

# LETTERS

## United we stand

To the editors:

As you no doubt are aware, the past two weeks on this campus have been much ado about nothing! We see these persons appearing out of nowhere to tell us how they are going to encourage diversity and student participation.

We in the International Students Association know better. We know for example that the present candidate for President, Mr. Peter Pottier, couldn't be bothered to show up for the ISA reception last November. He did not even send a letter of apology to explain his absence.

Many people may feel that we in the ISA are making too much of this. However, lets stop and think. Mr. Pottier is a student leader and it is his job to serve students, if he can now talk about diversity on this campus where was he in November. Don't we deserve accountability for this? International Students on this campus need strong leadership. We can not look to these opportunist people who give us empty rhetoric after they have been made aware of problems of the present DSU council.

I am willing to bet that Mr. Pottier would not even have gone to MISSA night had the DSU not received such a bad report from organizations like the ISA.

It is imperative that all conscious International Students (and that includes Canadians after all, Canada is part of the world) send in nominations and turn up to vote on March 6.

We need strong leadership within the ISA because I do not think that the present two teams have our interests among their list of priorities. United we stand, divided we fall, together we can stand tall. Send in your nominations by February 28, and come vote on March 6 if you care about the future of the ISA within this environment of poor leadership and blatant betrayal of student interests on behalf of the present DSU! Support the ISA!

**John Burchall**  
President ISA

## Appalled at res

To the editors:

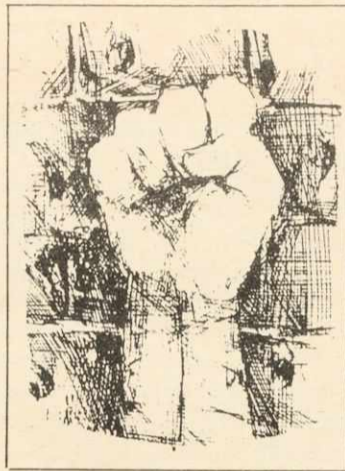
While walking through Henderson House last week, (a place we do not normally frequent), we were disgusted that pornographic, offensive, and degrading material was used by a Presidential candidate. Two half-naked women surrounding a man's body with a picture of the candi-

date's face, reading something like "@!\*?#@!\* can do it for you!", was posted all over.

It was appalling that these posters remained up for five days without someone taking offense, or at least voicing her/his opposition.

It is disturbing to realize that this person is now the President of Henderson House. We fear he will be promoting a sexist environment.

**Nicole Schmidt**  
**Jennifer Penman**



## DSU defence

To the editors,

In the last few issues of the Gazette I have noticed the occasional article in which the Dalhousie Student Union has come under fire for apparent services not rendered. In the last issue of the Gazette (Feb. 7) I read letters to the Editors from John Burchall, President of the International Students' Association. I would like to reply to Mr. Burchall's suggestions and insinuations.

First of all, because people in our positions are accustomed to constructive criticism on a regular basis, it would be nearly impossible for us to respond to every comment that we receive. I am sorry (note the apology) that you feel this makes us, in your opinion, "too indifferent to care."

Regarding the report card from the "student body as a whole"; I would submit to you that not all ten thousand plus Dalhousie students had input into this evaluation. It is human nature to find faults in any government as compared to praising its successes. Therefore, I feel that interpretation of the DSU operations came from the few that have complaints as to the many that are content with their student government.

With respect for your request for a public apology from the DSU, forget it! I don't even know what to apologize for nor do I recall having a halo delivered to me when I took on this position as DSU councillor. However, I am sorry (oops another one) that it is im-

possible for us to serve each and every member of the Dal student body in a way they see as perfect. Quite a Utopian thought that!

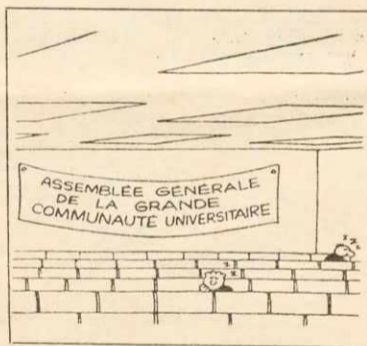
In recognition our responsibilities though, as a student government, we do encourage input, we encourage things that are best for the student body and we even enjoy our fellow students coming forward with new ideas.

I have had the pleasure this year of working with people like Ralph Cochrane, Patti Dow, Peter Pottier, Jamie Lougheed and many other DSU reps that I know have strived to serve Dal students with the students needs and interests in focus at all times.

Mr. Burchall, I invite you to attend our next DSU meeting (Feb. 25) so that we may discuss some or all of your concerns in open discussion. If you feel that an open forum is necessary between the DSU and the student body, we can even discuss that too.

I am sorry that if anything that we may have done this year has affected your life, academically or otherwise, in a negative manner; but please come to our next meeting so that we can approach your concerns together.

**David Chaisson**  
DSU Rep - Engineering



## Banish the blahs

To the editors:

Well, its February, and with the dreary weather often comes that plague of seasons: The February Blahs. For those of us who can't afford to fly south for the "study break", here are some inventive (and definitely cheaper) ways to experience a little bit of summer this winter.

1) Have a beach party at home! Simply rent a few of those silly beach movies (e.g. "Beach Blanket Bingo"), turn up your thermostat, put on your bathing suit and break out the Coppertone (This is very important: for the full effect you need to smell like you're at the beach). Laying on a big towel while watching the movies also adds to the atmosphere.

2) Have an outdoor barbeque. Yes, bring out the Hibachi (you may have trouble finding coals or lighter fluid this time of year, but don't give up), and throw some hotdogs and hamburgers on the grill. Invite your neighbors! Who cares if you're wearing a parka and drinking hot chocolate, a barbeque is a state of mind. For those of you in residence, simply convert an old oil barrel into a barbeque and have it on the snow covered lawn outside your dorm. Sure to impress your don!



3) Drive around wearing your favourite bathing suit and shades, and stop to ask a local where the nearest beach is. Be sure to blare the Beach Boys, maybe even put a surfboard on the roofrack (will make even the most boring people look twice). For those of you without cars, taking the bus adds a new dimension to this activity.

4) Go on a picnic, complete with blanket and basket. It'll be hard with your mittens on, but what the heck; there's nothing like eating in the great outdoors (even if it is -20 C). Bring some bug spray just for fun.

5) The scouts have known for years that winter camping has a unique charm all its own. It's more fun if you take along a good friend with whom you can snuggle (or someone you would like to be friends with!). And the best part is, since most parks are closed this time of year, you can camp for free. Variation: set up the tent in your living room. If you don't have a tent, sleep out in your sleeping bags and stare at the ceiling. (You can buy glow in the dark stickers that really do look like stars.)

6) Go fly a kite. It may be winter, but there's still a great kite-flying wind outside. Flying on Citadel Hill is highly recommended, as the slippery slopes allow for innovative activities such as kite-flying while skiing or tobogganing.

7) Have an outdoor game of volleyball or softball (especially recommended for students in residence). Organize a tournament and play other floors and dorms. Playing during a blizzard just makes it more interesting.

Those are only a few of the wild and whacky ways to beat the winter blahs. Try some of them and think up a few of your own, your roommates and friends will love it.

**Michelle Phillips**

## Not worth the paper...

To the editors:

While walking through the hallways of Dal over the past two weeks I've become increasingly angry at the amount of paper being wasted to advertise candidates for the upcoming student elections. These candidates, in attempting to represent responsible government, are expressing the typical lack of environmental responsibility that has been prevalent for many years. In our throw-away society, it has been accepted, and even encouraged, to adopt convenience over effort and responsibility in all aspects of life. Granted, flyers and posters are often necessary to inform students of upcoming events that they might otherwise not know of. In this case, however, these election posters, that are everywhere, provide only names and faces that mean very little when one is considering which candidate is deserving of a vote. It is the issues and opinions that these individuals represent (or what they do not represent, in Mike and Ralph's case) that should be the deciding factors when marking a ballot, not mere familiarity with faces and names due to a barrage of advertising. The point I'm trying to make is that this onslaught of posterage is nothing more than a callous, needless waste. When election day has come and gone, all this paper will go in the garbage; out of sight, out of mind. Such apathy and indifference cannot continue, this is 1991! We, as students, must set a precedent for the future and begin to abandon the wasteful habits that we have been conditioned to accept. In future elections, I hope that candidates will adopt a more concerned platform and use the Gazette and CKDU as their only mediums of communication to the student body.

**Steve Mills**

In the interest of promoting a war-positive atmosphere in Britain, the BBC has banned a number of songs from radio play.

Conversely, the bums O' the Gazette have come up with a suggested boycott list to restore the equilibrium:

1. Another one bites the dust
2. Killing an Arab
3. We are the world
4. Aint misbehavin
5. Battle hymn of the Republic
6. Rule Britannia
7. Feel a whole lot better when you're gone
8. Star spangled banner
9. Layin pipe all night long
10. Dust in the wind