

## Numbness sets in...

I'm feeling pretty numb.

Numb from school stress, numb from lack of sleep, numb from Judy poking her finger at my head, numb from all the stuff that's going on around us.

And just take a look at any newspaper or tune into any news program. There are so many things happening right now that affect us. Whether it's social reform, casinos in Nova Scotia, metro amalgamation, rationalization or the euthanasia debate... the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), what to do with the Student Union Building or the state of daycare at Dal—I don't know about you, but I'm feeling a bit overwhelmed, a bit detached and a bit miffed about everything.

How can you not help but feel that, as a student, your input on any of these matters does not really count?

People tell you that you can "get involved." But let's be realistic. Most students have more important things to worry about — that presentation next week, that 50 per cent final tomorrow and that assignment that was supposed to be handed in two days ago — oh, the life of a student.

But it's not like we simply don't care.

I do care. But how can I care about everything that's going on? There's just so much material to sort through — so much nit-picky details... so much background... and so much bias...

Without a complete understanding and grasp of the issues, one gets quickly left behind and often forgotten in any discussion. Sometimes just following the issues in the news requires you to dedicatedly watch it day by day, like a soap opera, in order to understand what is going on.

You can, of course on your own initiative, do the research and reading of the many documents, reports and minutes of meetings. That would probably be the best way to go about trying to stay informed. I'd be pretty amazed at anyone who would diligently do that.

But let's talk about bias.

Bias and slants and personal agenda can be found everywhere. I realize that it's almost impossible to present all sides of all issues, all of the time. But everything I'm hearing lately just reeks of some bias.

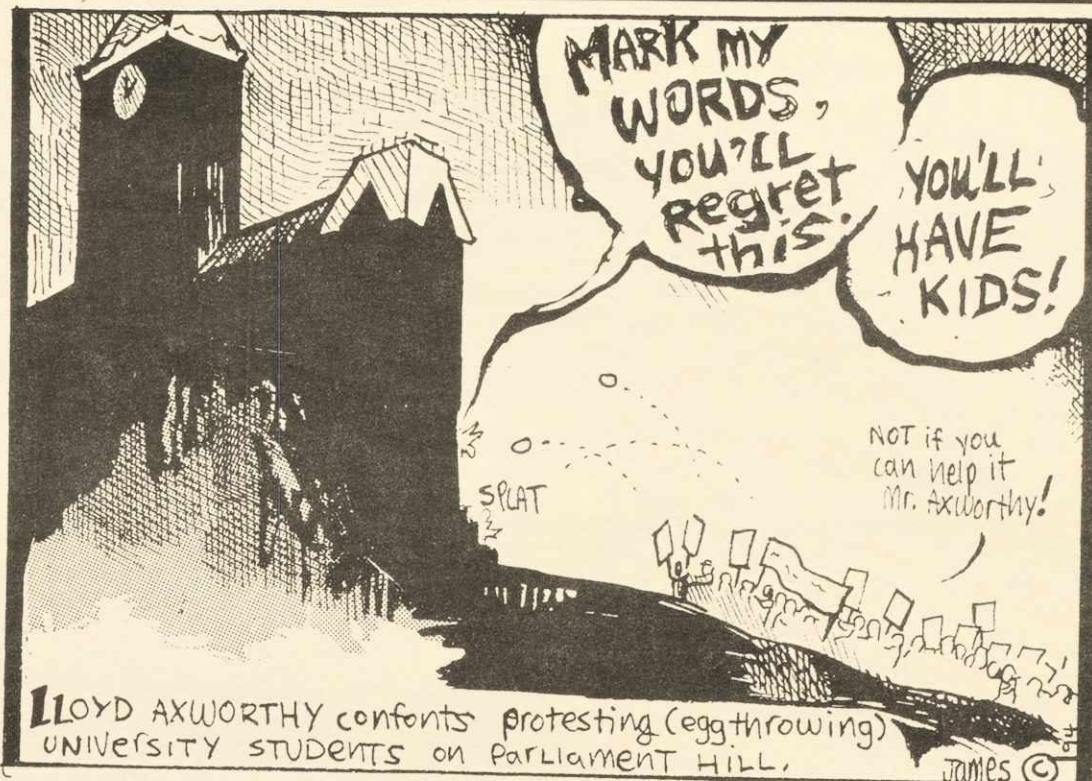
What happened to education for the sake of education (i.e., the presentation of information)? What happened to discussion for the sake of real discussion?

I want to know about the pros, the cons, the maybes and the could bes. I don't want to know about a particular political party's agenda or a particular person's or group's bias against somebody else. Yikes! Just trying to figure out what's factual, what's valid and what's based on personal opinion and speculation gives me a headache.

When you're a student, you really don't have much time for much else.

I guess until I've passed in my last paper and written my last exam, I'll just settle for numbness.

Lilli Ju



## Women's victories not covered

To the editor,

What do female athletes have to do to get proper coverage? I am writing this letter to express my disappointment in the Gazette. I feel that once again this paper has failed to recognize women's sport to the level it deserves.

This past weekend our Women's Soccer Team defeated last years champions to win the National title. They also had significant individual award winners. Yes, there was an article and a team picture but it was small and the individual award winners were barely mentioned, if at all. For example, the article neglected to mention the fact that Carla Perry received the MVP award and achieved First Team All-Canadian selection. This makes me angry because Dal's sports teams have done well in the last couple of years, yet the men's teams have received the only fair coverage. I know this first hand, having been involved in varsity sports.

Our women's soccer team deserved to be recognized with a front page congratulations for their hard work and incredible success. As this is the Week of Reflection, the Gazette choose to dedicate the front page in honor of the fourteen women killed in Montreal on Dec. 6, 1989. Although I realize the great importance of this issue, I also believe that society should celebrate women's victories and not just concentrate on our victimization.

Their strength and determination symbolizes what women are striving for, and by not recognizing this, it defeats the purpose of the Week of Reflection.

Lynne Patterson

## Remembering more than Canadians

To the editor,

Sometimes I just can't believe some people's children! When I was reading last issue's letters section, I just couldn't believe my eyes! I have never read such misplaced patriotic drivel in my entire life!

Angel Figueroa and his sidekick Matt Townsend wrote in complaining

about the Gazette's so-called "bad taste, journalistic sloppiness and outright disrespect" in running a picture of a U.S. Army Captain's gravestone on the cover. Yet, in the next breath the dynamic duo spouted on about how we should remember "as humans the horrors and ultimate price of war, for all nations, for all people." Not only is their complaint ridiculous, they contradict themselves in the very next thought!

If Matt and Angel honestly do realize the horrendous price of war that every nation pays, as they claim, then they wouldn't have cared what the nationality of the dead soldier was — even it was say, a German's gravestone! (I would have loved to see their faces if that had been the cover!) The point was to represent the tragic loss of loved ones and to get students to stop and think about the universal price of war.

Of course I remember Canadian soldiers, but I don't stop there and pat myself on the back for being such a model citizen. I think of the death and devastation that affected people the world over, not just in Canada. Do Angel and Mike think Canadians have cornered the market on grief, suffering and loss?

Jodi Gallagher

## Lest we forget anyone

To the editor,

In response to a letter in last week's Gazette ("Remember Canadians" by Angel Figueroa and Matt Townsend), I have this to say:

If 'Lest we Forget' really means anything to you, you wouldn't spend so much time fretting over last week's cover photo. It shouldn't make a difference if the gravestone in the aforementioned photo was that of a U.S. Army captain. Your comments imply that only Canadians are fit to be honoured. Were they the only ones who lost their lives? I don't think so.

Any relatives I had in the First and Second World Wars were Italian, French and Maltese. The photo meant something to me, probably because I chose to remember those who suffered and died, and not pick holes in other people's memories.

Eugenia Bayada

## Struggling with freedom

To the editor,

This is in response to: "Homosexuality: way of the future" [the Gazette, November 3, 1994].

Some days I feel angry at society for all the evils and injustices it apparently condones and fosters. I ponder and wonder if our generation has been afforded the same opportunities as our parents. Once when I was strolling past the library someone called me a queer. The ensuing pain and anger was poignant. I realized that contemptible cajoling of such people is not worth indulging. The more self conscious I am of my own identity, the more likely people are to carefully scrutinize it and be unaccepting of it. By contrast, the more self assured I am the less likely people are to challenge it. We are blessed with a pluralistic society here in Canada. An integral component of our social contract includes freedom of thought, speech, movement, and yes sometimes these elements give rise to competition and disagreement.

Undoubtedly when freedoms of expression are abused there occurs bigotry, racism, and discrimination. Sounds disheartening doesn't it? Maybe if I had my name written into the Charter of Rights of Canada I could someday enjoy 'total freedom.' In fact what is more important than the words that constitute any law is the way in which people construe them and abide by them. The freedom and equality you yearn for is in fact conferred to each of us but the definition of the collective body must be universal and non-exclusive. The more explicit the language of such a charter of freedoms becomes the more it will tend to exclude other worthy parties. Indeed, who among us should be qualified to formulate such a list of names?

Inequality, discrimination, bigotry, and racism are equally loathsome nonetheless they exist as democracy's detritus. When the day arrives that we can all agree on every thought, ideal, and persuasion it is likely that the nice society you are desirous of won't be nice anymore. Lessons in history have taught us that. In the meantime all we can do is take up our struggles daily and bear them with as much strength and courage as we can muster.

Tim Potter

# the Gazette

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