

# letters

## Students' Union: naughty or nice?

The November 8th meeting of the Dalhousie Student Union saw the introduction of a motion to have the Union revoke its financial support for purchasing a Christmas tree and decorations for the Student Union Building. The motion was met with strong and violent verbal opposition and resulted in a very abusive debate.

Many representatives and executive believed that the motion was an attack on their religion, i.e., Christianity, while others denied that a Christmas tree and decorations were Christian symbols or icons. Firstly, to deny the fact that a Christmas tree and decorations are not Christian seems almost ridiculous. I am not aware of any other religious affiliation or organization which uses these symbols. Also, add the fact that it is the birth of Christ that is being celebrated and it seems difficult to deny.

The other issue, that this motion was an attack on Christianity, was

not accurate. It was definitely a misinterpretation of the motion and issue at hand. I am often met with contempt and anger when I indicate I am a vegetarian. It has been met with much antagonism. Others somehow interpret my vegetarianism as an attack on their personal belief and in

### backlash from the DSU

response, attack my beliefs. I am often placed in the position of justifying my eating habits. The problem is that I do not make any judgement of others because they choose to consume flesh. It is the insecurity of others that makes them angry and judgmental. The same seems to have occurred in this case. This issue was not intended to be an attack on others, although that is how it was interpreted and a backlash from the DSU resulted. The motion was try-

ing to address the fact that the DSU prioritizes Christianity over other religions by financially supporting Christian practices and ignoring all others. Bearing in mind that the DSU is a secular organization it seems strange enough that such an organization would have any religious affiliation, let alone only one exclusively.

It is important to realize that other religions are being oppressed or at best ignored in this practice of purchasing and displaying a Christmas tree and decorations. It is sometimes necessary to place your own prejudices, desires and wants aside in order to hear the voices and concerns of others. Christianity is not in any danger of being abandoned on this continent. It is alive and well.

If the DSU wishes to truly reflect the diversity and concerns of the student population it should encourage religious groups to display decorations and celebrate their holidays, whenever they occur, and for the DSU to refrain from making specific

religious alliances. The other alternative is to treat all religions with equal respect and financial commitment, not selectively choosing one over all others. It is not that any member of the DSU need deny their own religious concerns but to embrace the celebration of other reli-

### might does not make right

gious holidays instead of neglecting them.

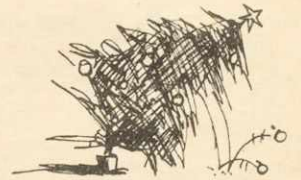
Might does not make right in our society. Because one religion has majority support, placing aside the fact that it is extremely oppressive in this case, does not give it absolute authority. Patriarchal capitalism is predominant in our society but that does not give it any inherent worth. The same applies for Christianity.

This is not a new concern on campus. It has been addressed yearly

for quite some time. *The Gazette* has been approached on an annual basis and it has been addressed in meetings of the DSU in many years past. It is necessary that the DSU realize that it is often important for others to step aside to allow others to be heard and for them to establish a voice. It is not adequate to say that they will allow for others to celebrate their religion and then tacitly sit by while supporting Christianity.

Christians must realize that they are not the only religious group that exists and make room and space for others to be heard and to express themselves. We need diverse celebrations if we are to reflect the true nature of students and the community.

Anthony Roberts



## Letters

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Apparently, the NOI is not made up of convicts, yet earlier in this article, Malcolm X was described as one, nor are the uneducated part of the NOI - yet elsewhere in the column, Adams refers to the elementary school education of both X and Elijah Mohammed, the founder of the NOI itself.

It is apparently not for us to judge the reasons why X left the NOI (although he stated his reasons clearly: he found the NOI to be racist) yet Adams

has no qualms over laying the blame white oppressors, despite clear links between the assassins themselves and the NOI. Evidently he is in a position to give judgement where we lesser mortals are not.

It is unfortunate that the *Dalhousie Gazette* should choose to print a column that it is not only poorly written and thought out but also overtly racist. How would you receive an application to do a weekly column on German Pride? Perhaps you should remember that the downtrodden can be just as fascist as the rest of us.

If we are going to survive together (something the "Blacks on Black" col-

umn has indicated its opposition to in past weeks, coming out instead in favour of apartheid, with blacks having their own state - citizenship being determined on what could only be racial grounds) we must learn to think in a new way, and stop this futile posturing. Artificial boundaries such as our level of skin pigmentation only give ammunition to hate-mongers such as David Duke and Louis Farrakhan. We realize that many will condemn our views but we ask that you think rather than react. This is the only hope for the only race that matters - the human race.

Evolution Now!

D. Cardy, J. Hamilton, K. MacDonald, J. Tracy, C. Tracy, A. Simmons, A. Duke

## Wake up, get a life

To the editors:

This is an open letter directed at those mindless members of the Phi Kappa Pi fraternity who recently thought it necessary to deface the public wading pool at Flynn Park with such redundancies as "Janis Joplin R.I.P." and "Jester and the Fool", as well as the Phi Kappa Pi symbols.

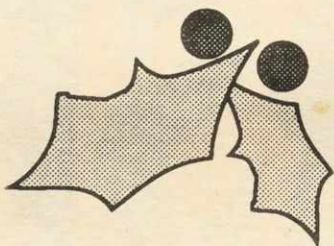
It is sad that members of a university community are not able to find a more productive and creative way to express themselves than to vainly try to immortalize their thoughts, however sim-

ple, in green spray paint. Graffiti can be, and has been used to present views that contradict the system or that directly oppose particular aspects of a system that may warrant such criticism.

In merely using it as a tool of vandalism, though, you are in no way rebelling against anything but only show yourselves to be symptoms of a greater conformity. I imagine that if you'd had anything valid to say (write), you would not have done it in such a remote location where only children and park-goers are likely to see it.

Finally, in committing such an act, you not only show your ignorance through your stupidity, you also give your fraternity a bad name. Wake up, grow up, get a life.

Steve Mills



*T 'is  
the season  
to reach the  
Student  
Market!*

## COMMITTEE OPPORTUNITY Sexual Harassment Committee: Male Undergraduate

Interested individuals must pick up application and submit it no later than November 19, 1992

Applications may be picked up and dropped off in Room 222 of the Student Union Building.

For more information  
Please contact:  
**Dennis MacNeil**  
Executive Vice President  
Dalhousie Student Union  
Phone 494-1106



Dalhousie  
Student  
Union