

## Greece wants the Olympics

To the editors,

It's really amazing how many things one can learn from *The Gazette*. It was in the Jan 17 issue of the paper that I had the opportunity to 'learn' something about my own country, that is Greece, through a rather uninformed article titled "Politics and the Olympic Games" — Page 10. Miss Gee in half a page tried to make us understand (?) a rather well-known fact: 'Politics have a big impact on the Olympic movement.' And then comes a most fascinating part — at least for me, the members of the student society I represent and people who are aware of the actual economic condition in Greece: Among the possible solutions internationally proposed for the survival of the Olympic games, the article refers to a suggestion — which has actually been a Greek suggestion that later became widely welcome by a large number of countries — that is, the return of the games to their original site in Greece. 'However', Miss Gee suggests, 'Greece is not at all enthused about this idea, considering the staggering financial costs involved.'

So, Miss Gee, my country is 'not all enthused' about something that has been her own suggestion? and Greece cannot host the Olympics because she is not economically strong enough? Gee!

Both I and the Hellenic Students Society would be very pleased to see more responsible and informed articles in *The Gazette* in the future.

Jorgo Theodore Berdos  
Chairman,  
The Hellenic Student Society

## Decline in relative wages regrettable

To the editors,

Regarding Marcus Snowden's letter "Rick Janson has really outdone himself..." in the Jan. 29 special edition *Gazette*.

Mr. Snowden is entitled to his rather naive belief that university professors have no moral right to protect their real wages, but his misinterpretation of one point in Janson's article clouds the issue. In response to Janson's statement that faculty "wages are becoming less and less competitive with the private sector," Snowden deems that point inappropriate and informs the 'ignorant' Janson that "professors have never earned good money compared to other professionals." But it is obvious that Janson is not arguing that professors should earn or ever have earned as much as other professionals; by saying "less and less" competitive he is implying a change in relative wages in favour of private industry.

Since the rise of powerful unions in Canada after World War II, labour leaders have been striving to protect two things for workers — real wages and relative wages. Why shouldn't the DFA wish to do the same? The wage settlement accepted by the DFA

effectively decreases the wages of Dalhousie faculty relative not only to much of private industry, but also to, for example, Acadia University professors, who received a larger salary increase in their last contract.

This decline in relative wages is regrettable, if only for the oft-cited reason that fewer good professors will be attracted to Dalhousie. Dalhousie faculty real wages also have fallen, and this affects professor's families. As long as higher education funding continues to decrease in real terms, it is likely that University management would allow professor's real wages to erode even farther unless the DFA fought against it. Are professors who try to maintain their standard of living as mercenary as Mr. Snowden implies? How can he say that the "labour-management rhetoric does not suit any university setting"?

Mike Driscoll

## Fleet is taking on a lot of water

To the editors,;

I read with great interest the letter of Board of Governors chair Dr. Gordon Archibald on Dalhousie's building boom of the last two decades.

The letter contained many truths—that the Board Buildings and Grounds Committee, of which I am now a member, took great care in its decisions to build; that the construction was necessary to accommodate greater numbers of students and faculty (excepting the rink and the President's House); and that perhaps the buildings could have been designed more economically.

The failure, after all, is partly to be found in the funding process. For one reason or another, past private fundraising drives did not prevent the accumulation of "unfunded capital debt."

Finally, Dr. Archibald is also correct in reaffirming that Dalhousie is still the flagship, leading the way into the future.

Unfortunately, the entire fleet, with Dalhousie in the lead, is taking on water, and the future looks none too dry.

Yours sincerely,  
Geoff Martin  
Student representative  
Board of Governors

## A few cutting swipes with the pen

To the editors,

Re: *The Gazette's* damnation of Euphoria, the medical students' variety show.

Is that what you call a "review"? In just a few cutting swipes of the pen, you took a four-hour show filled with fine talent and summarized it using a few scattered quotes which you found unsavory. Overall, the myriad of entertainment provided that evening was more wholesome than most four-hour segments you could randomly select on television (especially now that *The Friendly Giant* has been sacked).

Space doesn't permit me to elaborate on all the things you overlooked; hopefully my peers will enlighten your readers in that regard.

I've been at Dal for seven years. How nice it was to see you steadily improving *The Gazette* from the rag it used to be in 1978! Why go backwards when you were doing so well? As far as I can tell, the only purpose of your "review" was to provide some juicy stimulus for your readers to get fired up about. This is the sort of tactic used by the commercial newspapers because they need a paid circulation to survive. I don't understand why you folks at *The Gazette* have to resort to this, since all you have to do for funds is to soak our Student Union every year.

Your reviewer, Colleen Mackey, also claimed to quote some medical students as being disillusioned with the show. Perhaps these quotations are true and accurate, but given her juvenile misportrayal of our show, I have to hesitate before believing any statements she attributes to anonymous sources.

Come on, *Gazette*; be fair to your kind readers. Next time you do a review, cover the whole show will you?

Sincerely,  
Greg Tynski  
Med II

P.S.: Thanks for printing my picture with your article. My mother really liked it a lot!

## Forced me to take up the gauntlet

To the editors,

You have done it. You have forced me to take up the gauntlet and enter the ongoing melee between the *Dalhousie Gazette* and the Dalhousie medical students. Your review of our annual variety show, Euphoria, was most unfair and indeed misleading. Not only did you miss the point of a number of the acts, but you omitted to recognize the very considerable individual talents of many of the performers. Furthermore, absolutely no mention was made of the fact that profits from the show were to be donated to a charity — the Mary Konkory Trust Fund.

Your interpretation of the Med II skit, "Comelot," was most unfortunate. It was not the story of the subjugation of women by men, of the glorification of rape, of the denigration of the homosexual community. In fact, it was the absolute opposite. If you had opened your eyes and ears, what you would have witnessed was a play that affirmed women's rights to have both a career and a family, and that affirmed man's (or should I say "person's") right to their sexual preference. Career women were not portrayed as "strumpets", but as highly motivated professionals efficient enough to organize their time so as to allow for relaxation.

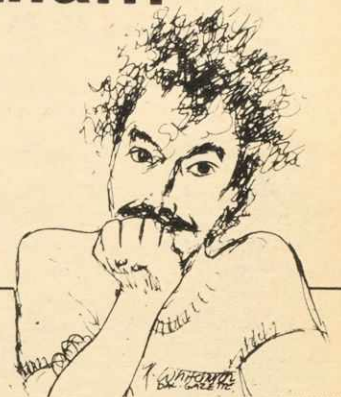
The scene which you so zealously and enthusiastically refer to

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## Just say it ain't so Allan!

GOLLY GEE ALLAN FOTHERINGHAM, what is happening with the chin? After all your slobbering and slurping over how great this guy was supposed to be, he turned out to be a bit of a rotter, didn't he?

RICK JANSON



For two years now you've been regularly goobering on in your *Maclean's* column about how this Brian Mulroney guy would be a great Tory leader and prime minister.

The Canadian public bought it, and now that schmuck is fouling-up what there is left to foul-up in the political life of this country. I therefore reserve much of that blame for you and many of your colleagues, Allan.

As the Tories renege on one election promise after another — some call it betrayal — you continue to blame it on anybody but the chin. Typically, in one of your most recent columns you blame the government interference and cuts at the CBC on "some elements of the Mulroney government" rather than on the man leading that government. Are we to believe the chin is not attending policy sessions?

It's like the relationship between Reagan and the press in the States. No matter what dumb policies are advocated, the press plays up the charms of the leader and blames the underlings and party members for the foul-ups and the bad policy making. The press has created this kind of ephemeral government by Gipper.

For Christ's sake Foth, you still won't even blame Mulroney for his own defeat in the Tory leadership convention in '76. You say he lost his bid "in large part because his handlers convinced him to deliver a flat wooden speech so as to counteract his slick image." Isn't he at least to blame for listening to them?

Undoubtedly you were at your gooeyst just after the '83 convention. Such stories as the one about Mulroney standing on the piano and singing *Dearie to Chicago Tribune* owner Robert McCormick was really a bit much. But then again hasn't this endless campaign of anecdotes all served to remind us that this corporate lawyer — long ago from Baie Comeau — is really human?

You even went as far as suggesting in one column that he qualified as humble because he had consumed a good deal of Air Canada food in his time. My heart really bled over that one, Allan.

Or what about the ketchup bottle story? About how a tiny Tory him because she had seen him use a knife to extract ketchup from an unco-operative bottle of Heniz.

convention delegate supported "Anybody who would stick a knife in a ketchup bottle can't be all bad," you reported her as saying. You explained that this was his person-to-person counts more than policy style.

Well the ketchup-bottle man is in power now and he's sticking the knife in a lot of us this time.

—People like your colleagues at the CBC. In our region 64 people lost their jobs at the CBC. Countless others who rely on their freelance work with the national broadcasting corporation are scrambling around for work now. Are you going to offer us all your back page of *Macleans* as reparation, Allan?

Or what about the loss of our heritage after the Citadel restoration project was axed? Or the Gottigen St. federal building that was supposed to revitalize a section of our city? Or what about the winter ferry service from Maine to Yarmouth? Undoubtedly a good number of Nova Scotia truckers would like to meet your pal in a dark alley for that one.

You see, it is us people in the marginal regions of this country that are bearing much of the brunt of these cuts handed down by your Mr. Perfect and his cronies. And we're hurting, hurting bad.

Our local Tory MP recently attended an assembly of about 1000 regional artists who were fighting back the cuts in their own way. The chin wasn't there. Neither was the minister responsible for most of the federal cultural institutions affected by the cuts.

This pathetic local MP got up and told us how they tried to make the cuts as evenly as possible and as quickly as possible. A thousand people watched this guy tell them that, Allan, a thousand people watched this guy tell them he was proud to be a Tory and didn't apologize for what his government had done to their lives. Some people yelled out "liar" as he stood centre stage justifying the cuts. Others in the audience just shook their heads in disbelief.

After taking it on the chin, some of us are going to take it to the chin. No matter what cute anecdotes you tell, we're going to continue to fight his government and his cuts. I hope I have cleared some of your fuzzification, Allan.