

THE MACKEREL

DALHOUSIE'S SATIRICAL NEWSPAPER

EST. 2021

Bookstore Offers To Buy Back Mint Condition Textbook For Three Stale Cigarettes And A Partially Used Burt's Bees

BY JUSTIN FIELD

HALIFAX, NS— Second-year student Natasha Obermayer is excited for the coming school year, having learned many valuable lessons during her first year at Dalhousie.

“First and foremost, there is no chance I will be buying a textbook this year until I see a professor actually assign work based on its contents—last year I made the mistake of buying what was essentially a \$500 set of coasters,” she explained.

“I would feel bad pawning them off on some naive first year on Facebook Marketplace, so I decided to take the high road and see if the bookstore would buy them back,” she continued.

While the Dalhousie bookstore is no-

torious for low-balling students on returns of their textbooks, Obermayer was shocked when she heard their offer.

“I was pretty pessimistic hearing what students in front of me were getting paid. When I got to the front of the line they first checked all the pages for writing, rips—normal stuff like that. For the first four books, I was offered \$20 each. When it came to my mint condition ‘Introduction to Psychology’ textbook, the cashier put three stale cigarettes and a clearly used Burt’s Bees lip chap on the counter saying, ‘take it or leave it, sweetheart, I ain’t got all day’— I was insulted, to say the least”.

The Bookstore has released a statement

on the issue claiming, “We can’t be expected to gauge students for money solely when they’re buying textbooks. With a monopoly like this, you’d be stupid not to work both ends. It’s an infinite loop really— some individual books have been bought and resold every year since we opened. We have gotten more generous over the years though, you used to only get two stale cigarettes for that psych book— the lip balm we throw in as a bonus if the book looks untouched.”

Despite her seeming disappointment, Obermayer was seen soon after the interaction with reportedly ‘glistening lips’ wrapped around a slightly bent, yellowed cigarette.



IMAGE BY SAM CUTCLIFFE.

Tree Planters Recovery Program Introduced At Dalhousie For Students Who Can’t Stop Talking About Their Summer In The Bush

BY SAM CUTCLIFFE

It’s hard to fault any student for feeling a certain dread as summer comes to a close. However, for one group in particular, this period signifies not only the bleak return to classes but also the horror of having to converse with a loved one freshly returned from a summer of tree planting.

“The first summer Al came back I really loved listening to his stories,” explained fourth-year Sydney Nomad, whose boyfriend Alistair Coleman has recently completed his third summer of planting for Summit Reforestation in British Columbia.

“But soon days became weeks and he was still telling me about how he hit five thousand trees the day after being diagnosed with tendo. I’ll admit, I seriously considered ending things right then and there.”

Dalhousie has introduced a ‘Tree Planters Recovery Program’ to help reintegrate students like Alistsair into clean,

showered, concrete-filled society. Program liaison and ex-planter Quincy Fenske says that patience, and importantly recognition are key for reintegration of the planter into their social circle in the long term.

To facilitate this, the recovery program has introduced the **CAMP** acronym to simplify the process for loved ones of planters who just can’t handle much more:

- **Comment:** To get a head start, the loved one should initiate the conversation and verbally acknowledge the planting reference. Ex: “That sure is a neat stick and poke of a sapling you have on your forearm!”, “I see you are wearing a Stanfield cotton sweater, it looks warm!”
- **Ask Questions:** Indulge the planter with leading questions to allow them to talk about their experience. Ex: “How do you make money at 16 cents a tree? How many people does it take to carry a



DALHOUSIE STUDENTS PILE OUT OF A TRUCK AT THEIR FIRST ‘TREE PLANTERS RECOVERY’ MEETING. PHOTO COURTESY OF GENEVA BAHEN.

full-sized tree?”

- **Move On:** Look for any related concept as a manner to transition away from planting. Ex: “Wow, ten hour days on your own and you wouldn’t even listen to music? I can’t even walk to campus

without a podcast— have you heard the newest Joe Rogan by the way?”

- **Prevent Repeat:** Gently but firmly prevent the planter from returning to planting-related topics.



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