

LETTERS

Turf's up

To the Editor,

As a participant in intramural soccer, I feel it incumbent upon me to make a plea to Campus Recreation, Dalhousie's botanists or anyone else, to invest in or develop a new, hardier strain of grass for use on Studley Field.

I realize that steps are taken each year to keep the "turf" in shape and that three varsity teams and three intramural sports use and abuse the field but the situation has progressed from bad to worse with no indication of improvement.

Any football or soccer players will agree that it becomes a bit tedious when one has to halt late-season games every so often to find one's quarterback or centre-forward in the mud bowl at the field's north end.

Exaggeration? Maybe, just a little but it still gets pretty desperate in November.

Any measures taken will, I am sure, be appreciated by players, spectators, officials and others. Let's make Studley a "kick in the grass" again.

Sincerely,
Hans Budgey
DABS Soccer

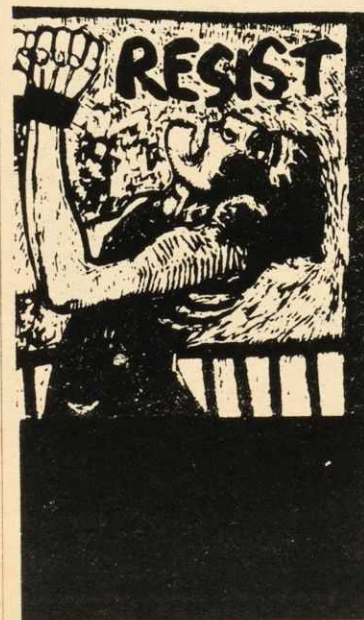
Wasted the point

To the Editor,

This letter is in response to the article "Government Waste a Boost for Council of Canadians" in the Nov. 20 edition of the Dal News. I do not feel that the emphasis placed on government waste in the article reflects the concerns of the COC. The article title and opening paragraphs may suggest a partisanship against the present government. This is not the case.

It is true that we are disturbed by some of the present federal government's actions. The free trade initiative may be putting our sovereignty in jeopardy. We are also opposed to measures that inhibit the growth and promotion of Canadian culture and talent. However, our opposition is not manifested by destructive criticism of the government.

It is our goal to preserve and



reinforce Canadian sovereignty. This sovereignty does not imply isolation. It includes an understanding of Canada's unique historical development, the ability for Canadians to preserve and development their own way of life and the maximization of their freedom to develop their own policies.

The COC attempts to reach this goal through the development of alternative strategies, the encouragement of debate on issues related to Canadian interests, and the promotion of that which makes Canada unique and worth maintaining. It is our belief that without this effort, Canadians may lose all that we take for granted.

Sincerely,
Andrea Fanjoy
President
Dalhousie Chapter
Council of Canadians

Gazette sexist

To the Editor:

I'm shocked and appalled. (I've always wanted to say that in a letter to the editor, but as a student journalist for four years, I've had more opportunity to get letters than to send them.)

Actually, those two words can't do justice to the dismay I felt when reading the Gazette in the cafeteria line-up waiting for my usual soup and sandwich fare before my class. In the special edition of the paper, special because of the wonderful section on Women and Health, I found two examples of what I consider sexist and degrading language and imagery.

The lesser of the two can be found in last week's editorial, "Pneumatic policies for Michelin." While I have some problems with the writer's analysis of the scattered and incomplete version of the "history" of labour's problems in unionizing the Michelin plant, I object mostly to his use of so-called "generic" language. Savage uses a good analogy to express his concern over Michelin's threat to close down in Nova Scotia if the Canadian Auto Worker's bid to unionize the company's plants is successful: it's like the kid who owns the basketball threatening to take it away if he or she doesn't get what he or she wants. Unfortunately, Savage uses the "generic" he to describe the threat, as if only young boys played basketball.

Now, as a young woman with a crooked finger that was broken seven years ago in a basketball game, I resent the writer's implication that it's only boys that play that exciting sport. And as a student who has to combat sexist and "generic" language every day in classes, in textbooks and in the commercial media, I was dismayed to also realize I had to combat it in the student press.

Oh well, I thought, why should the student press be any different? And the I turned to the article in the food review section — whatever that is — called "In Search of the \$3 Steak."

This author tells me that the Split Crow may want \$4.25 for its six-ounce steak, but he likes the pub because "The music here is the best and the women are the prettiest and most friendly (he's) ever met in any of the steak places."

While I'm certain the author didn't mean to imply that with \$4.25 any man could order a steak and a pretty woman, unfortunately, that's exactly the image his writing and use of language infer. It's as if the Split Crow management provides pretty women as part of the establishment's decor, or perhaps as a side order, ranked right up there with french fries or baked potatoes. And it is as if the pretty women the author notices in the pub are there for his enjoyment, and not for their own.

No one will deny that we live in a sexist society. And few will deny that language and the images embedded in language and visual media are used to maintain the inequality between the sexes. But as a student paper, and one that strives (or so I thought) to offer an "alternative" to the regular commercial media, the Gazette should be trying to challenge sexism on every level. The Women and Health supplement was an excellent example of the Gazette's attempt to eradicate discrimination against women. Unfortunately, the paper's oversight of its own sexist language and imagery brings its commitment to women and their struggle for equality into question.

Sincerely,
Lois Corbett

Deadline explained

To the Editor,

Many of the concerns about the process by which withdrawal dates for "A" and "R" classes were changed, expressed in the letter from Ms Jackson and Ms Boer (Gazette November 20) are ill-founded.

The change in withdrawal dates was not made during the summer of 1986. In fact, the Registrar notified your colleagues in the Dalhousie Student Union and other members of the Council on Student Life, during the fall of 1985, of the change which was proposed. No objections were raised at that time. The new October 7 withdrawal date appears in the 1986/87 Calendar, which became available last spring.

When — late in the summer — the Student Union raised concerns about the change which had been made, the administration agreed to extend the October 6 deadline by a two week grace period during the current academic year, in order to facilitate the transition to the new dates. We are currently monitoring the effect of this change.

I trust that this information will allay your concerns about the process which led to the implementation of these deadlines.

Yours sincerely,
A.M. Sinclair
Vice-President
(Academic & Research)

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at midnight

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