

## ED/OP

## LETTERS CONTINUED

are full of amazing ideas, thoughts, and feelings. We are nurturing, caring and giving yet we are strong. We seek the company of others, but at times we want and need to stand on our own. We are often "gentle angry people" but are justified in being so.

It is important to remember that although the Week of Reflection is over the violence is not. Just last Thursday, November 14, a woman was attacked by two men in the Rebecca Cohn parking lot at 6 p.m. Although it would be easier to ignore the violence and the inner pain such violence brings, pain brings anger and from this anger we can draw strength and power and freedom. We encourage you not to become complacent in our world and in the struggle for equal rights and equal lives for all people.

Many thanks to the DSU, the Arts Society, and DAGS for your support for our efforts, to CEAG and the Sociology, Social Anthropology departments for the activities they held and to all other societies who lent a hand during the Week. Thanks to all the speakers, presenters, and performers for your wisdom and hope, and to Heather Macmillan, Barbara Harris, and Alex Boston for their help and support.

I would personally like to extend a HUGE thank you to the organizer's of the Week's events: Lara, Sarah, Candida, Jay, Hermie, Melanie, Andrea, and Miriam. The Week's success can be attributed to your hard work and dedication. Finally, thanks to all the members of the Dalhousie Women's Group who took time out of their busy lives to work at tables, advertising, and on banners. (The list could go on and on.) You are all amazing women and I am proud of this chance to speak for you. Thanks again.

Gayle Heinrich

## Loftier goals

To the editor:

I picked up the latest issue of the *Gazette* (Nov. 14) to find your supplement entitled "Week of Reflection" which concentrated on women's issues. Before I go any further I would like it stated that I agree with all the opinions in the supplement and yes there is violence against and yes there is sexism and all the problems outlined in the articles presented in the supplement. However, I cringe when I see evidence of male bashing and sweeping generalisations that are implied in some of the articles.

Shannon Gowans' editorial about the tragedy in Montreal angered me when she wrote "[violence] will happen until society changes to perceive all violence against women is abhorrent." Ms. Gowans is making a valid point; violence against women is abhorrent, but so is violence against anyone, man or woman. The press has put major emphasis on the problem of violence against women (see the latest issue of *Maclean's*) but shouldn't we put the emphasis on violence against society in general? For every woman killed, three men are killed in a violent act. Where are the shelters and hotlines for boys who are sexually assaulted or even for the men who feel they are unfairly prejudiced against in custody battles? They don't exist. Where were the candlelight vigils for the 17 young men who were brutally killed at the hands of Michael Dahmer in Milwaukee? There weren't. Like in Montreal these men were killed because of their sex. Dahmer went after young men and boys. Is this any less brutal than the massacre in Montreal? No, it is violence and it should be abhorred because it's violence, not because of who the victims were.

I don't believe in these men's groups or anything like that, but I believe that as humans we should have loftier goals than just concen-

trating on violence against one part of society. We should aim to eradicate all violence, not just that perpetrated against women.

Sexism exists, no question. But, so does racism and all "isms" for that matter. We should aim to eradicate all of these not just sexism. We should have a society that is free of bias and prejudice. Let us as a society work together rather than have self interest groups tear us apart. Do you think the death threats against *Pandora* would exist if they merely said "No, we won't print your letter because we don't agree with you." There would not have been the battle that is currently raging. What *Pandora* did was choose sides. They wouldn't print the letter because it was written by a man. Let's put aside petty differences and live together and work out our problems. If we try we can do it.

Jonathan Lax

## Don't give em the chance

To the editor:

Finishing my weekday night shift at the Killam Library at 11 p.m. I see without fail, our dependable Tiger Patrol braving the night once again. However, there is one problem. These individuals are as lonely as Maytag repairmen! I have yet to see anyone take advantage of this valuable service. Instead, I see single individuals walking across campus, late at night alone. I really hope that it will not take another assault on campus for interest in this program to be shown. Their very presence is reassuring, but I wish that students would take advantage of the program that our student union is paying for.

I am in a professional school where the female to male ratio is over 20:1 and I've given my fair share of walks home for my classmates late at night. We all look out for one another, and that's great but not everyone is as

lucky. For those of you who find it necessary to walk home late at night on campus, call the Tiger Patrol; I don't want to pick up a copy of the *Gazette* some Friday and find out that another assault has taken place

that may have been avoided. I know that this is not a solution to the problem of on-campus assaults, but it's a good first step by not giving those bastards the chance.

Mark MacNeill



Graphic/Press

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Exotic Eating - Dining a delight at Indian restaurant" - Summer Sun, Thur., Sept. 4, 1986  
Suggested by Japanese tourist book