

EDITORIAL

Where to draw the line?

How different the political landscape would be today if we did not know that Brian Mulroney had showered with his landlady's daughter when he was in law school at Dalhousie?

We know this little tidbit courtesy of John Sawatsky's tell all book *The Politics of Ambition*. The question is: do we the public, need to know such intimate details about our political leaders?

Is it necessary to look into politician's closets, bedrooms and bathrooms?

Sawatsky says if he had not included these facts in his biography of the Prime Minister it would not have been an accurate portrayal of the man and his character. It would have been a tame, polite, and flat-footed account of Mulroney. But really, what does something that happened thirty years ago tell us about today's man.

The challenge of course is to try to deny a history of delving into peoples bedrooms and closets. Contrary to popular belief this ethical dilemma has been raging since the beginning of time. It began when news was spread word of mouth. The decision to be made was what was news and what was gossip.

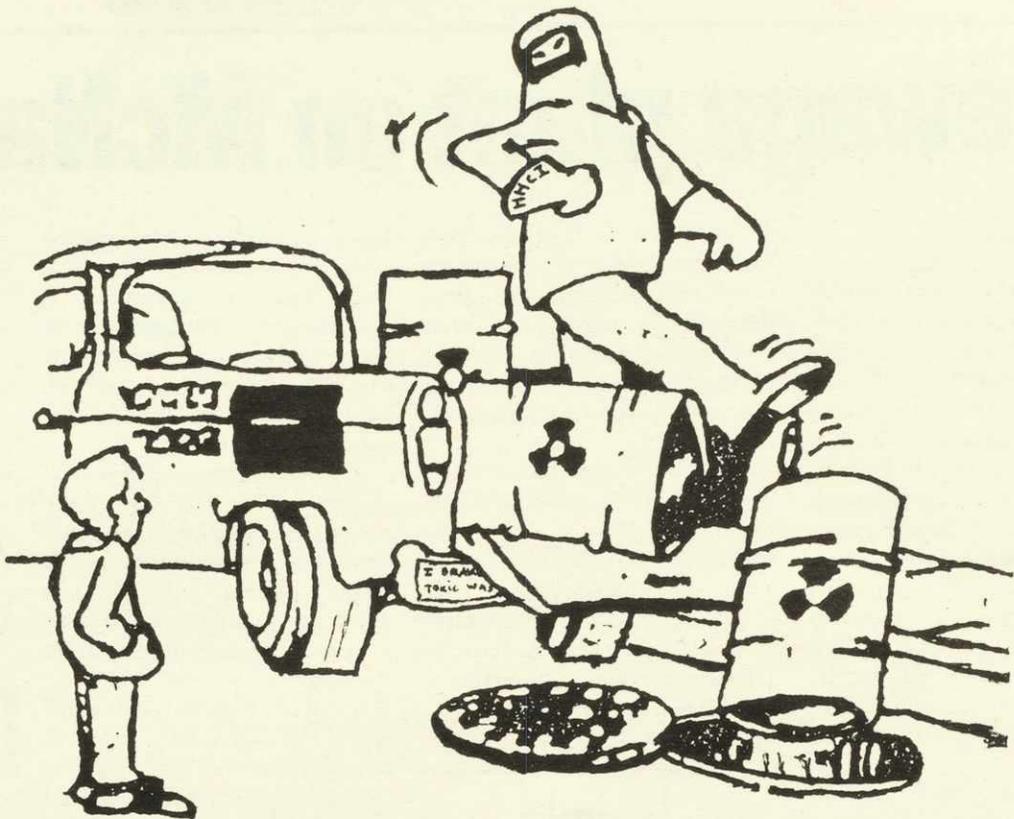
Ever since print came on the scene, editors have been fighting to make the distinction between sensationalism and news. In the 16th century the Italian Gazettes were plagued with this problem just as in the 20th century the Canadian newspapers are desperately trying not to cross the line which is always on the move.

The beauty of this is that there are always people ready to denounce the absurd and the inflammatory, but there are always more people ready to read it. This is difficult for papers who try not to cater to sensationalist journalism. They don't sell as many papers.

Michael Valpy of the *Globe and Mail* says that his paper never prints anything unless it adheres to the *Globe's* strict journalistic principles. He then proceeds to defend the front page announcement of the birth of Pierre Trudeau's new child as appropriate. He says it was a happy story they thought should be told, not a ploy to attract the sensation seeking market.

I don't know about you, but I don't buy it. I did buy that *Globe* though.

Marie-France LeBlanc



**"Radioactive? Hell, no kid!
This is... uh... a... sewage treatment!"**

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.

Bike thieves immoral

To the editor:

I very much object to the article on bike thieves by Wilson Lee (*Gazette*, Oct 24). Lee portrays the bike thief, an otherwise indolent, idiotic, and evil breed of person, as some sort of economic freedom fighter and altruistic one man wealth redistribution scheme. I do not agree with this glamorization of a "profession" that is practised only by the uneducated, lazy, and immoral. I know what these types are like from experience working in a men's jail and their acitons are mainly for the purpose of their own materialistic pursuits and the fact they they are too stupid to get a decent paying job. "Simon" from U of T is also just as bad as the common degenerate bike thief. He supported the local ring of thieves by buying a stolen bike after his was stolen; I see no logic in this.

I know many bike couriers, and I know many who have had bikes worth at least \$2,000 stolen. It seems particularly disgusting to me that bikes like

that should end up in the hands of people who have no regard for their signifiacne. The couriers I know say there is "a special place in hell for bike thieves," and after reading Wilson Lee's article I think that a special place in hell is too good for them. The bike thieves are the stupid ones and not the cyclist as "Bernie" says in the article. Some cyclists actually need their bike for transportation and use it to make a living; unfortunately they are also vulnerable to these low-life thieves.

J.C. Olson

Don't fuck with my bike

To the editor:

I would like to take issue with the article by Wilson Lee in the October 24 *Gazette*; it was an irresponsible and asinine item. The fact that the author allowed a bike thief who makes \$1,000 a day to characterize himself as an "opportunistic entrepreneur" and "Robin Hood" without questioning him is incompetent. The entire tone of the

article was that the thief was a good guy for redistributing bikes and that it was "no big deal" for those who had their bikes stolen. Personally my bike is my soul means of transportation. I can neither afford insurance nor the expense of buying a new bike. If my bike was stolen it would be more than an inconvenience it would be devastating.

The *Gazette* is just as culpable as the author for not only printing this prattle but for prefacing it with the headline "Steals bikes from the rich, sells to the poor." Personally if I ever saw "David" in action I'd freeze his head with freon and shatter it with a hammer.

E. M. Gilmour

Subliminal ignorance

To the editor:

I couldn't believe my eyes when I was laying out the *Gazette* this week and I saw your Ten Penny ad on page 16. The message in the background graphic was almost too obvious to call sublimi-

nal.

I'm no psychology major or anything, but I saw at least one naked body hidden in the clouds behind the ad.

The Webster's dictionary definition of subliminal reads: existing or functioning below the level of conscious awareness. This image definitely falls into that category.

"Ten penny ale - the taste of independence," is the catch phrase burnt into the foreground of the ad.

Is this supposed to be a reference to sexual freedom? If it is, tying it up into a package selling alcohol is a pretty crass marketing ploy.

I don't think its an over-reaction to say this kind of advertisement panders to the dangerous relationship between alcohol and sex we find at universities. Many of the rapes on Canadian campuses are alcohol related.

I can understand that maybe you missed the connection, but now that the issue has been brought to your attention, what do you plan to do about it?

Lara Morris

P.S. Thanks for extending the letters deadline, membership does have its privileges.

THE GAZETTE

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announcements is noon on Friday before publication (Thursday of each week). Submissions may be left at the SUB Enquiry Desk c/o *The Gazette*. Commentary should not exceed 500 words. Letters should not exceed 300 words. No unsigned material will be accepted, but anonymity may be granted upon request. Advertising copy deadline is noon Monday

before publication. • *The Gazette* offices are located on the third floor of the SUB. Come up and have a coffee and tell us what's going on. • The views expressed in *The Gazette* are not necessarily those of the Students' Union, the editors or the collective staff. •