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We're not gonna take it

To the editor,

At the recent meeting of the Downtown Halifax Business Commission I experienced déjà vu; the “wonderful” reminiscences of hijacked public meetings came to mind. Some small business members in the audience felt they might be able to get a break; there might be a release from the pressure of the Business Occupancy Tax. The loss of \$47,000,000 if the BOT was eliminated scares the government and we were informed that we would be charged more in the future. This deliberately poorly advertised meeting was so typical of how this municipality, province and country is run—dispassionately and arrogantly. If the cancerous amoeba called bureaucracy was prevented from spreading, this money would not be needed. There are those who want to continue running the system as if it were a bottomless pit of our hard-earned money. If the deadwood is eliminated—and there is a forest of it—perhaps those left will be frightened into doing what they have been appointed to do: serve us, their employers, wisely, accountably, honestly—OR ELSE. I have dealt with the Downtown Halifax Business Commission for years and have been its sucker long enough. Justice dictates public service means just that, not swilling at the trough and abusing your employers. The parasites should be fired—no golden handshakes. A job done poorly deserves contempt, not reward. Let's clean up this mess. Get rid of the useless. Economize. Spend our hard-earned dollars and give us something back, and stop bleeding us dry.

Bob Switzer, Taz Records, Halifax

Wingin' it

To the editor,

I recently read your paper in the Scotia Square food court while eating my lunch, like I often do. I laughed while reading a submission about noise created by the harbour cleanup project (“Hammer time,” July 15). The person complained construction

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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started at 7am and woke him/her from sleep. I found it humorous that another bleeding-heart left-wing opinion was printed in your paper; I have yet to read a conservative opinion in the five years I have read The Coast. I am of the right-wing minority of this city, because I don't think construction should continue haphazardly for the next eight months. If construction start time was delayed until 9am, so that the bedridden writer could get their beauty rest, there would be another complaint that work starts late and wastes tax dollars. The humour in both situations is that these people probably don't pay municipal tax in the first place, which pays for the project. The harbour cleanup means that all of us are going to have to put up with inconvenience for the good of the city for the next few years. In the end we'll end up with a cleaner harbour and a better environment to live in. I work for the largest single employer in this city, and am constantly inconvenienced by the project. I do recognize the value of a healthy harbour and waterway, as that is my source of income. My recommendation to the nighthawks complaining about the project is to suck it up and stop complaining about the solutions that the party you voted for (the NDP) fought for so long to achieve, and accept this as the means to an end of pollution in our city.

Scott Nelson, Halifax

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