

The Dogs of War

On Tuesday Defence Minister David Collette announced the end of the Canadian Airborne Regiment after months of controversy over the torture and killing of Somali civilians, and most recently over the regiment's brutal initiation ceremonies.

Maybe it was for the best. I'm sure many in the regiment are fine, well-adjusted people, just like I'm sure there are lots of nasty, brutish, aggressive types in it, such as we've seen in the Somalia video.

But wait a minute — what did we really expect an airborne/commando regiment to be?

Think about it. You're a grunt in the airborne regiment. You're trained to parachute into the harshest of climates and survive largely with what you can fit in a backpack. Your training is harsh and physically punishing, and discipline is rigorous. Doing your job depends largely on brute strength, mental toughness and the ability to stand just about any mental or physical discomfort.

Sound like a warm, caring individual?

Of course not.

Elite units like the airborne are designed to kill efficiently and often brutally, which is where their peace-keeping role comes in: they don't

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have one. That kind of character doesn't exactly make a patient, even-tempered peacekeeper.

Which raises a broader issue: The Canadian military shouldn't use elite combat troops to keep peace. You

keep that kind of soldier to inflict on your worst enemy. Elite units are designed to liquidate opposing troops under the worst conditions and come out alive, not to exercise restraint, understanding and patience. No cushiony civilian (such as myself) could do a job like that, so we shouldn't be surprised when the people who can start showing the brutish, hardened side which makes them able to do their job.

Make no mistake: there is no excuse for torture or murder. Those responsible should do hard time for such a disgusting act. But the Canadian government was wrong to use the airborne in Somalia to keep the peace.

Whether or not you think we need elite combat troops anymore, we should never have used them as regular peacekeepers.

You don't hire a wolf to do a shepherd's work.

Mark Farmer

Ask Joe & Jo

These are the major myths that are going around about the Dalhousie Women's Centre (DWC), and Jo & Joe thought we should dispell them. A special thanks to Heather Gibson for all the information.

• **Myth #1: Everyone involved with the Women's Centre is a lesbian.**

-Yeah, whatever. Get a grip. The Dalhousie Women's Centre is for women, that's all women — straight, lesbian, bisexual, black, white, first peoples, visible and non-visible minorities alike. (Get the point?)

• **Myth #2: Everyone involved with the Women's Centre hates men.**

-WRONG! The DWC is a place for information, video and literary resources, support, meetings and safe spaces. There is no political policy that advocates manbashing or separatist feminism. (Although with their extensive library, I'm sure there must be something about it if you're interested).

• **Myth #3: If you are a man, you're not allowed in.**

-Have you tried? The facilities are for everyone's use. All of the resources of information as well as any services that would be provided to a woman as it applies to you. This may include referrals to Counselling and Psychological Services, legal representation or various groups within the city designed to meet with anyone's specific needs. There is a room in the DWC that is women's only — this is a safe space. This room does not exist to insult and demean the presence of any and all men on campus. It is a place where women can go if they feel endangered by incidents that were instigated on campus, or want to talk about problems that they may feel uncomfortable speaking about when men are around. Other than that, one room — you have as much right to be there, ask questions, and talk about what you wish.

• **Myth #4: If you're a man, you're not getting your money's worth.**

-Okay, so you're paying, like, two whole dollars (one if you're part time) for Dalhousie to have a Women's Centre, and you're a guy. Let's even say that you still believe in myths #1 through #3 because why should you trust us anyway. Let's even say that you don't really care that the Women's Centre provides all kinds of services for women, like giving women in immediate crisis situations (e.g. something happened in the last year) the direction to get a place to stay, legal counselling, trained professionals to talk to, connections with self-defense groups, all kinds of groups for different needs as well as a social setting to discuss issues that affect them everyday. But let's assume that you don't care about all that, and just want to know what's in it for you.

If you have been involved in any sex crime or harrasment (as the assaulter or the assaulted) the people at the DWC can refer you to the right people to talk to, as well as get you in to talk to them quickly (something that isn't as easily done as said). Any information that you need for your personal use, school assignments, etc. can be made available to you — It's your library too. No one will make you leave without a good reason. And guys — have a mother? A friend that is a woman? A female lover? What affects the people that you care about affects you too.

Stop the griping. If you're reading this article and can't remember the last time you were there — go check it out. It's right on South Street. Male and female alike.

If you have any questions, remember that nothing is too rude, crude or dumb. Just ask Joe & Jo.

He's guilty

I think O.J. Simpson should be dragged out into the street and shot.

I also think that all those mindless dolts who watch the court "proceedings" (I use that word in quotes because the sludge-like pace of the trial so far could hardly be called a real proceeding) should also be tortured to death.

The American public, as well as Canadian, has been bombarded with images of O.J. Simpson, making faces on TV every time they see him in court. I for one got sick of the whole thing about two days after the story broke that he was being charged with their murders. And no, I didn't watch his "getaway" on the L.A. freeway.

Any freeway with an average rush hour speed of 11 miles per hour is a pretty bad choice for a getaway route anyhow, and just illustrates the mindlessness of the general public for staying glued to their TVs an entire night watching it.

Then there's the whole group of idiots who go around saying, "O.J.'s innocent!" and "Free OJ!" These are the same freaks who think Elvis is still alive.

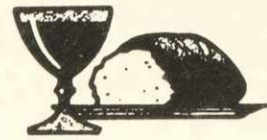
Every time I see that damn thing on TV, I instantly turn over. OK, I admit, I lingered once. The entire 10 seconds of it was totally silent, as the camera focused rigidly on the judge as he read a list. Oooooohh, and I thought televised golf was boring.

To sum up: O.J. Simpson is stupid, boring, ugly and should be shot; the televised trial should be banned from the airwaves, and everyone who watches it should be drawn and quartered, burned, and their remains piddled upon by small, rabid monkeys.

Steve Tonner

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Dalhousie Women's Centre



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Halifax, N.S. B3H 1T4
(902) 494-2432

February 11th

The Dal Women's Centre will be going "downtown". Come on a brief tour of local drinking establishments then to the South End Women's Dance.

Dance tickets \$7.00

T-shirts \$10.00

(Neither are required - you can join us for whatever part you can.) Please try to pre-register because dance tickets are limited. Contact Lisa or Heather at the Centre for more information.

Volunteer meeting

Tuesday, January 31, 4:30 p.m. at the
Dal Women's Centre.

Celebrating Diversity...

Look out for our
Black History Month Book Launch.
Monday, February 6, 6:00-7:00 p.m.,
2nd Floor S.U.B.