

# EDITORIAL

## Teach your children well

After working on the Elementary News this week we discussed the Dalhousie University School and how non restrictive their system is. The school doesn't have grades, the children are divided into three groups. It struck me that not only were children labelled with grade numbers in my school, they were also divided into dumb and smart classes. At one point there was a special class for all of the problem learners in the school, regardless of age.

While this special class may sound similar to the DUS, it's exactly the opposite. Instead of being freed from labels, those children were lumped together, isolated from the rest of the school, and told by everyone that they were inferior.

I know that the rationale for this type of move is so that all of the children can receive the type of individual care they need. I also know that this often doesn't happen. Children who are labelled slow learners lose their self esteem and they rebel against the teachers who denigrate them. Calling a child a problem is often enough to make that child a problem.

I know. I have a learning disability called a gross motor problem. I was lucky enough to be diagnosed at an early age, so when the teachers tried to put me into special education my parents had enough information on their side to keep me in the mainstream education system. From time to time though, I would come across a teacher who thought I was just a slow learner who shouldn't be in the smart class. Then I became a problem.

But I'm not basing my entire opinion on my own experiences. Some kids I grew up with were taught that they were brilliant because they were good at studying, or because their parents forced them to.

Other kids came to regard themselves as stupid because they had no discipline, or because they couldn't learn as quickly as others.

One very dear friend of mine has grown up thinking that his intellectual capacity is sufficient only for day to day living. In spite of his quick wit and his creativity my friend has no faith in his ability to learn.

In fact I've watched many people learn and solve problems over the years. I find that the only real tools they seem to need are an open mind and a bit of confidence. So if I ever find myself teaching anything to children I think the first thing I'll try to teach them is that they have no limitations. Hopefully everything else will flow from there.

Jerry West

# THE GAZETTE

THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 1992 • VOL. 124, NO. 23

## CONTRIBUTORS

MICHAEL MACDONALD  
ROBERT CURRIE  
PATTY GINN  
MIKE GRAHAM  
RON THE PIZZA GUY  
JOANNE FRY  
JOANNE'S MUM  
MARIA PATRIQUIN  
BRUCE GILCHRIST  
ED DOWELL  
KEN HWANG  
JANICE CLARKE  
SCOTT MCCROSSIN  
MARIE MACPHERSON  
SHANNON GOWANS  
JERRY WEST  
MICHAEL GUSHUE  
STEVE WADDEN

## CUP

### EDITORS

MARY JANE HAMILTON  
MARY LITTLEJOHN

### WOMEN'S

LIAISON  
MIRIAM KORN

ARTS EDITOR  
JENN BECK

### SPORTS

EDITORS  
SUZY KOVINSKY  
STEVE MILLS

### CALENDAR

EDITORS  
NATASHA RYAN  
MIRIAM KORN

## EDITORS

JENN BECK  
MIRIAM KORN

## BUSINESS ADVERTISING MANAGER

ALEX DOW  
494-6532

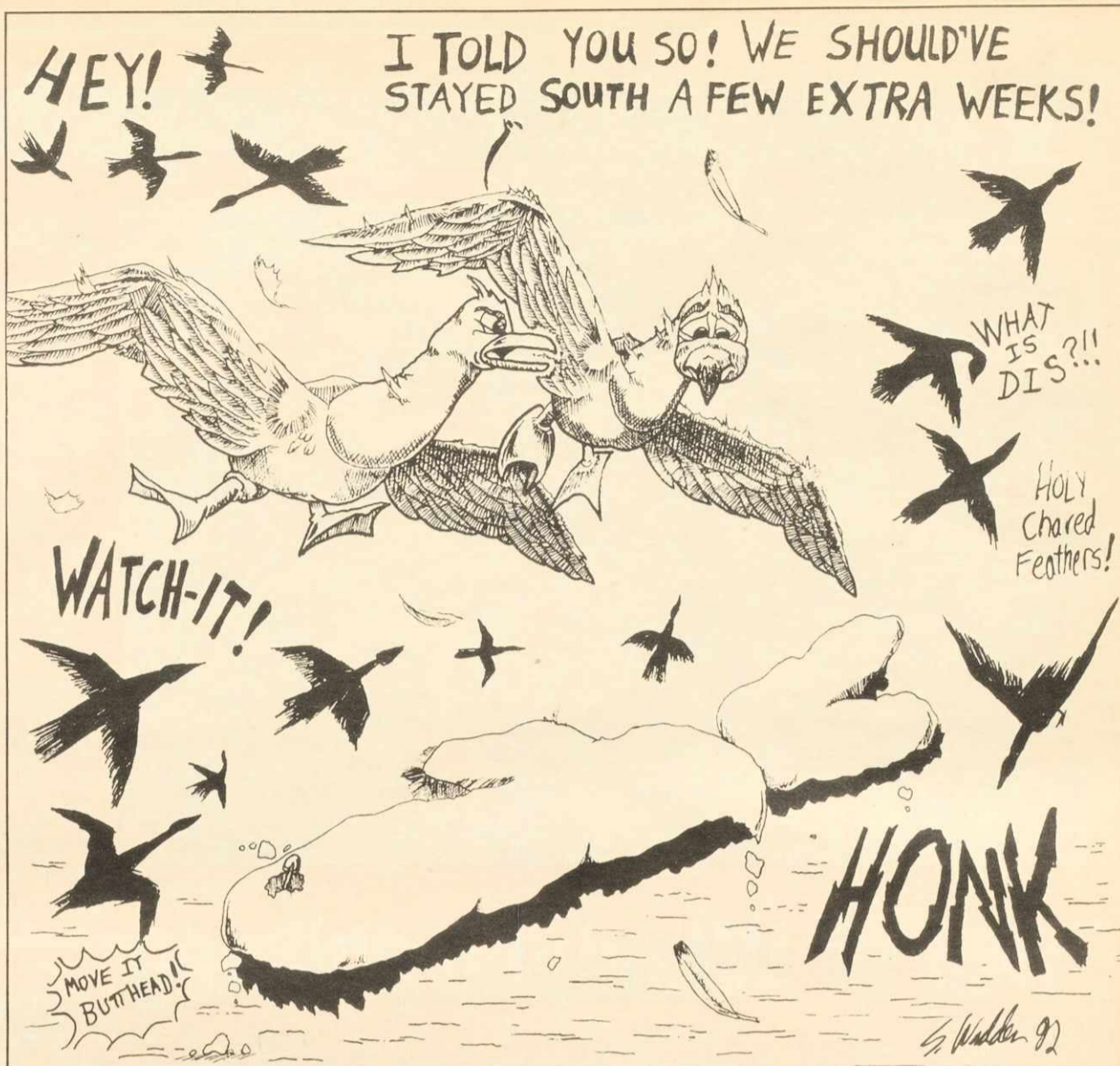
## TYPESETTER

ROBERT CARLSON

THIRD FLOOR  
STUDENT UNION BUILDING  
DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY  
6136 UNIVERSITY AVE  
HALIFAX, N.S.  
B3H 4J2

(902) 494-2507

THE GAZETTE IS PRINTED ON 100% RECYCLED PAPER



## LETTERS

The Dalhousie Gazette welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should not exceed 300 words in length and should be typed and double-spaced. The deadline for letters is Friday noon before publication. Letters may be submitted on Mac or IBM-compatible 3.5" disk.

### Too many Gazettes

To the editors:

The environment supplement (Mar. 12) made me realize the hypocrisy of the Gazette. Recycling, recycling, recycling... that is all I hear about. Why does everyone forget that reusing is better? Share your Gazette. And best is reducing. How about the Gazette's circulation of 10 000, when only about 1 000 are picked up. "Printed on 100% recycled paper." Well, recycling takes energy. The excess copies of the Gazette, let's approximate 9 000, are not waste free.

Is the reason for this a bizarre CUP rule? Because it is cheaper to print more? To entice/deceive advertisers? Is the Gazette printed in the spirit of commercialism?

The excess printing has no defence so why bother trying to defend it.

Disappointedly,

Irfan A. Mian

**Editor's Note:** According to our delivery person an average of only five per cent of the Gazette's 10 000 circulation is not picked up. The very last issue of the Gazette was almost

completely gone from the SUB on Friday at 5 p.m., despite the numerous other publications which distribute in the SUB (many times right on top of the Gazette stacks).

### Panning Pandora

To the editors:

I am writing to respond to Ms. Gowans editorial (Mar. 19) entitled "Giving up the power of privilege." While I agree that it is important to give underprivileged or oppressed groups a forum to voice their concerns, I do not think that it is a good idea to deny access to that forum by members of a privileged group. If we are to truly stamp out discrimination and oppression it has to be done with cooperation between all groups. Excluding men from publication in Pandora will only serve to alienate a large group of men who are concerned about or want to help the status of women in society, and it will do nothing to help against negative attitudes towards women that currently exist. It may even encourage it, who knows?

If this is to be a truly equal and democratic society, we have to express our ideas to

and with other groups, and allow them to read and respond to the argument given, i.e. the free expression and trade of ideas. I could understand not publishing a letter in Pandora if it was sexist or demeaning towards women, but preventing an opinion different or not, from being published just because it is from a man seems to be nothing short of discrimination, or if it is not, then it could be seen by some as such. I think that because of this decision, Pandora will become merely a publication that preaches to the converted, doing nothing to help the status of women. I also believe that a dangerous precedent has been set which may lead to a limit on the positive and beneficial expression of ideas.

Ian Wissler

### Reactionary hormones

To the editors:

P.E. James' response (Mar. 19) to my response to a response to my article (Jan. 30) on Cuba's current crisis is another brilliant display of reactionary masturbation. Although I'm flattered to have been so stimulating, his political naiveté bores me.

His entire snivel was based on "having to choose between Castro's 'benevolent dictatorship or elite-ruled Canada.'" (James inferred the latter quotation was mine).

I'm not aware if he is always this unethical, or if he is an aspiring mainstream journalist. I resent being manipulatively misquoted to satisfy his fantastical courtship of Gazette readers.

Nevertheless, put to such an ultimatum, I would also choose Canada. Amongst my reservations would be sharing a country with such a narrow-minded, moral-invalid.

I have a certain measure of respect for conservatives who oppose Cuba's political economy yet recognize its achievements. Ray Cline, C.I.A. Deputy Director during the failed Bay of Pigs Invasion, Wayne Smith, former head of the U.S. Interest Section (Embassy) in Cuba, and Robert McNamara former Secretary of Defence and World Bank President — these right wingers still yearn for a capitalist Cuba but today recognize Cuba's successes and oppose intervention.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

The Dalhousie Gazette is Canada's oldest college newspaper. Published weekly through the Dalhousie Student Union, which also comprises its membership, The Gazette has a circulation of 10,000. As a founding member of Canadian University Press, The Gazette adheres to the CUP Statement of Principles and reserves the right to refuse any material submitted of a racist, sexist, homophobic or libelous nature. Deadline for commentary, letters to the editor, and

announcements is noon on Friday before publication (Thursday of each week). Submissions may be left at the SUB Enquiry Desk c/o The Gazette. Commentary should not exceed 500 words. Letters should not exceed 300 words. No unsigned material will be accepted, but anonymity may be granted upon request. Advertising copy deadline is noon Monday

before publication. The Gazette offices are located on the third floor of the SUB. Come up and have a coffee and tell us what's going on. The views expressed in The Gazette are not necessarily those of the Students' Union, the editors or the collective staff.