

LETTERS

You forgot to wipe

To the editors:

Let me start by saying, I am not heterophobic. Many of my close friends are straight. We have much in common and enjoy each others' company. Because of my own happy interaction with many so-called "breeders", I feel compelled to respond to the vitriol characterizing many responses to "A Gay Men's Guide to Erotic Safer Sex".

SEX PANIC If the volume of letters to the editor or public forum participants are indicators, most heterosexuals are lost in a sea of idle political chit-chat. If these 'freedoms' you think you're fighting for mean anything beyond an impassioned essay or two in your 'formative years', then don't be another het liberal 'pulling out' just when the going gets 'hot'. In the wake of this article, two student newspapers have been shut down. This should cue you to the fact that "A Gay Men's Guide to Erotic Safer Sex" is as much about conventional morality and social control as it is about gay male sexuality.

So, when a bouquet of gays thrust Raghu's hungry and safe mouth into the pages of OUR newspaper, reactionaries crawl into bed with liber-



als, fouling the air with cries of "All is obscene", "Think of the children" and "Safer Sex works best if de-sexualized".

I'd like to speak for those heterosexuals under-represented in the pages of the *Gazette*. If you feel threatened by the gays turning the *Gazette* into a tight little nest of vipers, take heart: it won't last. Though it comes too slowly for those silenced by the intolerant, change will come. With the morrow, comes the dawn, renewal, a re-affirmation of all that is best about heterosexuality. Harden your resolve. Pro-creation is good.

Just kidding.

Dan Hart, author of "Or Get Off the Toilet"

Jane Farrow, (Italics)

Engineering opinion

To the editors:

I will not, in this letter, address "the article" (as it is now known) but rather a letter submitted to the *Gazette* by a Mr. John Carter on March 14. If I were to address the article I would be dragging out a debate that has already been acted upon by the DSU.

In his letter Mr. Carter states that the "Engineering Society of Dalhousie University delivered a letter of protest to the offices of the *Gazette*."

Most importantly, I would like to clarify to the rest of the population at Dal that the Engineering Society has more than one member. It may be small, but it is not that small!

Secondly, in delivering that letter to the *Gazette*, and nowhere in that letter, did I infer that I was representing my society.

Mr. Carter, may I now suggest that you write a letter of apology to the engineering students at Dalhousie. The conclusions you make about the whole society from MY letter are absolutely ludicrous. Do you actually believe the nonsense you mentioned in your letter?

Now to address a more important issue. In its code of ethics the *Gazette* states that it "reserves the right to refuse any material submitted of a... libelous nature." If this is so how can they justify the printing of Mr. Carter's letter? The reason I was given by one of the editors was that "it fit". It fit? Is that an excuse for printing a letter that demeans a fellow university society? I think not.

Simon J. Patterson



Voice from 'the inside'

To the editors:

Dear Dyke-at-Large (*Gazette* March 21) — Bravo! Thank you for an excellent description of what it's like on "the inside". I've heard (and told) similar stories of what it's like for lesbians in Med school, Grad school, Social Work, etc... But Law is probably the worst.

Lesbians in all these fields share the experience of trying to exist in a fundamentally conservative and patriarchal structure/institution — academia. But what may be unique to law is the almost unrelentingly



patriarchal nature of the materials students have to learn there. Which, in turn, tends to attract particular sorts of students...

I don't envy your struggle (nor that of First Nations or Black law students) — the struggle to keep in focus who you are, what you believe, while trying to learn enough of "their" rules to get through.

But it's wonderful to know you are out there. You can do it! Again, Bravo! Keep on keeping on. Work hard. Survive. But stay honest, stay true to yourself. Make sure you stay really clear about who you want to be accountable to — e.g. your lesbian community. And work out ways to keep yourself accountable to those who matter to you.

It won't be easy. And when and if it stops hurting, starts to get comfortable — that's the time to worry. It prob'ly means you're losing something important — you.

Good luck!

Another dyke-at-large on campus

Dyer defended

To the editors:

Reading Paul Webster's article of Gwynne Dyer's recent visit to Halifax reminded me why I stopped reading the *Gazette*.

I'm disgusted by the "holier than thou" policy of the paper on the Persian Gulf War. It has never occurred to you and the staff than one can easily want peace yet still, on principle, have to support a particular war. I admit that I was unable to attend Mr. Dyer's lecture, yet I am very familiar with his work and understand the supportive position he has taken in this conflict.

Dyer is a respected policy analyst and historian. While Webster may be right in the lecturer's desire to "Prevent a third world war", this does not mean that he will be "the champion of the cause" in all cases. Perhaps Mr. Dyer, as millions of other Canadians, saw the deliberate

Iraqi aggression as justification for war and coupled with his understanding of international climate he decided to publically support the war — this time. Perhaps Webster MAY be able to criticize Dyer when he gains the same respect. Until that time he has no right to manipulate comments to fit his (or the *Gazette's*) opinions on government policy.

This article just strengthens my view of the *Gazette* — the necessity for writers and editorial staff to grow up and start learning what real journalism is.

Craig MacKinnon

University of King's College (Political Science)

Students lost in smoke cloud

It is safe to assume that almost every Dalhousie Student at some time during their academic career will enter the Life Sciences Centre (LSC). This multi-purpose building afford many faculties the opportunity to hold their classes. Why, however, must the building have a designated smoking section? Since smoking is a violation of a non-smoker's right to breathe clean air, and secondary smoke is almost as harmful as the original smoke, smokers should smoke their offensive cigarettes outside.

As the designated smoking area in the LSC presently exists in a central, high-traffic area, the main concern is that students must pass through it en route to their mandatory lectures. Even if it were possible to avoid this area, the smoke is still being recirculated and as a result, permeates the entire building. The LSC, an institution in which frontier research is conducted to deal with concerns regarding society's health issues, also serves as a recreational and social gathering area.

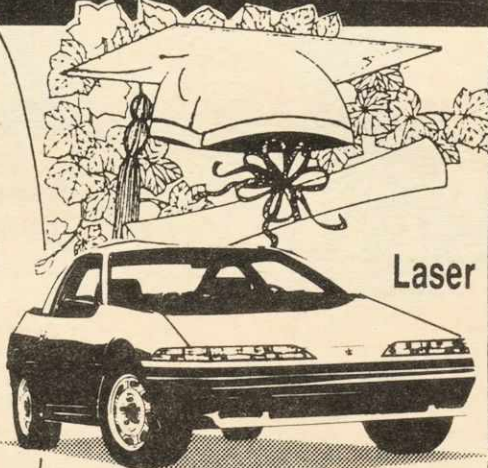
In an effort to effect a change, Nov. 1990 saw members of the Dalhousie Science Society address these concerns by circu-

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March 29th: Good Friday 10:30 a.m.

Sermon: *We Know This Day Well* - Rev. John E. Boyd

Music: Allegri, Ournemire, Messiaen

March 31: Easter - 10:30 a.m. - Baptism, Holy Communion

Sermon: *Alive in Christ* - Rev. Adele Crowell

Music: Wood, Holst, Handel, Darke, Willan

March 31: Easter 2 - 10:30 a.m.

Sermon: *Miss Muriel Bent, Missionary*

Music: Mendelssohn, Howells, Bach

STUDENT LUNCHEON EACH SUNDAY

Ministers: Rev. John E. Boyd, Rev. Adele Crowell

Director of Music: David MacDonald