

The Coast

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Airing grievances

Dear editor,

I was more than a little miffed reading the "Radio play" article about the Dalhousie Student Union's concern over CKDU. I find it especially hypocritical the DSU has an issue with CKDU's accountability, when theirs is questionable too.

This year I paid \$87.40 to the DSU (the fees are called "general DSU operations," "DSU renovations fund" and "facility improvement fee"). In my three years at Dal, I have paid these fees but have felt that I have not benefited from the DSU. They seem to be more concerned with padding their resumes, making a lot of money (I just saw a poster advertising an executive position as making \$18,000) and planning parties at the Grawood, than things like tuition fees and student activities that don't involve getting shit-faced.

Accountability? That's a load of crap coming out of Kevin Wasco's mouth. He was just elected in a presidential by-election which saw him receiving 459 votes out of 656 cast at the end of October. Where there is a population of over 15,500 at Dal, that is absolutely mind-blowingly pathetic!

Kevin says, "I personally don't think there is enough student involvement" at CKDU. And although that's probably true, that is true of EVERYTHING AT DALHOUSIE. I think that you, Kevin, and the rest of you DSU-geousie should take a real close look at your little popularity club before you throw stones around at others. While you're at it, why don't you step out of your little castle and see that the whole world does not revolve around the Student Union Building.

Give me a break! I don't hear of anything the DSU has to say during my whole time at Dal until last week in The Coast and this is their big beef? Get over yourselves guys. You've pushed me

The Coast invites comment on all aspects of the paper's performance and city life.

Letters must be signed, include a daytime phone number and will be edited for space and clarity.

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from indifferent to annoyed that you exist. At least with CKDU, I can turn on the radio and actually know that they are for real.

Clara Wilson, Halifax

Peter panned

Peter Ewert,

Your letter "The lane, boss, the lane!" in last week's issue had it all wrong. Wayne Grosko was not hired by the HRM to be a qualified transportation planner in the formal sense. He was designated as a facilitator and liason between the cycling community and the HRM planners and council, and to address the needs of a great many who use bicycles as their preferred transportation. The work that Wayne did was far more than anyone has previously attempted in this city, and I applaud his effort. I have met cyclists from all walks of life, young and old, and I assure you that we are not, as you naively point out, a "miniscule amount of the commuting population." We are not a "fringe" group, and the only visions I have are of streets that are safe enough to get from point A to point B without risking my life. It is groups like TRAX and the EAC that work toward this common goal.

You seem to believe that the bike-lane issue is not a safety matter—how ignorant can you possibly be? Speaking as a responsible cyclist who has been hit by reckless car drivers twice in the past six months, I assure you that it has EVERYTHING to do with safety. Perhaps more folks would feel compelled to forego the bus in favour of a bike if our streets were repaired and made more bike-friendly.

It is time for poorly-informed morons like yourself to pull your head out of your fossil-burning, shit-box-driving ass and realize that our city's streets are shared by folks who are more concerned about health, safety and being ecologically-responsible than you seem to be. This is an issue that has more depth than you apparently grasp, and is less about politics and more about keeping cyclists from being splattered on the windshields of ignorant fools like you.

Adrian Merrick, Halifax

Cycling is an NDP, left wing plot that is bad for property owners? I read Peter Ewart's bicycle-hate letter and wondered if the guy had been stuck in his car too long getting high from the fumes!

Cities around the world, from Chicago to Copenhagen, are building bike paths and installing bike parking as a cost effective way to make their cities more livable, to combat smog and to

improve quality of life for their citizens.

Compared to other road users, cyclists use relatively little space, conserving valuable urban space for other uses. That's good for the city's budget, and over time will surely save vast sums of health care dollars as well.

Asthma, sprawl, climate change, congestion, oil wars—we are paying a huge price for the privilege of driving. If quality cycling infrastructure was abundant, more people would be attracted to choose sustainable transportation modes for their daily commute.

The HRM should prioritize funds for cycling and walking because it is a good investment—for cleaner air, for a healthier population and for a sustainable future. Is that really so scary?

Tooker Gomberg, Halifax

In the dog house

As a longtime reader of The Coast, I was deeply disappointed to read the Best of Halifax issue last week and discover there are obviously no dog lovers at your newspaper, because anybody who owns a dog in this city and spends any time with them would know Point Pleasant Park is one of only two designated LEGAL OFF-LEASH areas in the whole of the Halifax Regional Municipality. There's no need to repeat lies like "it's against the law to walk your dog without a leash"—the leash rules are noted in detail on my website "Charlie loves Halifax" on my Point Pleasant Park page (<http://www.geocities.com/mikelanc/cat.html>).

I love that you included the Best Place to Walk Your Dog category in your survey, and am really impressed you had the inspiration to include a quickly growing and very lucrative market share of the community, but please make sure that you consult someone who knows the facts!

Joan Sinden, Halifax

Thank god for The Coast! Excellent paper. However, it is always a disappointment to see Point Pleasant Park misrepresented. True enough, it will be a long time before any of us get to use the park again. It is still important to let the public know that it is, and will still be, an off-leash dog park. Of course, within the Park itself there are a few leash-only areas. But if people were kept informed of the rules (and read the signs), chances are there would be less controversy. Simply put: If you are going to put it in ink, get it right. That's your job.

Ann Morrison, Halifax

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