

# opinions

## Trying to save Dal

Where have all the politically active students gone? Have Dal students got no concerns, no passions, no guilt? We are all part of a massive student body, with the potential to band our energy together to make some changes, yet no one is moving.

I am not just standing back making these comments from the side lines. I've tried to get involved and have only encountered closing doors.

The CFS referendum occurred last week, and hardly anyone knew about it. This was an important event! This was something we shouldn't have let slip away in a quiet, unenergized referendum. Sure, we saved ourselves \$4, but just wait until we have to fork over \$6000 for tuition next year. That's right. Just sit back and let things happen. Sit back with your buddies and enjoy university life. We don't care about anything, right? I don't think so.

I'm a first year student with a mad, raging mass of energy to throw into this school, and no one has been there to catch it. I've searched high and low. Is anybody out there? I had to hear about the CFS issues through my roommate, a NSCAD student, and that really pissed me off!

I felt it was my right as a Dal student to let other students know what kind of issues we were dealing with. I felt it was up to me to yell it

out and tell my peers just what the truth of the matter was. So I made a shirt with some obnoxious shiny yellow material and painted 'VOTE YES TO CFS' on it. I printed up little flyers explaining why people should vote 'yes'.

I spent two days wandering around campus, telling people the issues, begging them to get involved. I was hoping to encounter some equally energized people. I was hoping to be asked to attend a meeting. I was hoping that someone would look out their tinted window and realize that they could use my energy. I was hoping that people would vote.

I have a lot of passion for change. I have a lot of time to put towards causes. And yet Dal has no time for me.

I was approached last week in the SUB. I was told to take off my shiny yellow shirt. They mentioned a \$75 ticket if I didn't take it off. They told me it wasn't part of the campaign budget and that if any campaigning was going on that they didn't know about, they could close down the campaign.

Well if there even was a campaign going on, it didn't fucking reach the students, so I don't know who the hell they were campaigning for! Why couldn't I have been seen as a potential asset? I was just trying a

little harder to let people know what was going on.

Dalhousie depresses me, and yet I'm not going to give up! I'm not going to let that tight-knit group of people running this school stop me from getting involved. So much political bullshit of ladder-climbing and ass-kissing shouldn't be the only road to making change.

I'm going to make this school more receptive to fresh energy. I've got at least 4 years left here, and we're going to see changes. We're going to make it impossible not to get involved.

I'm getting people together as you read this. We are going to make this school shout out, even if we have to override the present system. After spending a consistent month asking for help and information, the time has come to just do it myself.

We may no longer be a part of the CFS, but that doesn't mean that the issues don't affect us anymore. If anything, they affect us more.

If you want changes, if you're really pissed off at the system or if you've got some good energy to add to a radical group of people, then come out and meet with us at the Grad House on Tuesdays at 7 p.m.

Shannon Hardie

## The witch is dead

La! La! The witch is dead. CFS has gone to bed. Sing it out! The wicked witch is dead.

Oh, I'm so happy. Now Dalhousie is free to choose its own course in the years ahead — free of the worry of possible liability when CFS finally has to cough up for all its debt. You made a wise choice Dalhousie. You should be proud.

On another wholly unrelated topic: guess what happened at council last Sunday. A whole group of people lost their seats... and do you know why? Because they're never there.

I told you all in the last issue of the Gazette that you weren't being properly represented, and I was right. Now a whole bunch of groups will have to hold new elections to see if they can find some responsible people.

Oh, well.

Hey, grad students! How many of you apathetic loafers know what is happening with DAGS (Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students) this year? How many of you have actually attended a DAGS meeting this year? If any of you actually wanted to get involved, I'm sure that according to DAGS' strange constitution, it would be fairly easy for you to get a seat on council. Yeah, whatever. P.T. Barnum was right. There is a sucker born every minute.

I heard a story this week about a call that was made to the Executive Vice-President of the Student Union.

The nature of the call had to do with the Sears Card people in the lobby of the Student Union Building. It seems that one of the city's busy-bodies was concerned that there were free gifts being given out in the building. Actually, this person was

worried about the free knife give-away.

This person was worried about the fact that if we were to have knives given to us, we'd want to go out and commit acts of violence. I don't know if it ever occurred to this person or not, but most of us actually own several knives and rarely use them outside of our kitchens.

If we were crazy, it wouldn't be that hard for us to take a knife from our own kitchen to do some unspeakable act. It really makes you wonder how many people out there have their heads screwed on right.

Maybe if this person didn't watch so much TV, he or she would have more time for thinking before making such a stupid call.

God, some people's children.

Joe Tratnik

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LETTERS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

MORE OPINIONS  
PAGE 9

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

hmm... \$37.10, or \$84.10 without the health plan.

It only took the DSU six weeks to save us six dollars from the CFS membership. At that rate by the spring they could get us about \$24 off our Student Union fees. I can't wait until they start handing out regular cheques for the money we've already paid.

The DSU has proved that they are responsible leadership who are willing to work for you. Oh yeah... I have a couple of questions for them though. How come my International Student Identity Card now costs me \$15 when this summer my friend got one for free? Also, I've heard a lot about this social policy review and I hear those guys aren't very organized there. I'm sure the DSU is planning a referendum to opt out of that as well, right?

Toby Moorsom

## Decent management

To the editor,

This is a story of the Pop Explosion. I am from out of town and to me the Pop Explosion seemed like an excellent way to get myself acquainted with the local music scene, having recently moved to Halifax.

Not knowing what I should go and see I went and got myself a festival pass — which I misplaced quite stupidly.

Discovering this on Wednesday about three hours before the opening show of the event, I searched fruitlessly. Then I took my big city pessimism off to the Brunswick Hall where I lamely told my sad tale to the representative of Decent management who was on the scene.

I was admitted to the show that night free of charge and asked to come down to the production office the next day. Already having received more kindness than I had expected or even hoped for, I was neither optimistic nor pessimistic when I went to the harried office above the Khyber Cafe.

I retold my story and was presented free-of-charge and, even more impressively, without hassle a replacement for that which I lost out of my own idiocy.

This is a personal commendation to Decent Management. I thank them not only for correcting my mistake, but for instilling in me some faith in the goodness of human nature. Decent Management is the epitome of whatever is right about Halifax that is so wrong with much of the world. I thank and support them.

James Beddington

## Ask Joe and Jo

This morning, walking to school from our respective homes, Jo and Joe noticed a strange occurrence.

It's fall! It's almost Halloween! It's the end of midterm week! Every year the same old story. Whatever classes you take, whatever day you take it on, all the midterms you could possibly have are scheduled for the same day.

You stay up all night only to find out that two of the sixty-thousand have been postponed and are on four times the material. Lucky you. They've all been rescheduled for the same day.

Is this your favorite time of year too?

We went up to a crazed looking history student today (we knew her) and as she pulled a good portion of hair from her head, she screamed, "I have two history midterms today!"

The obvious question was "when?" The reply: "The Scottish Reformation."

Anything telling you this has gotten a little out of hand? Now, we're not suggesting that anything can actually be done about this. There isn't. (Well, there's always the crying, begging, pleading and carrying on, but we're not here to discuss Joe's sex life.) (I hate you, Jo.)

Anyway, what we are suggesting is to slow down. There's been enough complaining in this column about anything and everything.

We love fall! We hope you do too! Get out of the square prison we call the library and play in the leaves just because they're so damn pretty... and just because midterms suck and because they're over.

If you have any questions you'd like answered, anything you want an opinion on, just ask Joe & Jo. Nothing is too rude, crude or dumb.

Joe Tratnik and Jo Mirsky

email: tratnik@is.dal.ca

## Dalhousie Women's Centre



6143 South St. (between Seymour & LeMarchant)  
Halifax, N.S. B3H 2J7  
(902) 494-2432

## Gun Control

A Debate

Monday, Oct. 31, 8 p.m.

Room 105 Weldon Law Bldg.

co-sponsored with Dalhousie Women's Centre and the Law featuring ...

### »In Support of Gun Control

Mary Clancy - MP for Halifax riding

Heidi Rathjen - DWC Exec. Director of the Coalition for Gun Control

Suzanne Laplante-Edward - President of the Dec. 6 Victims Foundation

### »Against current Gun Control proposals

Tony Rogers - Exec. Director, N.S. Wildlife Federation

First Week of Reflection planning meeting

Thursday, Nov. 3, 4:30 p.m. at DWC

call Lisa for more info.