

While I did not attend the performance, it could not possibly have been more inept or in poorer taste than his writing. Hopefully when your correspondent reaches his seventeenth birthday he will have gotten over his obsession with things scatological and will have gained the courage to sign his own name to his jeers.

John Paterson  
Nova Scotia Tech

## Suns postcards

### To the Gazette:

The SUNS postcard campaign is now into its second week and the response so far has been inspiring. Over 50% of the postcards distributed in Sherriff Hall have already been returned to the SUB. A major boost for the campaign was achieved last week when the Dalhousie Faculty Association Executive agreed to enlist the support of the membership in distributing the postcards in class. I would like to urge all concerned students to offer to help their professors to collect the postcards in class and return them to the SUB.

Jeff Champion

An example of some of the response so far (anonymously) 1. "For those who would like to pay for their own expenses in college with financial obligations hanging over their head. Currently the rates are barely in grasp but if the proposed rates are made "law" those who work to pay for their own education do not have a chance!"

2. Canadian youth have always been encouraged to educate themselves and you're making it difficult, if not impossible for us to learn. A college education should not be for just the elite. When looking towards the future, if tuition costs continue to rise, Canada will soon be run by uneducated dummies—a grade 12 education just isn't enough!

## Dalplex resonds

### To The Editor of the Dalhousie Gazette:

The editorial entitled "Dalplex Having Its Prob-

## Faculty group formed

by Marlene Peinsznski

The Nova Scotia Confederation of University Faculty Associations, a non-political organization representing the interests of Nova Scotian university faculty members, has now opened an office in Halifax.

The association, financed by its 2,000 members, is run by an elected council and executive who see the group as a sign of movement towards self-organization by university faculty.

Derek Wood, NSCUFA president, said in his address on the opening of the Halifax office that "Academics have always been slow, (compared with other professionals)

lems" published in the Dalhousie Gazette (January 17) provided some concern to the Dalplex staff.

The coverage in the Dalhousie Gazette of the athletic, recreational and intramural programs and the progress of the Dalplex has been extensive, factual, candid and honest. Based on this background it seemed somewhat uncharacteristic to present an editorial containing a number of facts which had not been thoroughly verified. It is true, that in any new facility of this nature a variety of "growing pains" will be experienced. We are constantly making changes as we become aware of the inconsistencies which are identified and the people using the facility have provided a variety of suggestions to us. We are committed to making the Dalplex and the Sport For All program the best they can possibly be for the Dalhousie community as well as the community members.

We would like to take this opportunity to comment on a number of points raised in your editorial. It is true that spectators were asked to remove their shoes on two occasions for varsity events in the Dalplex but as of Saturday, January 12 (several days prior to your deadline) appropriate matting was installed for the convenience of the spectators. We had experienced delays in receiving this material. The reason we enforce the clean athletic footwear policy is to protect the floor. Shoes which have been worn out of doors are embedded with sand, gravel and grit which acts as the truest form of sandpaper on any floor. We are attempting to provide the best flooring conditions for the participants.

We are pleased with the work being done by the staff at the Information Desk. We engage approximately 17 people on the Information Desk—13 are Dalhousie students. With such a large staff we no doubt have various interpretations with the vast amount of information which is being offered to the hundreds of people who pass through every hour. This is one of the busiest locations in the complex and we are proud of the work being done by these people in very trying situations, at times.

As of January 7 an additional athletic trainer has been hired to complement the other full-time trainers and the 3 ad-

ditional student trainers. They are responsible to cover the training room for 96 hours per week. Once again, the training room has been staffed throughout the open hours since January 10th.

The staff of the Dalplex and other members of the School of Physical Education in conjunction with students throughout the University have fought hard to keep the Dalplex open for activity for the students when it is most beneficial for them—during the examination period. The main fieldhouse is perhaps the safest regarding the threat of fire and in the event of any emergency it could be evacuated in the matter of minutes through the 27 emergency exits which open to the outdoors. It is also equipped with an entire sprinkler system throughout the building including the main fieldhouse floor.

Perhaps University officials should have delayed the opening until all parts of the Dalplex were completely functional, however, the many positive features experienced by the Dalhousie community would not have been available. We have attempted to provide a wide variety of programs for the many interests of the participants.

We welcome suggestions from participants as well as the Dalhousie Gazette. Joel Jacobson, our Community Relations Manager has been in constant contact with the sports editor and other members of the Gazette staff providing updated information about the Dalplex and its programs. Mr. Jacobson and other members of our staff are available to clarify any points or areas of concern for students, the general public and members of your newspaper. We would be pleased to provide a detailed tour of the facility to explain and identify the many outstanding features.

Enclosed are copies of the Program Brochure and the Member's Handbook which have been available at the Information Desk during the last few weeks. If you require any further comment or information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,  
H.K. Bellemare  
Head of Athletics  
& Recreation Services

about organizing in their own interests; but in the seventies this movement has quickened noticeably." According to Wood, the St. Mary's faculty association has led the other Maritime associations in seeking legal collective bargaining status.

While stating that the interests of university administrations and university faculty do not differ greatly, Wood says that management, when faced with less prosperous times, does not always act in the workers best interest. NSCUFA could help in an area such as this.

NSCUFA sees faculty as being able to complement the

administrations views on higher education. They also feel that they can help to better inform the public as to just where their tax dollars are going.

Woods states other faculty concerns as declining salaries as compared to other provinces and "the resources for research and the arts shrinking frighteningly. . .", which is to Woods "the threat . . . to the life blood of the creative academic process."

Now that it is better organized, NSCUFA is confident that it can show Nova Scotia the usefulness of the university and how we will all benefit from healthy, efficient institutions.

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