

LETTERS

Sexist speculation

To the Editor;

In reference to Erin Goodman's article entitled "Spanish One, Women Zero," my students and I would like the world to know that there is no truth to the rumour that Professor Ramon Moreno is a "leering pervert hovering by the swingset at a children's playground," just waiting for an opportunity to offer chocolates to unsuspecting tots.

Over a thousand Dalhousie students have come to know Moreno in the pages of my textbook, "Spanish One", and not one of them has ever described him in these unending terms. On the contrary, he has provided all of us with many hours of delightful class discussions and lively debates. Could it be that Ms. Goodman needs to present him as an "unsavory offender" in order to lend credence to her implausible argument that the textbook is "blatantly sexist"?

Surely Ms. Goodman must be aware that there is a very great difference between a book that promotes sexism and one that merely portrays a sexist character. Javier, for example, is without doubt such a character, but I have always been of the opinion that satire is a useful tool in exposing our human weaknesses for what they are. According to Ms. Goodman, however, this genre is to be condemned, and any writer who has the temerity to satirize sexism is herself guilty of being a sexist. This seems suspiciously like a *non sequitur* to me, and it would lead very quickly to a book burning spree if it were taken seriously.

Yours respectfully,
Sonia Jones

Second rate

To the Editor;

I am sure I represent many students when I speak on the terrible handling of the "Second Hand Bookstore". After several attempts at claiming my unsold books and money (from my sold books) to my dismay there is not enough money on hand to pay me. I am further inconvenienced by waiting until next week for my money. Shape up!

An unsatisfied student
Bob Pelley

Ark barks

To the Editor,

A story in your January 8 issue mentioned the rumoured raid on the Tupper building by an animal rights group. ARK II was named as the group concerned. I don't know where this information came from, but I doubt its validity, since I have been a member of ARK II for some time and knew nothing about any such plans.

ARK II members, far from being dangerous as they have been foolishly labelled, are, according to my information, sensible and compassionate peo-

ple, and I am proud to be one of them. If they are dangerous, it is only to those whose activities can't bear publicity.

Although the predicted raid did not take place, its possibility served to publicize again the matter of animal rights. The cruelty suffered by animals in many laboratories is appalling and must be stopped by whatever means is necessary. Even in the more defensible field of medical research, much of the animal use is unnecessary, but continues because researchers are not motivated to find better methods, or to use those already existing. I don't know the details of Dalhousie's research, but I find no reason to believe that Dalhousie is any more enlightened than most other institutions in this regard.

Although this raid did not take place, I hope the possibility of another will always exist. I applaud those with the courage to challenge the research establishment's self-righteousness

Yours truly,
Charmaine Wood

So there

To the Editor;

In the *Gazette's* editorial of January 29, it was stated that "the national week of action is something the CFS has because they had one last year."

Had the editor taken the time to ask anybody even remotely connected with the Canadian Federation of Students last year, he would have known that there was no National Week of Action last year as part of the CFS Campaign.

You should have invented a better reason than that.

Barney Savage

Howe Hall takes fall

To the Editor;

We were very pleased to read that other students on campus were outraged at the insensitivity and blindness of Henderson House to host a theme party mocking the Goeller family. Despite regrets voiced by Howe Hall president John Hiscock and council representative Joe Morrison after the event, the fact still remains that it was allowed to occur.

Recent statistics demonstrate that an alarming proportion of children are subject to incest every year. If Howe Hall had intended it to be a party to poke fun at "hicks", then the Goeller family need not have been mentioned. The fact that the family name was used points directly to this specific case of incest. As your paper mentioned, there are bound to be some people on campus who have had to face this problem before and it was unfair of Henderson House to try to trivialize this very touchy subject.

We are pleased to know that people have disagreed with this action but are dissatisfied that only now, after the damage has been done, are people voicing their disappointment.

Yours sincerely,
Kim Vance &
Chris Hopper

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