

Acting on a group level

Remember in the old days when everyone was worried about nuclear war? I hated it. I hated the entire eighties, with their cynicism, acceptance of the status quo, consumerism, mindless politicians buying votes with the war industry branch plants and massive budget deficits. Every time the thought of real change was brought up, it was countered with, "Yeah, but they've got the bombs."

In just one year, the world has witnessed that 'they' might have the bombs, but the people of the world have the power. In just one year, East-West tension has eased and disarmament is gaining momentum. The relationship between the industrialized and developing nations is changing, too, as the reality of unrepayable

debts and cultural imperialism demand. Above all other concerns, economic, political, and cultural, it is environmental awareness that is becoming a global issue. It is environmental awareness that cuts across all other boundaries, whether they are racial, national or ideological. In just one year, the people of Planet Earth are realizing that the survival of the human species is threatened by its inability to deal with its own garbage. It is time for an attitude adjustment.

It is indeed the end of the world as we know it. Not the all-devouring apocalypse so cherished by bible-thumpers for the past two thousand years. Rather,

and end to the way people perceive themselves and their environ-

ment. A huge change, as great as the impact of the Reformation of mediaeval Europe, as great as the impact of democratic ideals on the divine right to rule.

When the average soul listens to someone like David Suzuki on the radio, the situation can seem

Small is beautiful

so overwhelming that it is hopeless. That just isn't true. The solutions can start at the individual level, if the individual seeks out the information and begins to act on that information. The action can be as basic as using a ceramic mug for coffee in The Garden instead of automatically

buying those evil foam things. It can be as basic as making the effort to recycle old newspapers, avoiding the use of chemicals in the home, and practicing organic principles in gardening. If the individual acts in such basic ways, his or her thinking will begin to change, too.

When an individual begins to wonder about unfamiliar terms such as ecofeminism and "small is beautiful", and how to effect change in government policies, it's time to organize. Groups such as the Campus Environmental Action Group, the Ecology Action Centre, and public information research groups can provide the basis for action on a group level. And it is only when faced with group action that governments, in their tiny-

brained dinosaur-like way, begin to respond. Witness the superficial "greening" of the Group of Seven at last summer's summit in Paris. Fifteen per cent of Britain's population voted for the Green party in the European Parliament elections. The most recent Angus Reid poll indicates that Canada is "on the verge of a Green Revolution". It is the responsibility of environmental organizations everywhere to ensure our governments respond with real changes, and not just lip service. The survival of this generation, the generation currently being educated at schools such as Dalhousie, depends on real changes in the way our society conducts itself.

Vince Tinguely

l e t t e r s

Sexual harassment

Dear Editor:

I read with interest the article by Barbara Leiterman on Sexual Harassment (October 5, 1989). While Acting Chief MacDonald agrees the article is a fair summation of his conversation with Ms. Leiterman, I believe a number of points raised require clarification.

Firstly, Mr. MacDonald's reference to the 1988 incident in which he was reported as having stated that the women escaped "without injury" was not meant to imply that there was an absence of emotional trauma. If that impression was gained, he and I regret it. Dalhousie Security takes very seriously its mandate to protect all of the University community and believes that persons of both sexes have a right to feel safe and secure anywhere on campus. Over the past couple of years, Dalhousie Security has increased its presence on campus during the night. The problem is that, like every other unit within the University, its limited resources are stretched beyond capacity.

Secondly, in reference to the "rape awareness" pamphlet, Ms. Leiterman asks if there is a "less archaic explanation" for the advice to female students to avoid wearing revealing clothing at night. Unfortunately, there is not — not, at least, until "archaic" attitudes towards women disappear. While we recognise that women students, indeed all women, should feel free to wear whatever they wish without fear

of repercussion, experience has shown that certain forms of dress increase the likelihood of unwanted advances. The pamphlet simply points this out. It states not what *ought* to be but what actually is the current situation; its purpose is protection, not polemic.

We recognise that much more remains to be done and commend the *Gazette* for its fight against sexual harassment. However, it should be realised that the solution is not as simple as Ms. Leiterman's article seems to suggest. Increased safety depends as much on changed attitudes as it does on financial and physical resources. While the Department of Physical Plant and Planning (of which the Security Department is a part) has spent a considerable sum of money over the past couple of years on improved lighting and increased security patrols, the problem will finally be resolved only to the degree that male/female relationships become based on mutual trust and respect.

Yours sincerely,
W.H. Lord, P.Eng.
Director

Physical Plant and Planning

Again...

Dear Editor,

I am somewhat revolted by the personal attacks that have been launched on my character and my beliefs. My sex life is my business, thank you. These self-centred female bashers are of course a clear illustration of my point and obviously have never had the

opportunity to develop their personal skills. I refer to the frats, those two physics geniuses and that guy who claimed that Anglais was the most poetic language in the world. That in itself is ridiculous bullshit and potentially racist. Who the hell are these people to scoff at women as if their points of view were nothing but 'wimmen talk'????!!

These people shouldn't be here if they continue to act in such an irresponsible, archaic, chauvinistic, neanderthal-like manner.

Grow up little boys
Angeline L. Fourrette

Mr. MacLean

To the Dal Gazette:

We have a piece of advice for Greg MacLean of Henderson House. He made two points to the "male-bashers" and while his disgust at their stereotyping is shared by us, we have a problem with the second point.

He advised the male-bashers to transfer to Mount Saint Vincent University if they were having such a rough time with men. Well, guess what, Greg? One can still have problems with men at the Mount. The Mount is not "safely tucked away" from the rest of society. You infer that the females of the Mount are here because they need some sort of protection from society — like we're being sheltered from life. We came to the Mount for our own reasons — to take Public Relations, Home Economics, Child Study, etc.

As for Vinnie's Pub, sales are

up by 25 percent. And by the look of this year's pub, there are *definitely* men going to Vinnie's. Thus, a male-basher would have to deal with a member of the male species.

As a service to the university community, think before you open your mouth or put ink to paper. Thanks.

Catherine Doucette, BPR
Vanessa MacRury, BHEC
Sarah Jane Harvey, BHEC
Kim Swinemer, BA
Julie Corday BCS

Tucked away?

To the Editor:

I wish to commend the gentlemen who's letters appeared in the Oct. 5 issue of the *Gazette*. Their responses to the negative comments made by Ms. Angeline Fourrette in the previous issue (Sept. 28) were very eloquent and overflowing with charm and intelligence. Ms. Fourrette's letter would have been much more effective and intelligent if she had kept a more open mind on the subject of males and had put more thought into her words.

One gentleman, however, made the same drastic mistake that Ms. Fourrette made. The first two paragraphs of Greg MacLean's letter were very well composed and he argued his point very effectively. It was in his final paragraph that he destroyed any positive image that I or any of my friends may have formed of him.

As a student at Mount Saint Vincent, I believe I am qualified to inform Mr. MacLean that

those of us attending this university are no more "safely tucked away" than students attending Dalhousie or any other university. And believe it or not, Mr. MacLean, there is a small yet mighty male population at the Mount with whom we "deal with" quite well on a daily basis, even at Vinnie's.

So you see, Mr. MacLean, in order to give young ladies the impression that one is intelligent, one must be able to make intelligent, informed statements. Intelligent young ladies are able to recognize the truth.

Michelle Fukes
2nd year Exec. Sec.

Math

Sponsored by The Math Society, editor, Dr Richard Nowakowski. The first correct solution handed in to Dr. R. Nowakowski, Dept. of Mathematics, Statistics and Computing Science, Room 304, Chase Building will be awarded a Loonie (\$1) prize and a certificate. Prizes can be picked up from my office Thursday or Tuesday.

Question 5: The following game is played by two people who move alternately, with coins on a staircase with six steps. A move is to take any number, less than five, of coins from one step and move them to a lower step less than five stairs away. The winner is the one who puts the last coin on the lowest step. If, in the beginning, there are two coins on each step, should you move first or second and what is your winning strategy?