

the
brunswickan

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OPINION...

I.C.U.

BY CHRIS KANE



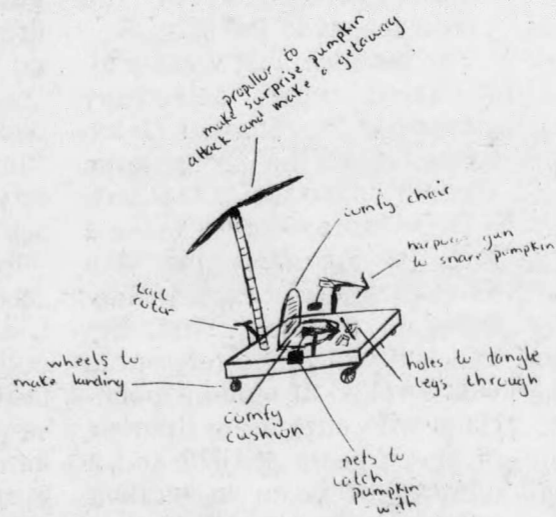
Read the editorial and letters to the editor last week? If so you couldn't miss the accusations of sexism flying around. My question is exactly what was everybody so upset about?

First there was criticism of Prof. Cummings use of "man" in stating his opinion on hunting, saying that he was neglecting half the world's population. The thing one must remember is that "man" can be used in our wonderfully versatile language to represent the human race as a whole, and it obviously did in the sense of Prof. Cummings was using it. Claiming his intent was to slight women seems an awful lot like putting words in his mouth.

Secondly, there's Chris Kane's ICU (reprinted above) where a critic points out that something horrible happens if you replace babes with "blacks" or "Indians". (I have tried this several times and have concluded that this results in absolute nonsense.) Something is sexist if it "shows prejudice or discrimination based on sex", and I can't see how ICU could be construed to be showing women inferior to men in any way except perhaps as portraying them as "objects of male desire". Now, if this is the grounds for something being sexist then anybody who "goes out to pick up men/women" must be sexist by the same token, and of course we shouldn't forget the 500 or so girls that went to see "The Bod" earlier this year; they must be sexist too.

The point I'm trying to make is not that sexism doesn't exist or that I think it's right, but rather that constantly screaming about trivialities is a lot like crying wolf. People get tired of hearing it and many not pay attention to you when you have a serious problem. Things aren't necessarily pro or anti women, there is a middle ground.

Stephen Can



THE SUPER DUPEP PUMPKIN STEALER

To the men of Aitken House: A working prototype should be in operation by next Hallowe'en. Order your very own next January. *Peter Thompson*