$2.50 per week. Taking thirty weeks to the college term, I find that the student spends \$75. in this way. The Dalhousie male students number about three hundred. They spend, there-

fore, \$22,500 in seeking the company of young ladies. How much more profitable would it be if this money were to be devoted to other purposes? The sum of \$22,500 would buy 45,000 Bibles for the heathen of West Africa, or, it would support ten missionaries with their families in Trinidad, or, according to information received from the Red Cross Society, it would furnish 2,278,956 bandages f.o.b. (sic) London.

While investigating the above matter, I have collected statistics on many other things of importance. . . If this meets with your approval, I shall be only too pleased to lay before the public the other facts which are in my possession.

Yours truly,  
G.A.M."

Entertainment has grown into a giant business since 1916, but still the letter writer might consider money better spent elsewhere. Current Dalhousie students are free to disagree with him, and they probably do. Unfortunately, though, one is left wondering if 1916 student entertainment funds were ever pinched as hard as those of 1980.