

Rambling at the DSU

Under a moon perilously close to being full, the Dalhousie student council met Tuesday night and debated a variety of issues from shirts to senators, busses to bucks.

Just prior to the meeting council chambers were astir with the rumour that John Buchanan had accepted a senate seat, and every student's best friend Terry Donahue, ex-education minister, was now acting premier. Just a rumour — but a tastefully and carefully floated rumour none-the-less. It helped set the mood.

To start the evening council picked a new student senator. Everyone seemed to agree that a willingness to speak was essential. I imagined a wizened elder or Chancey the Gardener wandering through and solemnly warning "an empty vessel makes the most noise." But Chancey never showed.

As he made a shuffling exit

from my head, the question of money came up. I sharpened my pen.

It seems that the student union is going to lose about \$50,000 this year. Was it at that point or soon after that a councillor fell out of his seat? Shock? Lack of co-ordination? Jeez who's to tell, eh? He was a goner, though. After a smoke in the ante-chamber he was right back and into the fray.

This is a council that is not afraid of action. With blitzkrieg speed and a unanimity of purpose they voted not to send money to Jeux Canada Winter Games 1987 or Operation Raleigh.

On the question of a possible Metro Transit bus strike, council took the radical position of "looking into the possibility" of putting up bulletin boards that could be used to make car-polling easier. Revolutionaries — not exactly.

—Pat Savage

LETTERS

Lack of concern

TO THE EDITOR

I am sure more than one Dalhousie student has been inconvenienced by the following scene:

The security guard rests just inside the door—quietly scrutinizing potential pilferers. "Sorry, you'll have to leave your bag over there," he says flatly, pointing to an open area of the hallway. Begrudgingly, you place your bag amongst the others, hesitating for a moment as you ponder its safety. Gathering courage and hoping the cash-register lines are short, you rush into the bookstore leaving textbooks and bag unprotected. The security guard smiles as you enter.

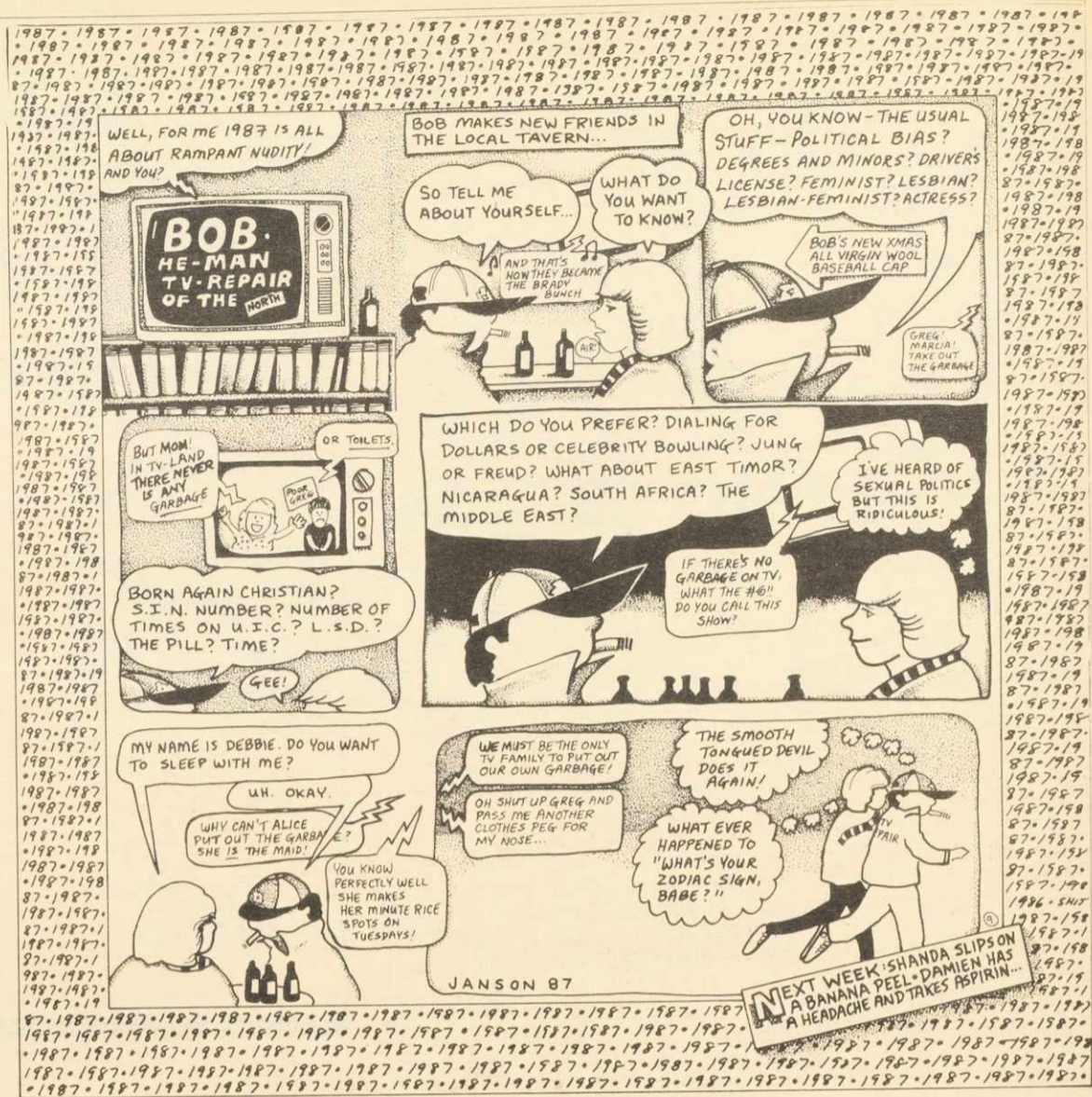
While I understand the Bookstore's paranoia concerning the theft of their "priceless" stock, I fail to appreciate their lack of similar consideration towards the students. Bags, be-

they of the 'Gucci' or Dalhousie variety, carry a certain value, even when empty. However, in the quest for protection against thievery, the Bookstore's policy of demanding that students leave their bags/books unattended, reflects negligence of student concerns. Even the security guard cannot possibly keep track of who owns what.

A check-in area would be a much safer arrangement. Similar to a coat check, students would leave their possessions, take a number and enter the Bookstore worry-free. The service need only be provided - free - during peak demand, for example, the first two or three weeks of each semester.

Such a thoughtful action would provide several students with temporary employment as check-in clerks and also enhance the Bookstore's "we're here to serve the students" image; something sorely lacking under the present 'no-bags' policy.

—Phil Davison



Ms. quotes misquotes

To the Editor,

I'm writing to express my disappointment concerning an article which appeared in the Nov. 26th issue of the Dalhousie Gazette.

The article, entitled "Sex, drugs and do as you're told!", was allegedly intended to focus upon residence rules, specifically, the rules existing in Shirreff Hall. Upon reading it, one was left with the difficult task of trying to determine what the point of the article was actually supposed to be. The title alone left the reader with the impression that Shirreff is plagued with serious drug problems, nymphomaniacs and mindless zombies, fumbling through the corridors, searching for meaning in their lives. Admittedly, no Shirreff Hall resident

has been nominated for sainthood or the Nobel Peace Prize recently.

However, there have been no reported infractions of the Drug Policy and no formal complaints regarding either the drug policy or the existing rules governing the guest sign in procedures either. There is no evidence that these problems exist, yet your article suggested that these are pressing issues. Granted, the Dean of Women supposedly stated that she feels that drugs are being used in residence on the basis that she has "smelled it". (Although it is easy to question if this was actually said since several of my own statements were misquoted).

In the case that this was an actual quote, not being able to cite any specific cases of infractions certainly indicates that there is insufficient evidence to illustrate that drugs are posing a problem. Certainly, it is hardly fair to imply that it is on the fringe of reaching epidemic proportions.

I sincerely hope that in the future, references to Shirreff Hall, or to any other organization, will be based upon fact, as opposed to speculation. Investigative journalism can be effective provided that it is accompanied by a sense of professionalism and objectivity. Upon reading this article few could argue that sensationalism was substituted for realism. I feel that it is unfortunate that a student paper which I have supported in the past has to resort to inappropriate content and flashy titles in order to attract readers.

I, and the members of the Residence Council, feel that through this article you needlessly slandered the residents of Shirreff Hall. The integrity and intelligence of 450 students was placed in a questionable light, without sufficient evidence or provocation.

Sincerely,
Sherry Golding,
on behalf of the Shirreff Hall Residence Council

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The Gazette offices are located on the 3rd floor 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 Student Union, the editor or the collective staff.

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