

ces? Is any male university student deserving of the title "little boy" for the sake of balance? Or, to take another example, is it fair to reject generalizations about women because many women are trying to break a stereotype when, at the same time, many of these same women categorize all men as one? (Indeed, they even go so far as to say that all the world's problems may be ascribed to this one universal type, man.) Can it be that 'man' works as a universal while 'woman' doesn't?

Or are fairness and consistency merely values within patriarchal logic?

Surely the strength of radical thought is its potential to offer the world a greater balance of forces than it has at present. There is a great deal that could be done and Daly's thought might give many of us—women and men—the strength to balance our love and forgiveness with some rage and do something.

However, as I have tried to suggest, some of Daly's thought reflects its own imbalances. It would seem therefore most helpful if a review placed Daly's thought on a context broader than her own. Women and men have a great deal to gain from Daly's insights. Samantha Brennan's article would have performed a greater service by critically bringing forth Daly to all of the university. Leaving Daly's presentation in its feminist garb only suggests that such thought—anyone's thought—is best left untouched and standing alone, as if we must only take it or leave it.

I think Brennan of provoking me to think more clearly about Daly. But I regret that Brennan chose to present Daly as news, as fact, instead of as a thinker deserving a critical eye.

Rod Northey
1st year Law

Rowing club story unfair

To the editors,

While reading the "Club sports" article about the Dalhousie Rowing Club, (*Gazette*, Nov. 1) I noticed that names of many team members were conspicuously absent. Failure to include these individuals undermines their efforts and puts the personal and moral integrity of the author's source in question.

The gist of the report gives readers the mistaken impression that the club has but five members. The truth is that many men and women from various faculties participate both at competitive and recreational levels.

It is not the purpose of this letter to "get even" for the apparently intentional omissions by listing the names of those excluded. We are not concerned with "win-loss" statistics on which "race was the more important of the two". We do not need our names in print to prove our efforts worthwhile. Instead, we cherish the thrill of a sport that comes from the pursuit of excellence.

Given that all members committed themselves to this pursuit and performed to the best of their abilities, I feel it is meet and right that they be given high and equal commendation. We take pride in team spirit and *team* is the operative word.

Name withheld on request

"normal" people

To the editors,

As I look through the Nov. 8 *Gazette* I notice a note about "immature little boys at Zeta Psi" and a letter about "men of crippled mentality". On the other hand, I see a front page story on the "feminist rage", books being burnt for their "sexist content", single mums, pregnant women, women in lawless society and, wait, still more single mothers.

Before you give me one of your labels let me explain that I am not a male chauvinist pig and definitely not a feminist. If you want equal rights go for it, I'm not going to stop you, I simply ask that you keep in mind what equality means (treating both sides equally). If worst comes to worst you can always write about normal people.

On a final note, if you want to insult males don't compare us to the Klu Klux Klan, it's much more effective to compare us to the *Ku Klux Klan*.

Keeping with tradition: How many feminists does it take to have a baby? None, they don't do what is considered "women's work"!

Scott Ryan

Not all Zeta Psi barbarians

To the editors,

I have been a reader of your newspaper for two years and have enjoyed it very much. It disturbs me however, that the paper has become a display of women's issues and a battleground for a personal vendetta. I believe a student newspaper should deal with hard core issues rather than a one-sided outlook on society. It is fine to deal with controversial topics, but news that appealed to the masses would be more appropriate. Please tone down the gay and feminist glorification and include information for everyone.

The second part of this letter deals with the continuing battle against Zeta Psi. I am proud to be a brother of this fraternity and it disturbs me to see people attempting to foul the image and create problems for brothers who are not male chauvinist and biased. The editors seem to have this very bleak view on the whole fraternity, rather close-minded in the eyes of a person who is fair. Please feel free to talk to all the brothers and not just a few and put it out of your minds that we are barbarians, we are not.

G. A. Goldring, II
Political Science Major
and a fair Zete.

Student leaders not partisan

To the editors,

I thought it would be appropriate to comment on "Hill's loss, failure of students to mobilize," editorial and "United we stand, divided we fall," by Rick Janson, in last week's *Gazette* (Nov. 18, 1984).

In both pieces, the authors suggest that your student leaders failed you during the provincial election by neglecting to throw "ourselves full force into the campaign," or by failing to support the "(Tim Hill) campaign with dollars and canvassers."

How can the Students' Union of Nova Scotia (SUNS) or the Dal-

housie Student Union (DSU) endorse a partisan candidate when we know full well that less than half of our membership supports them and their party? If we failed as political leaders, the failure was in not getting more students to the polls.

But honestly, if the *Dalhousie Gazette* does not like the way stu-

dents voted, why blame their leaders? We do not control their minds, nor do we tell them what to do.

I believe very firmly in my own perception of what is in the student interest—a pluralistic, accessible quality education system—but I do not naïvely expect everyone else to agree with me or to vote on the education issue alone.

If it comes to pass that a couple of young Terry Donahoe supporters take over the DSU in 1987, will the *Gazette* insist, in an evenhanded spirit, that they endorse Donahoe, "in the student interest?"

Thanks very much.

Sincerely,
Geoff Martin, Chair
SUNS

Working around the lemming factor

National and regional student federations are short-lived political entities in Canada.

The Canadian Federation of Students and the Students' Union of Nova Scotia are reincarnations of student political groups from the past. Like their predecessors, both organizations will probably die within the next few years, and after a brief respite, be replaced by similar organizations with new acronyms.

The Canadian student movement has been and continues to be guilty of ignoring its own history and of blindly repeating its mistakes.

One of the big problems with sustaining a student movement is that individual student union leaders are elected for one-year terms. By the time they learn about their own student union and get an inkling of what's going on at the national and regional level, the year is over and they're gone.

Often they are replaced by people who have run for office with vague promises and little knowledge of student politics. If their gut reaction isn't to pull out of the national or regional organization, they have to be persuaded that uniting student unions together is a good idea. The work involved in just sustaining the student organization practically cripples it in doing anything useful.

When the organization becomes merely self-perpetuating, students start asking the inevitable question: What use is the national or regional organization that they are paying money to? The sequence usually follows that campuses hold pull-out referendums and the organization eventually dies.

So how do you stop the vicious circle? Do student federations have to be populated by lemmings?

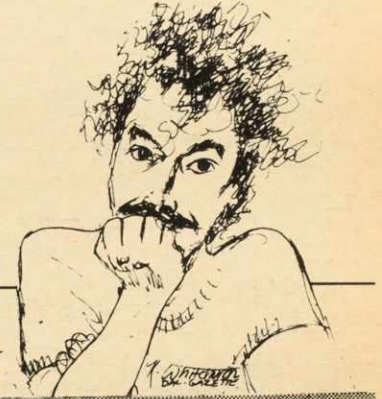
The primary problem lies in the fact that student organizations rarely have popular support. SUNS is something students usually get to know after they get into student politics.

Time after time student organizations have failed to rally any grass-roots support despite claims that they represent untold thousands of students justified by some great leaps and bounds of logic supposed to represent the democratic process. On the few occasions when either CFS or SUNS has called out the troops, it was physically evident that they hardly represented the vast numbers they claimed they did.

Although student union leaders will tell you they recognize the problem, few have any idea how to solve it.

SUNS is a classic example. After determining that they lacked support—or even interest—from Nova Scotia's student population, they decided to try and tackle the problem by giving away yellow pens and putting out expensive (and boring) glossy posters in red and black.

RICK JANSON



The result was a big predictable yawn. Buying toys for students with their own money amounts to applying a tacky public relations solution to a complex political problem.

In order for students to feel a part of SUNS they need to be able to participate in it. To accomplish that, numerous steps could be taken.

Currently, it would be offensive for the chair of SUNS to claim he or she was democratically elected to represent the students of Nova Scotia. For starters, the chair was not elected by the students of Nova Scotia—he was elected by student union leaders from various campuses in Nova Scotia. Those student union leaders were in turn elected—on average—by less than 20 per cent of students at those campuses.

Secondly, it is extremely unlikely that your opinions were taken into account when your representatives elected that person. SUNS is rarely discussed in any detail during student union elections or at any period afterwards.

It is unlikely that the majority of you could even name the present chair of SUNS. You might have a slightly better chance at naming the executive officer of SUNS, but she isn't elected by you—or the SUNS membership—either. She obtained her post via a hiring committee struck by the membership. What about other officers of SUNS? They weren't elected by you either.

In order for SUNS to properly represent students, at the very least its chief officer should be elected by the students and not via some secondary stage.

It should also be clear who the chief officer is. Although technically it is a volunteer part-time chair, more often than not it is the paid executive officer that is in a better position to influence the decision-making process and generally show some leadership within the organization. Ironically, although the executive officer is in that position, she is technically

supposed to serve as a mere bureaucrat. Meanwhile, the chair, who is supposed to show the leadership, too often lacks the experience and/or time to be on top of issues.

The obvious solution is to eliminate the executive officer and elect (and pay) preferably a full-time chair. The logistics would certainly be difficult, but the process and the end result would be beneficial.

An election would require forums at the member campuses where issues would have to be discussed. Platforms could be published in some form of printed matter and distributed as well. Students would be forced to look at SUNS and directly participate in the organization at the rudimentary level of voting for a leader.

There can be no denying that the process will be costly, but it would be of much better value than little yellow markers. By piggybacking on local student union elections, the electoral costs could be kept to a minimum.

Also integral in bringing about grass-roots support is the dissemination of information. A regular tabloid organ should be published by the organization to inform students of SUNS' activities and education issues.

A high profile should be maintained by the organization throughout the year. Regular press releases, some small-scale guerrilla theatre and SUNS-sponsored events should be constantly happening. Students should be brought in to participate at all levels.

The political work should also continue, lobbying politicians and forming coalitions. If SUNS is seen as dynamic and active, it should be possible to eventually call out the troops and demonstrate some solidarity and strength.

With these things happening student union leaders won't need to question their participation in SUNS. When they obtain elected office on their campuses, they'll already know about the organization and be willing to continue participating in it. □