

EDITORIAL

Say no to racism

There's been a lot of controversy in the news lately about blacks being denied access to bars. Most recently, a new drinking establishment in Halifax was accused of refusing four black men entrance to their facility only because they are black.

I don't want to defend racial attitudes; the idea of judging a person by the colour of their skin is wrong, bigoted and entirely reprehensible. What I do want is to point out one of the main reasons why the trend towards discrimination is pervasive in downtown Halifax.

students perpetuating the problem with racist attitudes

The core of this city relies heavily on a university crowd to support its nightlife. As Rev. Darryl Gray pointed out in a speech he gave two weeks ago at King's College, bar owners' selective clientele policies tend to reflect the desires of the majority of people who are buying drinks.

When this majority is intolerant of racial diversity, bar owners cater to their customers with racist door policies.

In other words, Gray says, when a white guy comes to the door of a bar, pokes his head in and tells a bouncer it's looking pretty dark in there — he's saying I don't want to hang with blacks, I'm not going to spend money here.

Bar owners claim they are just protecting their interests by practicing mini-apartheid. Luckily, the recent masking of such practices seems to be spelling the demise of some pretty offensive watering holes.

The fear of racial violence is weighing heavily on bar owners' minds. The stigma of such violence has already closed one popular Argyle street bar. The important thing to remember, however, is that metro's university students are playing a huge part in perpetuating the problem with their racist attitudes.

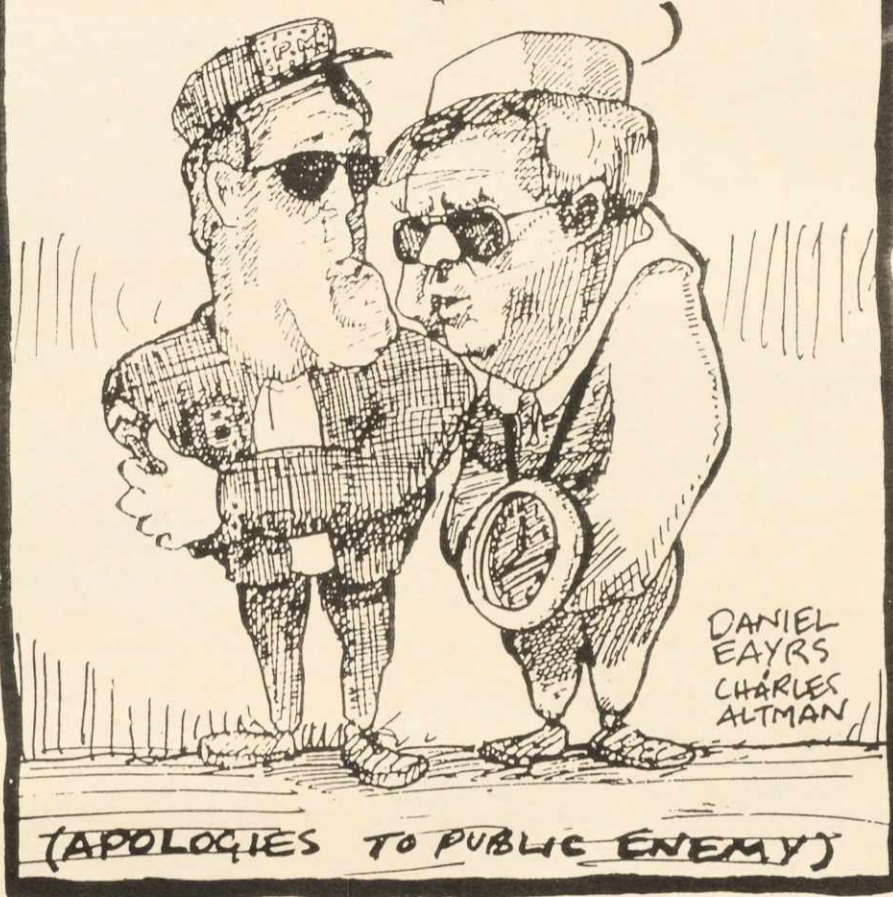
Owners can only take a portion of the blame; society has to handle the rest.

So the key to the problem is to stand up against racism. If you see your favourite club is practicing racist policies, show a touch of class — get up, leave and never go back.

Chris Lambie

FEAR OF A TORY PLANET

BROTHERS GONNA WORK IT OUT, BRI...



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LETTERS

The **Dalhousie Gazette** welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should not exceed 300 words in length and should be typed and double-spaced. The deadline for letters is Friday noon before publication. Letters may be submitted on Mac or IBM-compatible 3.5" disk.

Human beings

To the editor:

I remember being asked by the guys at work if I was a feminist. My reaction required no second thought: "Of course I'm a feminist!" Their mouths closed. I realized I had to explain myself. "Why the hell wouldn't I be? Of course I want equal pay, equal job opportunities, equal benefits, equal respect; in short to be a valued/able member in my society." Silly me, I thought it was obvious that I would support a movement that I see (I know the feminist movement means different things to different people) as helping to better my living conditions, those of women around the world, and those of every living on this planet.

I kind of hoped they saw feminism this way too.

So how do we as women (in general) and I as a woman (specifically) broaden attitudes? In my opinion, by celebrating, not by segregating. Specifically, I do not agree with excluding men from the "Take Back the Night March." In this case, I feel that the issue involves men just as much as women, and those who want to be a part of the solution,

should be encouraged to do so. I don't feel that I'm the one to say, "No, ya know, you're a man, and well, you just can't know what it's like to be afraid of the dark, beaten, raped, bullied..."

In "What a wet and wild womyn's night out" (*Gazette*, Sept. 26) march co-organizer Maureen Meek says that "I do not think that men feel the same way as women do. I don't mean to minimize the effect of violence affecting men..." OK, so maybe most men don't know what it's like to feel afraid on dark streets as do most women. I do agree with that. But so what? I'm all for giving men the chance to try and find out. I don't know what it's like to be a Native in this society. Yet I was invited to participate in a sacred Sweetgrass ceremony at the opening of the Dal Art Gallery's "Changers: A Spiritual Renaissance." I was invited to participate, to experience, not merely "cheer on from the sidelines."

I don't want the protection or permission of men to walk the streets at night either. But I do want women and men to be part of the solution — not as

separate genders, but as human beings.

Jennifer Wain

Top ten things

To the editor:

Here they are — the top ten things I've noticed since returning to Dalhousie:

10. The Dunn-Howe Hall parking lot... PAVED! (One of the four signs of the apocalypse, I believe... oh well, that's all we need — a haven for skateboarders.)

9. The LSC smoking area... erased from existence! (To quote the bible, Hallelujah!)

8. No more Coke! (The horror, the horror... at the time this was written, however, Coke was still available at the left-most vending machine behind the LSC cafeteria. Go there now! Organize protests! Rebel!)

7. There has been a gross miscalculation by the Registrar's office on the capacity of evening classes. (To paraphrase I was one of four students turned away from my evening psychology class. Bummer.)

6. I saw a female student relaxing one sunny afternoon on Studley field, with a cute

little bunny nuzzling in her lap. (Oh, kind of makes you want to snuggle up with someone...)

5. All the Macs in Killam room B507 are gone. (Sniff, sniff... you don't feel like snuggling anymore, do you? Oh well, you know engineers, they love to change things.)

4. A mandatory Dalplex fee. (What?!? First the Pepsi takeover, now this? Even SMU has a Tim Horton's. What next... an increase in library fees?)

3. Overdue fees at the Killam library have increased. (Move over Kreskin, I'm on a roll!)

2. Some Registrar's office staff still have no idea that the co-op programme exists at Dal. (Part of conversation regarding my fall workterm registration: Registrar: "You have listed here CS 8893A." Myself: "Yes, that's right." Registrar (a bit confused): "Excuse me, but how many years have you been here?")

And the number one thing I've noticed since returning to Dalhousie:

1. If you're a Dal student, you never leave the campus. You're always coming back for something!

Craig R. Falkenham

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