

Letters *Cont'd from page 5*

Poor taste

To the **Gazette**:

I wish to object to the poor taste shown by the unnamed Gazette staffer who penned the parodical piece of black humour masquerading as the editorial in your 16 October 1975 issue. Let us not dwell on the selfcontradictory nature of the alleged argument (e.g. paragraph 4, sentence 2 vs. para-

graph 5, sentence 4), but rather let us examine the gist of the tirade: namely that workers are now the "fat cat" class, while the erstwhile, educated "elite" are now the most disadvantaged class. Most bricklayers, mechanics, and forest workers make a more significant contribution to our society than do a distressingly large number of liberal arts or business graduates. Of course I am somewhat distressed by the fact that after twenty years of education I may receive

less than half of the remuneration that a longshoreman earns. On the other hand, reversing the situation (to what is has been in the past) would be an even greater injustice. For every union member making \$25,000 a year (which might be almost enough to pay for a house, God forbid) you will find three business management types (as often as not from supranational corporations) exploiting the environment (if not the labour force) to turn out plastic whatzits, and you will find five unless (some might say counterproductive) governmental paper-shufflers keeping track of it all.

You might have instead pointed out specific examples of labour unions demanding outrageously high wage settlements; examples certainly exist. Or you might have inquired whether one Plastic Whatzit Corporation vice-president is worth two Deputy Administrative Assistants to the Deputy Minister of Papershuffling, or worth three construction workers in Labrador, or worth six Dalhousie library workers, or worth ten Nova Scotia fisherman. Or how many letter carriers were buying homes in Halifax's South End. You might have even examined the state of workers in countries where unions are illegal or tightly controlled by the government. Instead we get a tale of self-pity bemoaning the fact that three years in the Grawood Lounge no longer guarantees that your neighbors won't be bus drivers or postmen. May I suggest that your nameless editorialist cry in his/her subsidized beer somewhere else?

Mark Ragan
PhD Candidate, Department
of Biology, Dalhousie.

Editor obsessed ?

To the Gazette,

Your reply to Mr. Flint's letter in the Oct. 9 issue of the Gazette displays a discouraging lack of journalistic professionalism and an inability to discern the appropriate issues. While his use of "Dear Sir" may in fact be inappropriate, devoting most of your reply to the "sexist" implications of his salutation and weakly replying to his criticism is not what I would call good "newspersonship". Using a reply to a legitimate question regarding your advertising policy is not the appropriate place to expound your views on sexism.

Mr. Flint was pointing out the obvious hypocrisy in your advertising policy and your editorial position regarding so called "research papers". Your reply is that anything that is not sexist or discriminatory is an acceptable advertisement. This is irresponsible. You make a value judgement that sexism and discrimination are unacceptable, and yet cheating is alright. Obviously there are advertisements which are neither, and yet should not be published.

Your obsession with "sexism" has warped your objectivity in evaluating criticism.

Sincerely,

Stephen McCarthy

John Hanrahan

Editor responds

Dear Messrs. McCarthy and Hanrahan,

The Dalhousie Gazette is only one organization within the Student Union which solicits advertising. There is a Student Union advertising policy to which we, like other student Union organizations, are subject and perhaps you would be interested in reading it. If so a copy can be obtained from the Communications Secretary.

Advertising is a necessary function of this newspaper, and without it we could not publish any information on plagiarism, housing, Student Aid or any of the numerous issues which affect students. Unfortunately not all advertisers pay their bills and those who do can be assured we will publish their ads provided they do not violate the Student Union advertising policy. This includes advertisers like the people who sell research papers.

In actual fact the research papers are not "illegal" and should a student wish to buy one or more for research purposes he/she can certainly do so. The only stipulation for a student using such a paper for research would be that the student include the paper as a source in his/her bibliography. Plagiarism would not be involved if one did this.

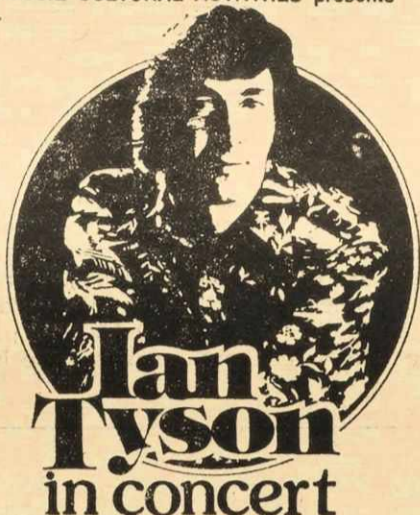
"Illegality" means against the law. There is no law in Nova Scotia or Canada forbidding a student from purchasing papers through a research agency. Using one of these papers as an original work (i.e. passing it in as a term paper) does qualify as plagiarism according to university regulations but there is no law against it.

As for your charges that I am "obsessed" with sexism - they are rather silly. No one can ever be totally objective in dealing with criticism and I do not and never have pretended to be. However, to the best of my ability I do try to learn from constructive criticism and value it as a learning tool. My intense dislike of being referred to as "sir" or "gentlemen" from those who should know better does not interfere with my ability to learn from constructive criticism. I pointed out to Mr. Flint that he was not the only offender in referring to the Gazette editor as "sir" and I think I made it clear that his letter was merely the final straw.

His criticism of Gazette's advertising policy was valid to the extent that there did appear to be something of a contradiction between our news department and our ad department. However the very fact that we saw the need for a story on the repercussions of plagiarism should make it clear to the student body that we do not promote the use of papers by students when those papers are not the product of their own work. We do not promote it but we are not above paying for

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