

Tune up the environment

Dear Editor:

Due to the recent Environmental Awareness Week, I was struck by an interesting thought. I wondered what the world would be like if everyone put as much effort into taking care of the environment as they do in taking care of their car. From the fanatic who changes the oil every week and wishes it a good night every evening, to the driver who just gets the oil and the tire pressure checked once in a while. This would add up to be a force to be reckoned with. But the casual observer may say, "This is all a very nice idea but there's no incentive. A clean environment doesn't get you to work and back every day." This may be true but, it would certainly make the walk much more pleasant.

Sincerely,
Sue Smiley

"...a sad day..."

Dear Editor:

It's a sad sad day when a student union has to hold a referendum to decide whether they think students should control their own lives.

The choice of whether or not to have a baby is not an easy one for a woman to make. Whatever she decides, the decision has severe consequences for the course her life takes from that moment on. These consequences are especially serious if she happens to be a university student, with very little money and her entire choice of a career at stake.

One might have hoped a person in such circumstances could expect some respect and support from her student union. Apparently not. We have to have a referendum first.

By even asking the question of what side they should take on the abortion issue, the DSU is bowing to a vocal power-hungry minority. Like all politicians, they care more about their personal popularity than about the rights and well-being of their constituents.

Brian Receveur

Alpha Eta Sisters

To the Gazette:

The Alpha Gamma Delta Women's Fraternity was chartered in Halifax in 1932. Its chapter, Alpha Eta, has since added over 630 women to its membership.

Alpha Eta is pleased to welcome its 15 new Sisters, initiated in January 1990.

Aiofa Brennan, Saint Mary's University; Julie Buckler, Saint Mary's University; Krista Cassell, Dalhousie University; Julie Dergal, Dalhousie University; Lisa Devanney, Saint Mary's University; Dawn Fougere, Dalhousie University; Wendi Gabriel, Mount Saint Vincent University; Judy Latter, Dalhousie University; Shauna MacDougall, Saint Mary's University; Kathy Prostak, Dalhousie University; Kerri Roche, Saint Mary's University; Kathy Rutherford, Dalhousie University; Wendy Shaw, Saint Mary's University; Shelley Singer, Saint Mary's University; Kelly Wilson, Dalhousie University.

They are assets to our Fraternity and we wish them great success in the years to come!

Rosanne M. Villeneuve
Publicity Chairperson

The Verses unleashed

To the editor:

This letter is to appreciate the point of view expressed by Mr. Tod Scott (letters) in the last issue of the Gazette. The context of the letter has pinpointed the heart of the problem of violence. We read in the same issue the incident occurring at Stellarton's community college.

The whole decade of the 80s was a perpetuation of violence, except that in its last quarter we saw the forces of peace unleashed in Eastern Europe, resulting in profound changes in that part of the world. We also saw the spread of violence not through a word but a complete book. Now we learn that Penguin publishers are going to publish a paperback edition of the *Satanic Verses*. I don't want to go into a debate on the virtues and evils of the book, but one result was very much pernicious, the violence. I hope that all peace loving people will stand to the occasion and do whatever possible to motivate the publisher not to publish the paperback edition. Down with the violence.

Khalid Iawan

News on Charles...

To the Editor:

I have just finished reading the Gazette's election supplement of March 1st and have found it wanting. Regular readers of the Gazette have, in the past, been subjected to redundantly numerous editorials decrying student apathy towards DSU elections. How, then, does the Gazette justify its own shoddy election coverage?

I am particularly concerned about the rather unfair presentation of the candidates' profiles. For the Board of Governors, Andrew Murphy is accorded front and centre exposure, complete with a photo, while Don Manson is given no such benefits. Worst of all, Charles Aldrich is denied a voice in the supplement. Instead of receiving an apology for this denial, Mr. Aldrich is insulted with a flippant assertion that "he is a good guy", complete with a moronic cartoon. Is this fair, unbiased coverage? Where is Mr. Manson's photo and Mr. Aldrich's voice?

As a newspaper, the Gazette has an obligation, a duty, to inform the student population. In the case of election coverage, getting half or two thirds of the story is simply not good enough. That the Gazette settled for this low standard of journalism is a sure sign of — dare I say it — apathy on the part of its staff; surely the Gazette could have reached Mr. Aldrich before press time.

In any case, the Gazette has failed its audience. We deserve more than silly jokes about Charles Manson or Superman. If the Gazette accepts this supplement as adequate, then please spare us the post-election whining about low voter turnout — because you are as disinterested about DSU elections as the student body is.

Colin Boyd

... and news from Charles

To the editor:

The Election Supplement in

the March 1st issue of the Gazette was appalling. There was a complete abandonment of journalistic responsibility and a total disregard for the sensitivity of an election. The biased coverage (i.e. cartoons) was terribly inappropriate.

As well, the Gazette claimed that I could not be reached before press time. This is unfair; nominations closed Monday, February 26th, and I contacted the Gazette office frequently on the following days.

I missed the opportunity to address the issues pertinent to students. I would like to do so now. Most pressing is the potential for strikes in the next year. The Administration (i.e. Board of Governors) will be negotiating with five of Dalhousie's unions for new contracts. Considering the limited financial support from the federal and provincial governments, negotiations will be tough. I'll try to ensure that negotiations begin early and in earnest. If any of the unions strike, as the DFA did last year, it will have some degree of crippling effect on Dalhousie; this must be averted.

A second important issue is the Financial Strategy Committee's proposed tuition fee increase — 16 per cent for undergrads and significantly more for graduate students. Clearly, such a drastic fee increase is unacceptable. Some would have you believe that if you shout loud enough into the Administration's face and demonstrate outside their offices, we might achieve a zero per cent or

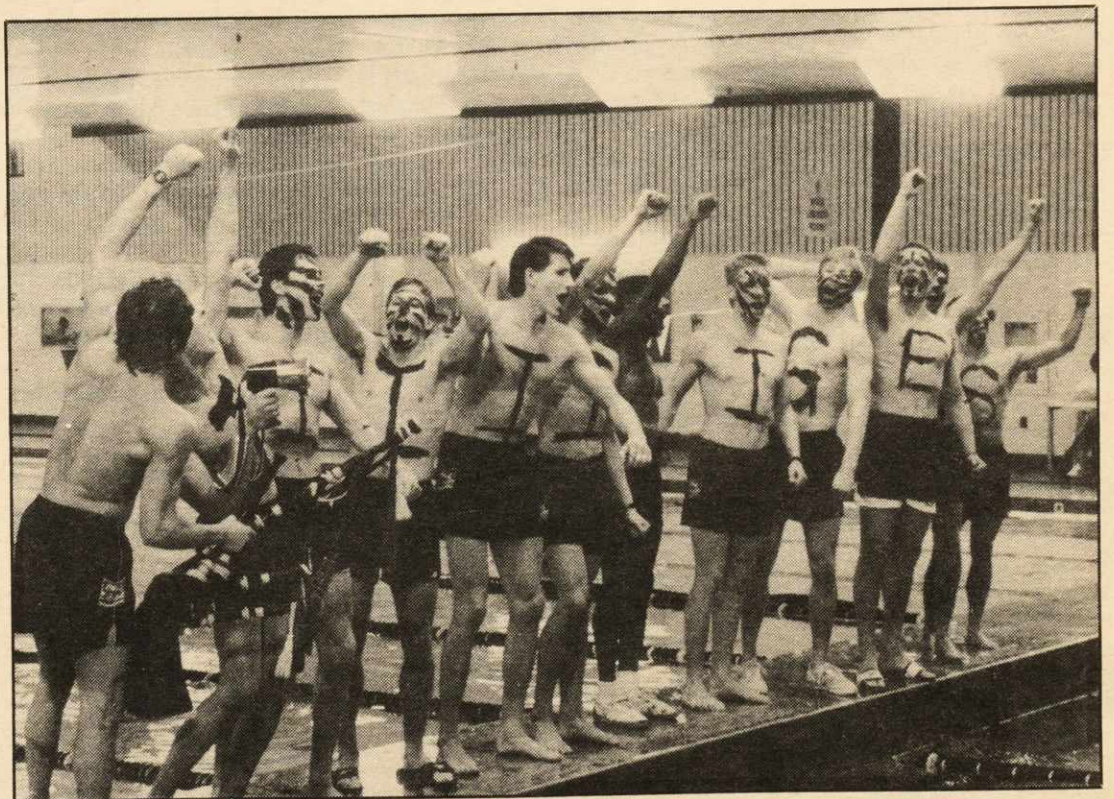
This is blatantly unrealistic. If we approach the Board of Governors with such negativism, shouting and whining, we will lose all credibility and the Board of Governors will ignore us. They will make a decision without our input and without sympathy. We must be able to work with the Board to create a constructive environment. Only this way will we be able to keep tuition fee increases to a minimum.

There is a difference between a powerful voice and a loud voice, a distinction I'm sure you appreciate.

As well, the Financial Strategy Committee is planning to establish a relationship between tuition and the income potential of a graduate in a particular field, i.e. to see if law, medicine, and other graduate school students would pay higher tuition. This is entirely unacceptable. The current income potential of a student is the same across the board, their ability to pay would be the same. The MPHEC figured that it costs over \$7000 to attend school each year in Nova Scotia, yet the maximum student loan awards are in the \$5500 range. Considering that students have the same income potential and the same access to loans (which is well below minimum costs), differential fees for graduate schools would clearly restrict access to the schools to children of upper-income families.

I would appreciate the opportunity to elaborate on these and other issues. Please approach me with your concerns.

Charles Aldrich



If Dal doesn't have school spirit, what do you call this?