

opinions

Forum fair

To the editor:

I write in response to the letter by Meg McKay and Dominic Cardy which appeared in the October 21 edition of the *Gazette*.

The letter of which I speak attacks the Political Science Society and other organizations for their disregard of the

democratic principles of representation. I cannot speak on behalf of the other organizations, but I have a sneaking suspicion that they, along with the Political Science Society, are not out to subvert democracy. The society did its best to contact the four main contenders in advance. It is no fault of ours that the NDP candidate didn't get the time straight, and that the Reform Party led us on a wild goose chase to find their candidate. As for not representing the other six candidates, it was a simple matter of time

and space. Within our 50-minute time limit graciously given to us by professor David Cameron, it was just not possible to effectively represent the views of ten candidates. If we had had the time and resources, all ten candidates would have been considered.

In conclusion I would like to reassure the student body that the Political Science Society is fully committed to democratic principles. I would also like to advise Mr. Cardy and Ms. McKay that the next time they plan an unruly attack on a society that is simply trying to educate students, they should get their facts straight.

P.S. Thanks for your interest.

Patrick Keith

V.P. Political Science Society

Final volley

To the editor:

Whilst reading the most recent edition of the *Gazette* (28 October 1993) I found that if you open the paper to page 6, and remove the middle section you are faced with two submissions by Angel Figueroa. One is on the left and one is on the right. On the left, page 6, he talks of how "militarism has dangerously consumed our free society" and how we teach our youth to glorify machines which kill." Concomitantly on the right, page 15, Figueroa writes in militaristic language. On the right he talks of "glorious victories" on the "battlefield", "opposing territories", "blistering shots", "execution" and "honour". The reader has a choice between two Figueras. I think that I prefer the one on the right!

P.E. James

Editor's note: *This is the end of the back-and-forth exchange between these two contributors on the letters page. The Gazette staff would like to request that both writers find another subject.*

Hallowe'en humbug

I do not like Hallowe'en.

It's like Christmas. One of those horribly commercial holidays that used to be halfway decent. Somebody ruined the ambience with the notion that somewhere, somehow, there must be money made off of the festivities.

Ah, but Christmas at least has the religious angle to be dealt with. With the possible exception of the pagan community, Hallowe'en's observers thoroughly neglect that aspect of it now. No baby Jesus here, not even a baby Frankenstein.

Just costumes and candy. Costumes and candy.

And it's not even GOOD candy.

Of course, perhaps it's vengeance. Seventeen years old and still trick-or-treating? The karma incurred from THAT would bring little more than those darn neopolitan wafers that go stale in an hour. Oh well. That's what I get for going as Eponine from *Les Miserables*.

I wanted a good costume. Really, I did, but who had the money? And

what was the point? It's not like the costumes are designed to actually scare anyone anymore. No. Wait. I take that back. I saw a Barney costume at Woolco. That would certainly frighten the dead back into their graves.

This year, I've pretty much got a choice: observe the real pagan holiday, or join some buds and go trick-or-treating. Something tells me that if I tried to do both, the Goddess might look askance upon me. There's a Samhain ritual for you: a short plumpish girl in a Weird Al Yankovic costume invoking the Goddess. "I call upon and invoke thee, O Judy Tenuta...hey! Wait a minute! Why should I have to invoke a deity! This is MY ritual, and I want to watch people's heads being shaved!!" Nnnnnno.

Of course, the Goddess must have a sense of humor. Look at what She lets us get away with — little kids in Barney costumes. Again, there's a scary thought. The merchandising of a serious holy day.

Leigha White

Beware harassing profs

A recent article in the *St. Mary's Journal* outlined the stories of three woman students who have been sexually harassed by a professor. Reportedly, he sexually assaulted one of them while she was too drunk to defend herself, and, as far as we know, no one has even asked him about it. This demonstrates the inability/disinterest members of the administration have in ensuring a safe place for people to be.

While the same magnitude of harassment has not become public at Dalhousie, we cannot assume that we don't share the problem. Even in its 'friendliest' form, harassment makes for a needlessly uncomfortable environment. A professor's sexual overtures may have a tendency to turn violent.

Women who are insecure about their academic ability may be most susceptible to this type of unwanted attention, but having scholastic confidence does not mean that you will never experience the embarrassment or unease of unprofessional practices. Women of Colour, disabled students, mature students, undergraduates — if you have not experienced some degree of sexual harassment yet, you are very lucky, very thick-skinned, or just very good at letting people know from the start how little you are willing to tolerate. For everyone else, I have taken some points from the book *The Lecherous Professor* by Billie Wright Dziech and Linda Weiner and listed them below to help you identify some of the different types of harassers there are, as well as some of the different strategies they use. One of the most common tactics is encouraging the student to divulge personal information about herself: he (professors who harass are overwhelmingly male) feigns an interest in how she is doing and tries to pinpoint her vulnerabilities.

This is not to suggest that every professor who takes more than a passing interest in his students is someone

about whom we should be concerned. But if a prof spends more time looking at your breasts than at the assignment he is supposed to be explaining, you know he was a problem long before reading it here.

Public Harasser: seems easy-going, witty and approachable. The inappropriate comments he makes during lectures about people's anatomy or sexual behaviour are not necessarily meant to get a reaction from women — he probably doesn't consider women important enough to spend any energy on. These comments are meant to get the attention of the men in his class, as he is still trying to prove that he is 'one of the boys'.

We cannot assume that we don't share the problem.

Private Harasser: tends to have a very distant and authoritative teaching style. Women are likely caught off guard when, upon making arrangements to see them alone, he 'requests' sexual favours.

Counsellor/Helper: encourages women students to confide in him about their personal lives, which can be very comforting for someone who is lonely or feels unnoticed on campus. By discerning her vulnerabilities and attitudes towards men and sex, he can adopt the persona most likely to appeal to her.

Confidante: approaches the student as an equal and friend. He tells her real or invented stories about himself. The woman who thought she was going to get help on a paper finds herself giving help to a professor who is having trou-

bles with his wife, for example. The student is probably ill-prepared for this change in roles, and she will find it difficult to get the relationship back to a healthy student/teacher one. He may also try to create in her a feeling of indebtedness (lending money, books, offering rides).

Intellectual Seducer: may use class assignments to get information about the student (asking the class to keep journals on sexual fantasies, for example). Self-disclosure is invited, especially in disciplines where personal values can easily be related to the class content.

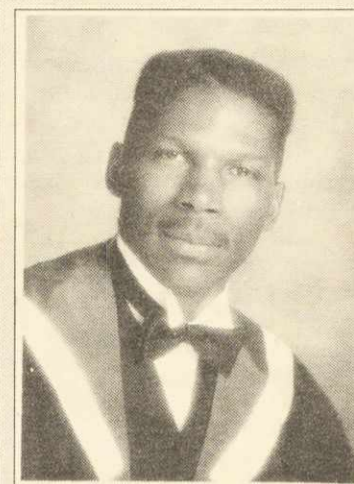
Opportunist: uses the physical setting to obscure his behaviour and gain intimacy with students. He will find an inappropriate way to touch people: pretending to be explaining the movements of one woman's stomach muscles, for example, and continuously touching her breasts. Class trips or conventions may be encouraged, as they will provide opportunities to more easily access her. These trips are often described as mandatory, so she feels pressed to attend.

Power Broker: Uses his control over grades, recommendations, etc., to intimidate students. While direct promises or threats are sometimes used, implied punishment or reward is no less reprehensible. Unless the harasser has been very overt about his intentions, the student is unlikely to file a complaint against him — so much is at stake.

Sound familiar? You're not alone and you don't have to put up with it until graduation. This group will help, whether you want more information on the harassment policy at Dalhousie, or if you just want someone else's perspective on a problem you are having. Contact persons: Jennifer (429-2103) or Elizabeth (429-5933). Confidentiality assured.

Jennifer Fenton

GAZETTE ADVERTISING
494-6532



Class of '94
Official*
Graduation
Portraits

by award winning
Nova Scotia Master of
Photographic Arts
H. Bruce Berry.

Berryhill
Home of Fine Photography

DSU's Official Portrait Studio*
On campus Nov. 15 - 19, room 218, SUB
\$15.00 sitting fee includes taxes
Book at SUB Enquiry Desk near display

*Choice of DSU based on quality,
service, price, and dependability.

NEW sales office - Park Lane Mall (4th Floor)

All faculties welcome!

All hoods provided.

Official Graduation Portrait Studio
for DAL, TUNS, MSVU, SMU

for more information:
1-800-AND-GRAD

BURGESS TRAVEL AIRFARES FALL SAVINGS

TORONTO	from 199	LONDON	from 498
VANCOUVER	from 578	MADRID	from 699
MONTREAL	from 249	AMSTERDAM	from 498
CALGARY	from 568	ITALY	from 739
BERMUDA	from 321	TEL AVIV	from 1049
OTTAWA	from 249	AFRICA	from 1559

The above fares are subject to availability and advance purchase rules. Fares are subject to change without notice.

FEBRUARY BREAK DIRECT

CUBA	Feb 19-26 Punta Arenas	from 1098 ppdbl
	Includes 2 meals daily	
JAMAICA	Feb 19-26 Seawind Hotel	from 899 ppdbl
ORLANDO	Feb 20-27 International Inn air & hotel & car	from 579 ppdbl
BERMUDA	Feb 19-27 Barnsdale Guest apts	from 671 ppdbl

Halifax 425-6110
1505 Barrington St. Maritime Centre

New Toll Free In N.S. 1-800-421-1345

Liverpool 354-5400 Bridgetown 665-4812

OPEN SATURDAY 9-5