

Questions

To the editor,

Although this year's D.S.U. elections are over and done with, the same cannot be said of the controversy which has arisen from them. The voting itself saw no irregularities, but during the week of campaigning prior to the election, the elections committee disqualified one team of President-Vice President candidates because of what they deemed improprieties in that team's campaign. The decision of the committee was subsequently overturned by a judicial board and the President-Vice President team in question was reinstated. The question of whether that decision was just or not is now moot. The democratic process has spoken and the election is over.

What remains, however, are serious questions concerning the role of the elections committee in future D.S.U. elections — the main one being whether there is a need for such a committee. Granted, there must be a body in place to organize the polls, voting and other such machinery, but what of the Committee's role in determining whether or not the students are faced with a credible slate of candidates?

Obviously to this date such power does not rest in the committee's hands. Many say it should not, that the student body should be the final determiner. Perhaps so, but there should also be a regulatory body in place to check any wrongdoing on the part of candidates to protect the same student body. No such apparatus exists at present.

David Campbell
Member,

DSU Elections Committee '86

Open letter

To the Editor,

The following is an open letter to President MacKay:

Dear Dr. MacKay:

Last Sunday at our Council meeting our student representative on the university Security and Parking Committee reported on the recommendations that the committee was forwarding to you. We were told that the committee had suggested that part-time faculty, staff, and students not be allowed to purchase university parking stickers. I am writing to express the Student Unions' opposition to this proposal.

Part-time students are every year becoming more numerous on this campus, and they are becoming more important. We understand that part-time faculty and staff are less likely to own cars than their full-time colleagues. But just the opposite is true in students, because the fewer courses that a student takes the more time that he/she has for earning income.

It is our understanding that one of the motivations for changing this regulation is to prevent those hospital employees who work part-time at the university from abusing their parking privi-

leges. We urge you not to deny part-time students parking privileges because of the abuse from part-time faculty and staff.

It is with the unanimous consent of our council that I ask you not to approve this recommendation from the university Parking and Security committee.

We greatly appreciate your efforts to tackle the problems of scarce parking spots on campus. However, we feel that the recommendation of the Security and Parking committee to disallow parking privileges for part-time students fails to solve the root cause of the problem.

Thank you very much.

Yours truly,
Reza Rizvi
Executive V.P.

affairs" is not lying "in the caverns of the LSC", and is indeed heard in our hallways and university newspapers. Thank goodness! "Justice," and "heaven and hell" (read: institutionalized religion) do indeed threaten feminists, as we are forced to struggle against the institutions of our own society.

As for Brown's problem with door-holding, he is guilty of the short-sightedness of most anti-feminists. He is quibbling about issues, without any comprehension of the theories and philosophies underlying them. Such over-simplification inevitably causes grave misunderstanding.

Feminism is about eliminating social expectations in favor of individual options. It is con-

More Doors," a discussion of the plight of women in substandard housing which appeared in the International Women's Day supplement to your Thursday, March 6, edition:

A Letter to My Sister
Dear Lois:

Thanks for the copy of your article. I have one question. When you say, "These women (Mothers United for Metro Shelter) have a right to live where they want, and our government should provide public housing for them," — who do you expect to pay for it?

"The public", sis, is you and I. Therefore, "public housing" is paid for by you and I. I don't presume to know all your opinions, so I'll state my own.

cent, taken from me without my approval or consent, with only the government's decree backed by their courts and their power to punish, to make it legal. What a lot of things I could do with that money. I could save it, as emergency funds in case I should lose my job, or as something to look forward to in lieu of the grim prospect of subsistence on a federal pension. I could spend it — a new car would be nice. I could even give it to someone I like or to someone who would at least say "thank you" in recognition of a gift freely given (as opposed to one extorted by force).

"But," you protest, "these women are homeless. They need help more than you need a car or a bank account."

I don't agree. Toronto subway stations are cold in winter. And I'd like to eat three square meals a day when I'm 65, not just tea and toast. This isn't "selfishness", it's common sense. I know what I need; the government doesn't know it, nor do you, so please don't tell me what I ought to be doing with my money.

"But don't you have any pity?" you ask. Yes, indeed. I don't like to think that people are cold, or hungry, or alone. If it lay within my power to help women such as MUMS, do you think I'd refuse? — if I could only buy a week's groceries for one of them, I'd do it and never count the cost. But if I spend more money on those groceries than I can afford, then I only bankrupt myself (leaving the destitute once again helpless, and with one more added to their ranks). That's when pity does more harm than good.

Is this right? Is it right to use my pity as a weapon against me? Is it right to demand that I cause myself harm? Is it right for you to take something from me without my consent? No? Then why is it right for the government (ostensibly elected to protect my rights) to do so, and to slap a fine or a jail sentence on me if I protest?

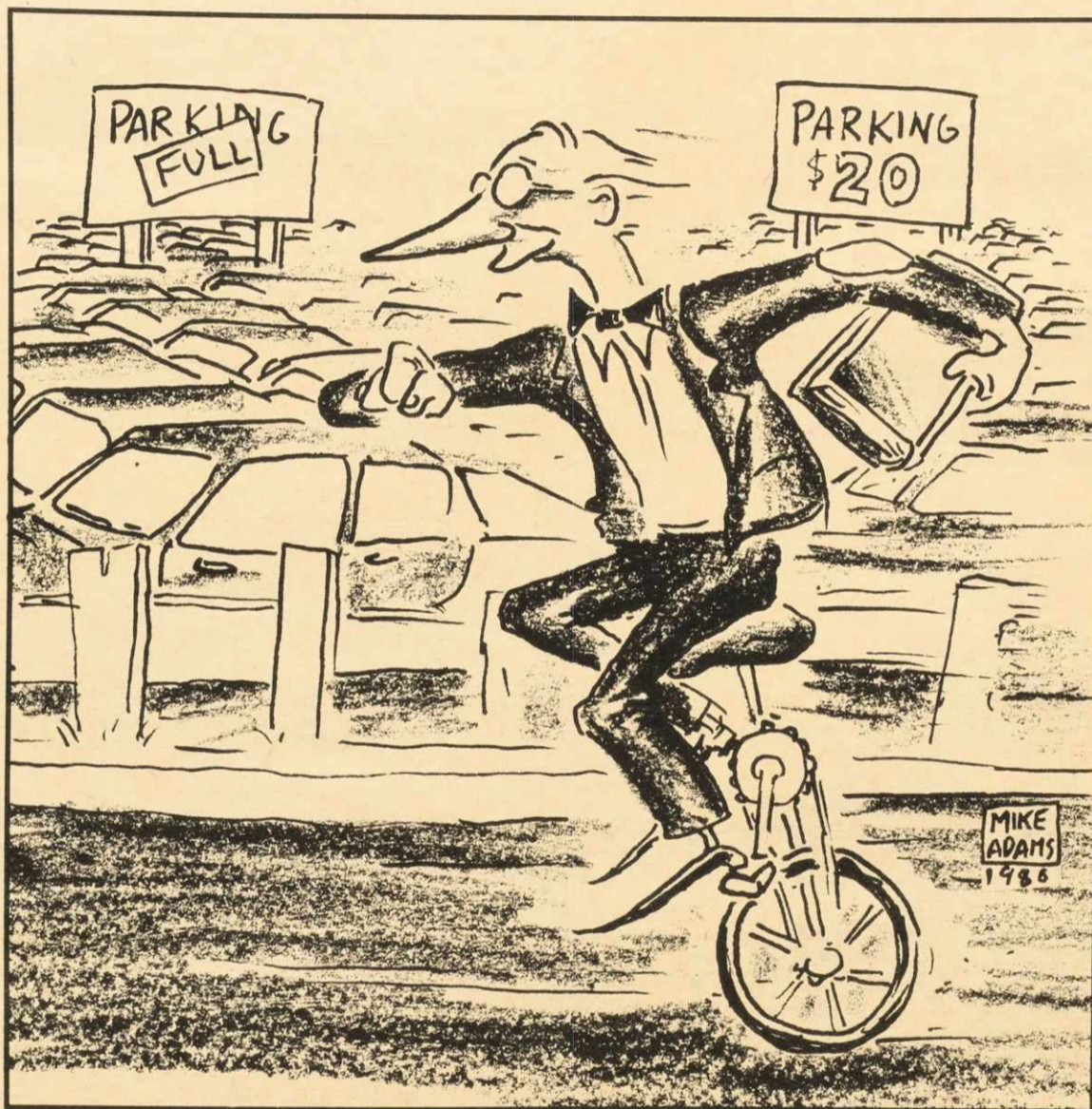
I shudder at the experiences you mention in your article — mice, insects, pain and fear borne by women who, I'm sure, never deserved it. Then I shudder at another image: my seventy-year-old self, sitting in a small, dingy room, awaiting the arrival of the cheque that will not be enough to pay my housing, food, and medical bills.

Do you see anything right in this picture?

That's all. Your editor probably didn't expect us to conduct a family argument in the pages of her paper. Well, truth is strange, sometimes.

Awaiting your reply — on the assumption that we're still on speaking terms — I remain,

Cecilia Corbett



Advice for Brown

To the Editor,

Mike Brown's "New Woman" (*Gazette*, March 20) must be meant as some sort of crude joke. But, just in case some readers are actually impressed by his rhetoric, I feel forced to respond.

Personally, I don't object to differences of opinion — such diversity is the basis of constructive interaction and growth. I do object to the expression (no matter how articulate) of uninformed opinions. Mr. Brown, have you ever talked with — not to or at — a feminist about what she/he believes? Have you ever listened?

Brown's letter does make a few valid points. This "state of

cerned with freeing "human" experience from its male-dominant, limited perspective, by incorporating the experiences, ideas and feelings of women (and sensitive men) who have heretofore been invisible and unheard. The scope of true feminism is so wide, so new, so much not a "narrow-minded ideology" that it is almost impossible to grasp. I guess it would be a lot to expect of the Sacred Six.

Brenda Beagan

P.S. : To Michael Patterson's "Generalities" — Bravo! I agree 100 percent.

Family argument

To the editor,

The following is my response to Lois Corbett's review of "Open

I won't argue about the right of poor people, such as MUMS, to decent housing; it's not a debatable question, after all, because what decent person could disagree? Only let me point out, ever so mildly, that I also have rights: the right to life, the right to work in order to support my life, and the right to use the products of my work for my own benefit. It's wrong to expect others to provide me with these things. Whose rights do you propose to violate when you defend MUMS right to "public" housing, paid for by me?

Some 21 percent of my pay is deducted in the form of federal income tax, Canada Pension Plan contributions, and Unemployment Insurance premiums. (For comparison's sake, this constitutes my second-largest expense; my rent, at 25 percent, tops the bill). Twenty-one per-

