

## LETTERS

## Lest we forget

To The Editor,

I am a Dalhousie student, and an active member of the Dalhousie community; but more importantly, I am a Canadian. This country is held in high esteem throughout the world as a protector of freedom, and a champion of democracy.

The very same democracy that allows someone like Joe Tratnik to openly flaunt his opinions in the Gazette, that ultimate practitioner of free speech, the student paper. While I may not always agree with Joe, I often can see his point. That was until I read his article "What are we remembering?"

Sorry, but he is dead wrong! Canada would not be the country it is today without the efforts of those who have fought against oppression, tyranny, and genocide. Going off to war is not an easy thing to do, and those who have volunteered to serve this country, in the midst of terrible violence, exposed to all that the elements have to offer, and knowing that they very well could die themselves deserve to be saluted. One day of the year is not nearly enough to honour those who have given their lives for their country, but since it is all that is asked of you, I don't think it is that big of a problem to at least put your hand over your heart, and observe a moment of silence for those who have died in the name of freedom.

As a brother of Phi Kappa Pi, Canada's Only National Fraternity, I am appalled by your ignorance, but I will try to forgive you as I attend the Remembrance Day ceremony at the Grand Parade on Saturday, November 11. And as we lay a wreath for all our brothers who have fallen for this country, I will do my best to ignore those of you who do not care that these people have paid the ultimate sacrifice in an attempt to ensure that you have a future, and that you have a country worth living in. That's the Canadian way!

Finally, for any of you who wonder about the meaning of the phrase "lest we forget," look no further than Joseph Tratnik; personally I can't find a better example of what it means to forget than an article I read today.

Thanks for your time.

Andy Doyle

## Nursing rebuts

To the editor,

I am writing to you regarding your opinion piece entitled "DSU democracy: use it or lose it."

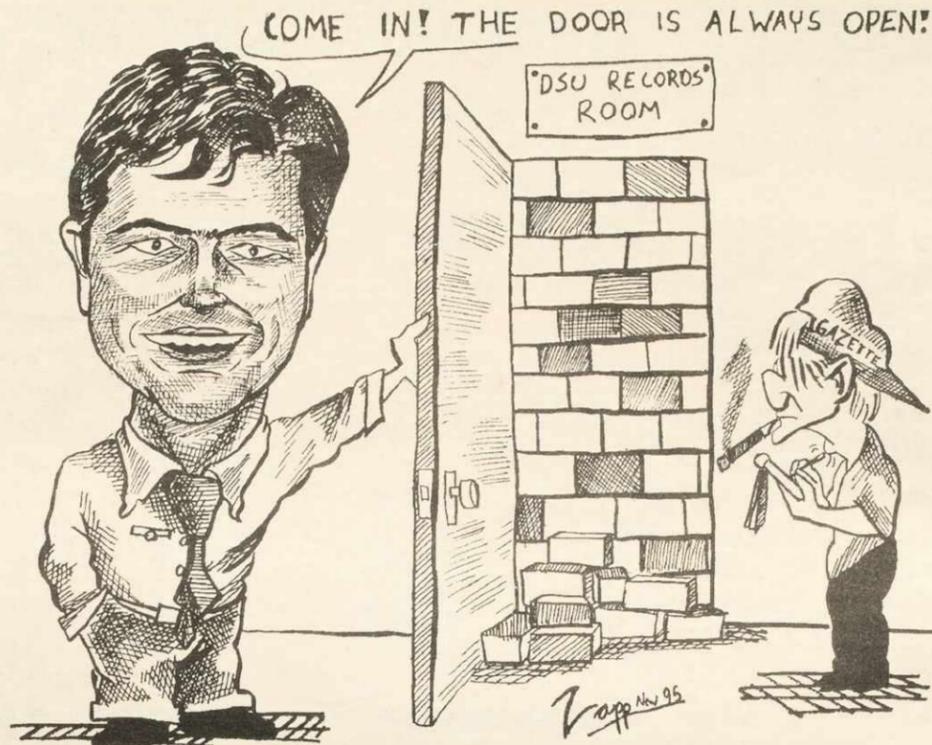
I wish to commend you for creating controversy and instilling discussion around the lack of awareness students may have of the Student Union and the councillors that represent them. However, I was appalled by your comments regarding the DSU councillors. I would like to point out that your comments were generalized and I wish to defend the councillor who represents the Dalhousie Nursing Society.

Christina Butler, the DSU rep for the Nursing Society, has always represented our organization in a respectful manner. Her attendance at the DSU council meetings have been outstanding and she has reported to the Nursing Society on a regular basis. Since her appointment over the last seven months, she has managed to encourage members of our Society to participate in imperative DSU meetings and establish a DSU News bulletin board in our student lounge. In my opinion, she does not represent what you refer to as one of these "jokers who only sit on council because they think it will look good on their resume." Christina has always demonstrated a sincere commitment to our student society.

I would ask that you acknowledge her contribution to the nursing students at Dalhousie.

Sincerely,

Ismael Aquino  
President, Dalhousie  
University Nursing Society



## Fundamental freedoms notwithstanding

### EDITORIAL

The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms guarantees every Canadian four fundamental freedoms; they are: "a) freedom of conscience and religion; b) freedom of thought, belief, opinion, and expression, including freedom of the press and other media of communication; c) freedom of peaceful assembly; and, d) freedom of association."

Theoretically, the only limits on these freedoms are those which are "prescribed by law as can be demonstrably justified in a free and democratic society."

However, it seems that freedom 'b' is taking a bit of a beating these days.

Monday's protest of the fact that ATV censored an episode of *Deep Space Nine* is indicative of this. The show was aired on another network an hour before it was shown on ATV. The other network showed two women locked in a loving kiss. ATV decided that the kiss was inappropriate for the local viewing audience, and cut it out.

I saw the show on the other network. Typical *Deep Space Nine* stuff. Embrace, kiss, cut to commercial.

Why did ATV feel that it was offensive? Well, I don't know for sure, but I suspect that they thought that the material was inappropriate for conservative little Halifax — that it was not within the perceived "community standard." Maybe they were afraid that people would complain.

Sadly, they're probably right.

In 1994, CKDU, Dalhousie's Radio station, was given harsh conditions on its license - the first of their kind to have been handed down to any station in Canada. This was primarily a reaction to complaints that were received in response to programming aired on All Day All Gay, a broadcast in celebration of Gay Pride.

The complaints were about pieces that members of CKDU did not regard as offensive, and since then the response of programmers, some anyway, has been to become paranoid.

Kinda like ATV.

The choice that people make in these situations when stations censor themselves, is whether to air something that may offend

somebody with the consequence of perhaps losing the station's broadcast license; or instead, just to cut it with nobody the wiser, and continue peacefully, license and perceived freedom intact.

Aside from the fact that an obscene number of books and periodicals get stopped at the border into our country, publications seem to have a bit more leeway.

But they aren't free from censorship either. Freedom of the press only goes so far in this country.

Most of the time, in periodicals, it's the advertisers who do most of the censoring (at student papers, it tends to be the Student Governments, but in the real Canada, governments recognize the freedom of the press).

Think about this example: there's a tobacco company which is willing to pay a newspaper \$1000 a month in ads. That \$1000 will keep the financially unstable newspaper in business.

So someone from this tobacco company has been doing some reading, and has seen an article

printed in another paper that told all sorts of evil truths about tobacco. Logically, the company is of the opinion that they can't advertise in a paper that makes them look stupid, and tells the little financially unstable paper that they'll pull their ads if the paper runs a similar article.

What choice would you make? I suspect that most people would probably just stop any plans to run that similar article and smile their faces off to the advertiser every time the cheque came in.

If you look for it, censorship is everywhere. Just look for what is conspicuously missing. It's been censored.

Imagine a country without censorship. Imagine a place where someone sees something that they find offensive and they just flip the page, or channel. Imagine a place where parents sit down with their children and teach them why something is offensive so that children inherit their parent's values.

Imagine a place where every citizen is granted the freedom of thought, belief, opinion, and expression, including freedom of the press and other media of communication.

JEN HORSEY

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### Education at Dal

To the Editor:

After 53 years, the School of Education building at Dalhousie University was demolished in late July. At 6090 University Avenue, there is an indescribable smaller School of Education building.

Over the course of 71 years, the discipline of Education has been part of Dalhousie University. In the 1924-25 calendar, beneath the heading of Psychology-Education, the first Education courses were listed. Any learner could enroll in Educational Psychology and/or the History of Education.

As an individual and separate department, Education was recorded in another calendar. During 1927-28 academic year, Education became part of the campus.

I am a graduate of Mount Allison University and as a student I did a year of study at McMaster University. During the latter part of June, the course entitled 'Gender Issues In Education,' that was taught by Dr. Ann Manicom Ph. D., I found to be a rewarding learning experience.

John Dewey, who is acknowledged as the pre-eminent educational theorist of the 20th century, once said: "Teachers are expected to be psychologists, sociologists, social workers, babysitters, coaches, club advisors, and the police." The concluding of the Faculty of Education at Dalhousie University is grave. Premier John P. Savage's Liberal Government's teacher education programming in reference to Dalhousie University has gone against a significant historical tradition.

Respectfully written,

Kevin B. Bowering, B.A.

### No victim

To the editor,

Perhaps you read the Gazette — vol. 128, no. 9, Thursday, Nov. 9, 1995 — opinion section piece "just wondering..." by D.A. Knight.

In D.A. Knight's comments he/she mentioned an American student busking outside the Grawood — "making a public spectacle of himself by literally begging for money on his knees in the rain."

Well, D.A. Knight and anyone else who saw that piece, I am that American student.

Quite honestly, after reading D.A. Knight's words, I felt awful. He ended his opinion with the words "Do you feel unwelcome? Just wondering." What really upset me was that he used me as an example of someone who is a victim of the cold harsh world of Dalhousie University. At least, that's how I read it. The other stories in his article seemed to be truly tragic stories, and I do feel bad for those people. But please let me take the time to clear my name as someone who feels unwelcome.

Being here at Dalhousie has been one hell of a great time so far — mi-

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