

# opinions

## Suzuki fee a scam Naive, too

On February 12 David Suzuki is coming to the Rebecca Cohn where he and other panellists will discuss "Economics and the Environment". His engagement is the main event of his year's annual science exposition. Dr. Suzuki, one of Canada's leading public figures in science and the environment, should bring well-needed attention to the state of economics and the environment of the east coast, and therefore his visit could be helpful.

However, I am very disturbed about the means by which we have acquired him. The Dalhousie Science Society, of which I and any other science student on campus is a paying member, negotiated for Dr. Suzuki to come here and speak to us. He demands a speaking fee of ten thousand dollars plus 7 per cent GST, return airfare from Vancouver (\$1,500), as well as accommodation while here in Halifax (\$150). All this plus the opportunity to promote his new book. That comes to a grand total of approximately \$12,350, neglecting the cost of booking the Cohn, printing tickets and posters, press releases and other miscellaneous costs. He will speak for about one hour.

Dr. Suzuki's name will bring media attention to the lecture, and therefore he will serve his purpose in some way. Some of this attention will focus on the issues and some of it will focus on the promotion of his new book. Yet he is not an expert on the environmental affairs of the east coast, such as the Atlantic fisheries, and his impact will be small and short-lived. As well, in order to pay for Dr. Suzuki's extravagant financial terms, the DSS has had to accept large donations from such corporations as MT&T and Clearwater fisheries. Large corporations that exist in our capitalist society are the main villains in the destruction of our environment.

I wonder if Dr. Suzuki realizes that corporate sponsorship has been recruited to support his visit. This seems to go against much of what he has said and written. In a book which he co-authored it states "the cozy world of economics is a closed, isolated sys-

tem in which the real cost of doing business on this planet, the cost to the environment in terms of depletion of non-renewable resources and pollution, has no place". Thus I assume his talk on 'economics and the environment' will center around such things as corporate exploitation of the environment and our resources.

But when we have to have that discussion in the arena that these corporate sponsors provide for us, because of large speaking fees, we have to play by their rules. In today's society it is popular for companies to appear to be environmentally friendly, so much so that we have large oil corporations telling us that for them "everyday is earth day" while their refineries and tankers litter our oceans and air with pollution. By allowing these corporations into our realm of environmental discussion we are simply fuelling their corporate competitiveness and cleaning their conscience.

David Suzuki has said on the issue of economics and the environment that "we can not afford to be disenfranchised by our own complacency". But that is what happens when we have to take on these sponsors; we become dependent on the approval of our opponents. We cannot compromise ourselves at the cost of getting attention to the issues through the wrong channels or we end up sending double message.

I am disturbed by the fact that

many leading lecturers on the environment demand exorbitant speaking fees. I understand that by being a leading beneficiary for such organizations as the David Suzuki Foundation, much of Dr. Suzuki's money will go towards NGOs. However, \$10,000 for an hour's enlightenment is unreasonable. Even if this money is pumped back into the 'cause', it will more than likely be used for west coast issues. The \$12,350 that we are giving him is money that could be invested here on the east coast for east coast issues, and in much more effective ways.

I find it hard to support a person who I see as primarily a west coast environmentalist, especially when he is speaking on east coast issues. I for one am not going to attend the lecture. The only way I have to voice my discontent with these large corporate environmentalists and their large sponsors is through my dollar, or lack of it.

Dr. Suzuki has said, "what matters is what we do. It's the action that defines us", and "you are what you do, not what you say". I wonder what kind of positive action is going to come from this engagement. If he believes what he says when he states such things as, "I think I define what I am and who I am and what my values are by my actions", I have to wonder what his values are, and those of the DSS and its sponsors.

Paul Nimmon

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

ing it's the fault of both parties is almost like saying it's no one's fault! Of course women are better protected when armed with the knowledge that a man may refuse to take no for an answer, but surely they cannot be blamed on account of oversight or misplaced trust? Perhaps the more apt question is why men who rape their dates don't consider beforehand the possibility that the woman may not want sex, and that she means it when she says so.

Vernon's views are more than naive, and they draw dangerous conclusions. If men are "built for rape", Mr. Vernon, then are women built for violation? Do you equate rape with "slamming a piece of machinery that refuses to cooperate"? The sole redeeming feature in hearing your views is that it gives the rest of us, who believe in compassion, justice and choice, the chance to reject them. And perhaps you have helped to make a few women more aware that there really are people who think like you do.

Portia Clark

### In the dark

To the editor:

In light of the recent assault occurring on campus, fears about walking alone in the dark have escalated. Albeit this

assault happened in the early morning, but the woman was alone and this alone makes her a relatively easy target. Situations like this can sometimes be avoided by walking with another person, especially during the hours between sunrise and sunset. I am writing to remind women (and men) that they have the option of getting someone to walk with them, through the use of services like the Dalhousie Tiger Patrol.

Tiger Patrol starts at 7:30 every evening, though. What are people supposed to do during the hour and a half of darkness before this time? Selina Tejani vocalised the fears that she and others have about going out in the short span of Tiger Patrol-free darkness ("Walk Home Times", *Gazette*, January 20). I am writing to inform, or remind, people that there is another service available. The King's Walk Home Service begins as soon as it gets dark outside. (At the moment we are starting at 5:30 pm.) We also have extended boundaries: Allan Street to Oakland Road, and Robie Street to Oxford Street. We run till 12:30, Sunday through Wednesday, and till 1:30, Thursday through Friday. Our office is in the basement of Alexandra Hall at King's. You can reach us at 492-1919. We have a dedicated staff of dispatchers and volunteer workers who will be there for you.

Without services like King's Walk Home and Tiger Patrol, there would be many people out there right now walking in fear of the night. We at King's Walk Home encourage all King's and Dalhousie students to make use of both walk home services. Remember, you don't have to walk home alone.

Cheryl Ciona

Dispatcher & volunteer walker  
King's Walk Home Service

### Correction

We wronged the ancestors of the *Globe and Mail* last week. We are indeed older than the *Mail* (founded 1872) but not the *Globe* (1844). Also, the page 10 photo of stiff men in black suits was of the 1894 staff, not the 1898.

125 years of fixing our mistakes.

### Looking for a Job? GET WITH THE PROGRAM!

We can help you find the employment you deserve by revolutionizing your resume on computer disk.

Why pay \$25 - \$45 for that old paper resume?

Imagine the impact of your full colour picture, text, and voice simulation using our state-of-the-art diskette.

Get  
**The Personal Image  
Resume Diskette**

Call:  
GERMANE  
MANAGEMENT  
ASSOCIATES  
Authorized Distributor For:  
Personal Image Systems, Inc.  
422 - 5655

(Also available: Missing  
Children & Medical Diskettes)

### SKI MARBLE MOUNTAIN from \$379 p.p. quad occupancy SPRING BREAK!

SPACE IS LIMITED!  
BOOK NOW!



BreakAway  
VACATIONS

- \* Deluxe motorcoach from Halifax-Corner Brook
- \* Return fare on Marine Atlantic
- \* Five nights accommodation
- \* Transfers to and from the ski hill
- \* Five day ski pass
- \* Nightly ski storage
- \* Two Complimentary drinks at Kathy's Place
- \* Taxes and service charges
- \* **Full payment at time of booking!**

**TRAVEL CUTS**  
494-2054

### SHEARLOGIC HAIRSTYLING

WOMEN \$16.00  
MEN \$11.00  
SHAMPOO, CUT, AND STYLE  
G.S.T. INCLUDED

All of our staff are master hairstylists.

Fenwick Medical Centre  
5595 Fenwick Street  
492 - 4715

### DOUBLE DEUCE 1560 hollis around the corner from maritime mall

Thur Feb 3

Avacost

Fri 4 CKDU Benefits Sat 5

Horseshoes &  
Handgrenades,  
Merge, Essen

Great Slave,  
Uisce Beatha,  
SuperFriends,  
Sebastian Lippa

Tues 8th

**Bob Dylan Night**  
(local bands cover their fav Dylan tunes)

CKDU 97.5 FM