

# The seventh day... let me shop

I awoke last Sunday to a beautiful day. It was the kind of day which makes you glad to be alive. I laced up my boots and leapt through the front door like a kid on Christmas morning, on my way downtown to do some shopping, when all of the sudden, like a knife to the back, I remembered.

You can't shop on Sundays in Nova Scotia.

I don't get it. Nova Scotia is far from a completely religious society, so why can't I buy extension cords and CDs on Sunday. It's not my day of rest, and it's not the day of rest for a lot of other people. I don't understand why Premier

Russell MacLellan wants me to suffer for someone else's

beliefs, nor do I understand why businesses are losing profits for the same reason. The Holy Day of Rest is being forced on people that don't subscribe to Christianity.

I could not possibly care less about what the majority belief system in the world is, as long as everyone else is allowed to exist in peace. If a non-Christian wants to pick up a 40 oz. bottle of Jack Daniels or keep his store open on Sunday, what right does the Church or the government have to deny it. If it's not really acceptable for devout believers to do these things, then they can stay home. This is in complete ignorance of the non-Christian population of Halifax, for example.

I was once told that in order to feel enlightened, you need only to step into a church and stand in awe of God's presence.

I went. It didn't work. Neither did the pamphlets, or any of the commercials for *Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints*, not even Jimmy Swaggart's spell binding sermons. I am just not interested. Nothing personal. I have my own beliefs. Based on my own observations, and it may overlap Christianity, or Buddhism, or Sikhism, or it may be that the world was created by magical elves on a two-week acid bender. Whatever my beliefs,

they're mine.

Most people have no problem with that. Most Christians are open minded, and often ask me what I believe out of genuine interest. That's great. I enjoy nothing more than philosophical discourse about the possible origins of man.

But not everyone is so open minded as others when it comes to personal beliefs. I was told in junior high by a church-going classmate that I was "going to hell". That, however, did not bother me in the least. Last year I was told that I need not worry, I still have lots of time to repent all my sins. Thank God for that. All that I ask is that you don't tell me about your wrath, and I'll do you the same.

I also have a bit of a problem with the entire idea of religious followers competing for the support of other beliefs. It could be argued that this is simply a medium of spreading around the idea of religion so that all the Godless vagrants can have something to hold on to. But not everyone is in search of a new belief system. The people that are selling religion are essentially saying to those with alternative beliefs that they are wrong, and they are giving them a chance to go the right way.

Don't get me wrong. I don't think anybody should stop discussing personal beliefs for fear of offending anybody. All I am saying is that the discussions should be on a interest level, not a condescending, dogmatic condemning level, as is far too often the case.

I am also not generalizing Christians in this way. The culprits are few in contrast to the entire Christian faith, but they still number too many.

If I want to shop on Sundays I should be able to. If I want to follow my own beliefs, I should be able to. Without being persecuted by religious commandos.

I would encourage discussion on religion. I think it is a good idea for people to diversify their beliefs. Just don't tell me about how I should fear the wrath of God, or how my shopping will have to wait until Monday, and I won't tell you that the magical elves are coming to burn your house.

PATRICK BLACKIE

## Editorial

# Letters

### Get computer literate

To the editor,

Writer Darren Spitzig has some great suggestions to help students surf the 'net in his article "Your computer and the world beyond" (vol. 131, issue 6). I would also like to suggest that Dal students can come to two different sessions on the Internet given by the Killam Library.

We have a basic intro for those with no experience and one on search engines like Alta Vista and Yahoo! for those having trouble locating useful information. Pick up a brochure with times at the Reference Desk, ground floor of the Killam, or check out our web site at <http://www.library.dal.ca/killam/tutorial.html>

Fran Nowakowski  
Killam Library

### More 'bullshit'

To the editor,

I feel compelled to respond to the letter from Pam Wentzell (volume 131, number 7) with regards to this never ending "Take Back The Bullshit" issue. I, too, wish the issue would die, but I can't let it until the backlash it has bred dies with it.

So, I think we need to get a few things straight. First of all, calling December 6 "just another night" is callous and insensitive, but to state that it is also an 'inflated' event is truly horrifying comment. This is not ancient history, Dec. 6 happened in 1989 — we can all remember it. This happened in our decade, sister. And though I choke down subtle anti-woman messages each day, this was a *blazing*, I mean really burning, example of misogyny. If it is alright to chat casually about the murder of 14 women as an isolated event and if doing this is putting the world into 'perspective', I really need to catch the next train out.

As to the copies of *the Picaro* being removed, I have this sneaky suspicion that controversy moves papers. I don't know of anyone who took them or who would have taken them, so maybe, just maybe, people took them to read.

But the real disgrace, like in actual reality, is that you believe reverse sexism exists and that we,

the homogeneous feminists, are after blood and not equality. Wake up, sister. And while you are at it, wake up all those people around you. If we, as women, had the power, the privilege, or the glory to be sexist, maybe yours would be a valid concern. Right now, though, it's not the poor sad white boys fighting for their lives (unless they are gay), it's *women* who are shut in the prisons of their houses, their underpaid and undervalued work, being pushed down by patriarchal systems, if not individual men.

Yes, I wish this issue would die. I wish equality and peace on earth, too. We're just not there yet. *Look around.*

Kate Greenaway

### Thanking the Playboys

To the *Playboy* reps on campus,

I'll have to admit I was sceptical, boys. I mean *Playboy* on campus? Really, it was shocking to think that an organization I associate with the *oppression* of women would be present on a university campus. I did read a few articles about your little group, and boys I'll have to say I didn't really believe all those things you said about *Playboy* being pro-choice and pro-birth control *way* before anyone else, right? Because that's what feminism is *all* about, right? But anyway, I'll have to admit that the age old arguments against the *objectification* of women and things like that clouded my view.

Although I still don't agree with *Playboy* on campus, I do have to admit that their decision to charge women only 50 percent of the admission they charged the men shows some merit. And so I say thank you. Thank you boys for recognizing that women still receive significantly less pay than men. It's nice to see such a warm gesture from representatives of an organization I had always associated with the oppression of women. However, I will point out that the next time you host such an event, you can charge us a little more. After all, women are making about 70 cents for every dollar made by a man now!

Kirsti McHenry

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<http://is2.dal.ca/~gazette>  
Because sometimes Minesweeper gets BORING!  
THE GAZETTE rm 312, SUB

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editorial board Volume 131, no. 8

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The *Gazette* welcomes letters to the editor and commentary. All letters will be printed up to four per week. The printing of additional letters will be at the discretion of the Opinions Editor. Letters may be edited for length above 300 words and we reserve the right to edit commentary.

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Founded in 1869 at Dalhousie College, the *Gazette* is Canada's oldest student newspaper. With a circulation of 10,000, the *Gazette* is published every Thursday by the Dalhousie Gazette Publishing Society, of which all students of Dalhousie University are members. The *Gazette* exercises full editorial autonomy and reserves the right to refuse or edit any material submitted. All editorial decisions are made collectively by the staff. To become voting staff members, individuals must contribute to four issues. Views expressed in the *Gazette* are not necessarily those of the editors or the collective staff. Unless otherwise noted, all text © 1998 the Dalhousie Gazette Publishing Society. ISSN 0011-5819

Let's see what Reggie and Wilbur are saying this week. Wilbur!

That seems awfully familiar Reggie, awfully familiar!

