

opinions

Women's collective voice

Is it true that students roll their eyes when they see a poster for a women's sponsored event? Is there muttering of "man-hating feminists" by the entire student population when they hear the words "women's group", "collective" or "centre"?

I think not. It is true that I have heard complaints by both women and men of "radical feminists" (and I've got

to wonder which is supposed to be the dirty word). I've heard negative reaction to women-only events as well as questionings as to the need of a women's centre. However, the positive reactions far outweigh the negative. For example, last year 400 students may have voted against paying an extra \$2 of their student fees to financially support the Dalhousie Women's Centre,

but more than 1,200 voted in favour of the centre.

There are still people who, out of ignorance or fear, continue to stereotype women's groups as gatherings of man-haters. But I do believe that more women and men are beginning to recognize women's groups for what they are; a chance for women to have their concerns heard, to receive the emotional and political support they might not find in other organizations on campus and an opportunity to bring those issues they feel are important to the attention of the rest of the population.

As a member of the Dalhousie Women's Collective, last December I helped organize a week of events to commemorate the 14 women killed on December 6, 1989 in Montreal. The encouragement and response we received from students was tremendous. From the candlelight vigil, the films shown, the open mike and the distribution of purple ribbons, men and women told me how happy they were to take part in these events.

The Dalhousie Women's Collective is not the only women's group on campus. There is the Black Women's Group, the Dal Women of Law and the Women's Studies Society to name a few. It would be unrealistic to expect that all women have the exact same concerns. Therefore there is a definite need for more than one women's group on campus. But we should also acknowledge that there are times when the differences we may have individually or as a group should be set aside. In the past there has been some co-opera-

BLACKS ON BLACK

Blacks on Black was established in 1992 as a forum for Black opinions of local and global events. The main objective was to have Blacks writing about themselves and the world around them.

The founders of this column felt, as we still do, that the voices of African people are far too often drowned out by the drones of "Experts and Professionals." What we hope to achieve with this column is to bring a more human element to what is known as the "African Struggle."

However, the reader should not assume that we shun statistics or a careful analysis of a particular situation. That would be both irresponsible and a waste of good paper and ink.

We wish to avert professional controls because we do not want to edit individual works beyond the point where the original author can not understand their own writing. We

may give advice on points of grammar or spelling, but we will not change what the author insists on saying.

There is no limit to what may appear in this column. We will accept news, opinions, poetry, short stories; you submit it, and we will print it.

Of course we have some rules that we have to work within. All submissions must be typed, titled, and signed. We also require a phone number where we can reach the author to ensure that we understand what has been written, (no, we do not have to agree) and to let the author know when their article will be printed.

Submissions should be addressed to Blacks on Black and dropped off at the Gazette Office on the third floor of the Student Union Building.

Sean Flynn Foy

The Dalhousie Women's Collective has 4 questions for all students:

1. Do you think a women's group is needed on campus?

2. Why or why not?

3. What types of activities would you be interested in attending?

4. What do you expect from a women's group?

Name and phone number (optional)

Please drop your answers to the Enquiry Desk in the SUB.

If interested in becoming a member our next meeting will be Thursday, October 12 at 6 pm in the Women's Centre, 6143 South Street.

ALL WOMEN WELCOME.
Refreshments will be served.

SATTALITES



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AT THE
GRAWOOD
2 GREAT NIGHTS
OCT. 22 & 23
COVER CHARGE: \$5**

**COMING OCT 29-30
BOURBON TABERNACLE
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The cuts - a fresh look

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in a small number of classrooms. It is necessary to point out that the single largest expense of the university is faculty salaries. Roughly \$70 million is spent annually on this item. Now, if you were a university administrator and you had financial problems that required you to reduce costs, "increase productivity" and promote "alternative teaching strategies", what would you do?

Let us take the mathematics department as an example. Math 1000A has ten sections with room for 85 students in each section. That translates into 850 students which could conceivably be taught in one section in the Rebecca Cohn Auditorium. Alternatively, you could teach two or three sections in the Dunn Theatre. Not only does the university increase the productivity of its faculty anywhere from 3 to 10 times, but in the process it frees up classroom space. Currently it takes 10 different classrooms at 10 different times to meet the demand placed on the mathematics department. With the Arts Centre empty it would take one to three rooms at a maximum of three different time slots.

Now throw into the equation the idea of rationalization (the concept whereby duplicated programs in Nova Scotia universities are to be consolidated in a few schools), and Dalhousie becomes the likely candidate to receive those programs that traditionally have a high volume of students. Furthermore, this type of volume is usually found in the undergraduate programs which are traditionally relative 'cash cows' for most national universities. I would guess that the Arts Centre, if converted to classrooms space, would be the largest venue in Nova Scotia in which to teach students. Imagine, the

ability to teach almost 2,000 student per hour. In the long run, one can easily understand the cost savings associated with only a few professors teaching this many students.

Let us return to the idea of space allocation. If the University cuts the performing arts it will enable those faculties currently housed in Victorian Houses to move into the Arts Centre. In addition, those classrooms previously used for Math 1000 will not be in such high demand. It does not seem unreasonable to assume that the University could transfer some departments out of their houses into buildings like the A&A. But what is to be done with the empty Victorian houses? Well, in the interim you could put a few beds in them in order to cover your cost. If the Capital Campaign is successful and the campus plan is followed then the university could eventually replace them with new apartment units.

Part of this theory is dependent on the premise that the Capital Campaign will be successful. Persons who participate in a significant way to a capital campaign of this magnitude (\$100 million in ten years) are usually from the business community. One of the long held criticisms of Dalhousie, and the reason behind the reluctance to donate money, has been that it lacks the ability to effectively manage its finances. Well, if I were a business person who saw this type of plan, I would certainly come to the conclusion that Dalhousie has matured to the extent that I would donate money. If that were the case I would conclude that the Capital Campaign will be very effective.

One can see how the BAC in the long run, fulfils many of its objectives that are only dealt with in a cursory manner in its report. Although Dr. Clark is an intelligent man, I cannot

accept that he made his recommendations in a vacuum. He must have known, or at the very least had an inkling of, the consequences of his personal suggestions. It is a leap of faith that the administration did not reflect upon the void created in the Arts Centre if Dalhousie acted upon the President's remarks.

The question now becomes whether or not this theory is correct. Many of you have already heard much of the bad PR that has resulted from Dr. Clark's remarks. It does not seem reasonable that a university about to embark on a capital campaign would be willing to endure so much heat in order to save a mere \$1.5 million from one faculty. People in my hometown (Sudbury, Ontario) have read and heard through the media about the cuts here at Dalhousie. In fact, a question regarding this matter was posed to Kim Campbell in the televised election debate on Monday night. That is a lot of damage to inflict for less than \$2 million dollars, wouldn't you think? I accept the fact that this theory may be incorrect but it does raise some interesting points.

All of that aside, the intent of this article was not to endorse the closure of the performing arts at Dalhousie or disrupt well-laid plans. Rather, the article was written to focus debate on the real issues of recent events in order to facilitate a compromise. For that to happen it will be necessary for both sides to understand the merits of each other's points of view. Furthermore, the solution to this fundamental problem will be found only if the collective intellect of Dalhousie is employed. If we solve this problem together than we can truly consider ourselves a national university.

Fraser Matte
Treasurer
Dal Student Union