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Hostels - The Affordable Adventure

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

The unsubstantive manner in which James deceitfully exposes Cuba's weaknesses is perverse. Along the same lines as he chastises Cuba, I contend his immature political antics demonstrate how our selective media and biased curriculums successfully groom ignorant sheep whose energy for democracy is only evident when defending an unjust status quo.

Incidentally, I can't take credit for the slogan, "Socialism or Death" which echoes across the lips of many Cubans. This statement was actually Castro's. Yet given our similarities — Castro and I both sport scruffy beards and healthy abundances of hair — James' fraudulent slip of the pen was perhaps accidental and is sort of accepted as a compliment.

I reject James' suggestion that I should be "embarrassed". In fact, I recommend he address his reactionary hormone problem before he flirts with issues about justice and equality.

Respectfully,

Alex Boston

More bicycling blues

To the editors:

The snow is melting, the air is getting warmer and what are people

doing about it? Well, first they're peeling off a few layers which they no longer need. Secondly (and more to the point of this letter) they are waking their bicycles up out of hibernation. Dalhousie has specific spots where they encourage you to lock your bikes up hopefully to avoid theft or vandalism. On the most part I have had no problems with the bike racks though I would like to see more in the future. Of course you have to forget that my back wheel got stolen in front of the Arts Centre last semester — so it goes. So what's my problem? Earlier today I walked out of the SUB to my bicycle which was locked directly in front. Two maintenance men were devising a plan to clear ice around the bikes. To clear all the ice they needed all bikes to be cleared of the ice. Unfortunately there were two bikes there other than mine. As I was unlocking my bike I noticed that one of the men was twisting the bikes in an attempt to make more room to clear the ice. I instantly told the man that he should be a little more careful or the wheel would bust. He told me to mind my own business, that he had a job to do it and to stop bothering him. He continued to put unnecessary pressure on the bike so I spoke up again warning him that he might break the wheel. He then told me I had an "attitude" and to "shut up." I admire this man's devotion to his job but I think he could use a little common sense. He told me that people should not lock their bikes there when they have a job to do. That is ridiculous, where else does he want us to go?

I also don't think that this man recognizes the costs of maintaining a bicycle these days. Even small parts can cost a lot not to mention service charges. All in all it can get really expensive. I also think that they could be using their time a lot more productively if they would remove the ice on the paths on which we walk. The way I see it is that the ice by the bike rack is not really a first priority. At any rate, to the maintenance man who so blatantly disregarded other people's property I say, "be more polite, more people will like you." To cyclists who lock their bikes up around Dalhousie be careful — it might be smarter to just leave it unlocked far away from the bike racks and the wrath of Dal's maintenance men.

Nobu Adilman

Tiger Patrol ★★★★★!

To the editors:

Last Wednesday night, I was required to work late at my department. I was at the computer centre, so I called the Tiger Patrol to escort me down to Robie Street. This experience was my first with the Tiger Patrol. I was quite impressed with the friendliness of the patrollers, as well as their acknowledgement of the seriousness and the necessity of the job.

When I was finished at my department, I again called for the Tiger Patrol. As it was too late for an escorted walk, the officer on duty kindly offered to call a Security car to drive me home. After a reasonable wait, I was picked up and driven right to my home, close but off-campus nonetheless.

I am writing to you to express my appreciation for the establishment of the escort service as well as the treatment I was accorded by Security, even though it was past Tiger Patrol hours.

I am so impressed, I suppose, because last year after working late at my office, I often had to fight with Security to get them to drive me to my *on-campus* home. Of course, they couldn't refuse and risk a dead or beaten body the next morning, especially after a ride had been requested. So they would acquiesce, but tell me that it might take some time, even an hour, for them to come pick me up if *something else more important came up* (like what, I would always wonder).

Based on my own limited experience, then, it would seem that the attitude of the Security department and the university in general has improved on the issue of women's safety concerns. I don't know what accounts for this progress, nor do I know what politics have been involved in fighting for these improvements. It's probably safe to assume, though, that other women paid for me to be able to get home safely.

The task is not complete, though. Some changes are still necessary, such as an expansion of its territory to include off-campus students. Continuing education of the security force, as well as the broader Dalhousie community, is needed to sensitize them to the safety problems of women on campus safety and the Dalhousie community.

Meanwhile, keep up the good work. I look forward to seeing what improvements will be instituted in the near future.

Andrea Goldsmith

STUDENTS AND GRADS

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Shalena Brown