

The power of the pen

So, a few weeks ago I sat down to write an article about the most recent assault on campus.

I'd been in the same seat a few weeks earlier writing about another assault, and I know I'll probably be here again in a few weeks, writing up yet another one.

I don't mean to sound as procedural as I must. This is not something to let you know I write a lot of articles.

Truth is, I've hated writing those articles. I stalled until I really could do nothing else but write the damn thing.

I guess my hesitation stems out of two things — I'm a young woman, and I'm a young journalist.

I've sat in front of this computer so many times — really too many, I think. Almost always I find I have let my mind wander to the victim. (I know you aren't supposed to do that if you're writing about something, you must be objective, have no thoughts or emotions.)

The two most recent assault victims were both 19, both women lived in residence, both were in their first year.

Their names were never mentioned, and we don't know anything about them. But the thought of them remained in my mind.

And both women, I imagine, dreaded reading about that awful experience with the unknown prick, along with the hundreds of other people who read the paper that week.

It was that realization that stopped me cold in front of the computer.

So I tried to motivate myself to write the story be-

cause people said it had to be told. I had a conversation about this with my roommate. She said "there are security bulletins plastered on every pole on campus, why the need to write it up in the paper?" Asked myself the same question and

started to think about Dal students. Or even students in general. Not everyone reads the things that are all around them. People can walk through a hallway with walls absolutely covered in bulletins and notices, and never even read one. We're busy, why stop to read some yellow piece of paper? Maybe that

Gazette article makes the difference, and informs those students about what they need to know.

But then that leads into my second reason for hesitation.

I find myself empathizing with these women, but then my journalistic sense pops up.

Sometimes, I must admit, I hate it.

I sat by the computer that day, after thinking about those women, hesitating to write the story.

And I knew that this was just a little 300 word story, in a journalistic sense, nothing to it.

I hated thinking that, but I know it's true.

These stories are not

headlining on front pages, they are not stories that will appear in nation-wide papers and get my name out.

It sucks but is completely true. Sounds cold and calculating and a little too "career driven" and maybe next time you see me, you'll think differently.

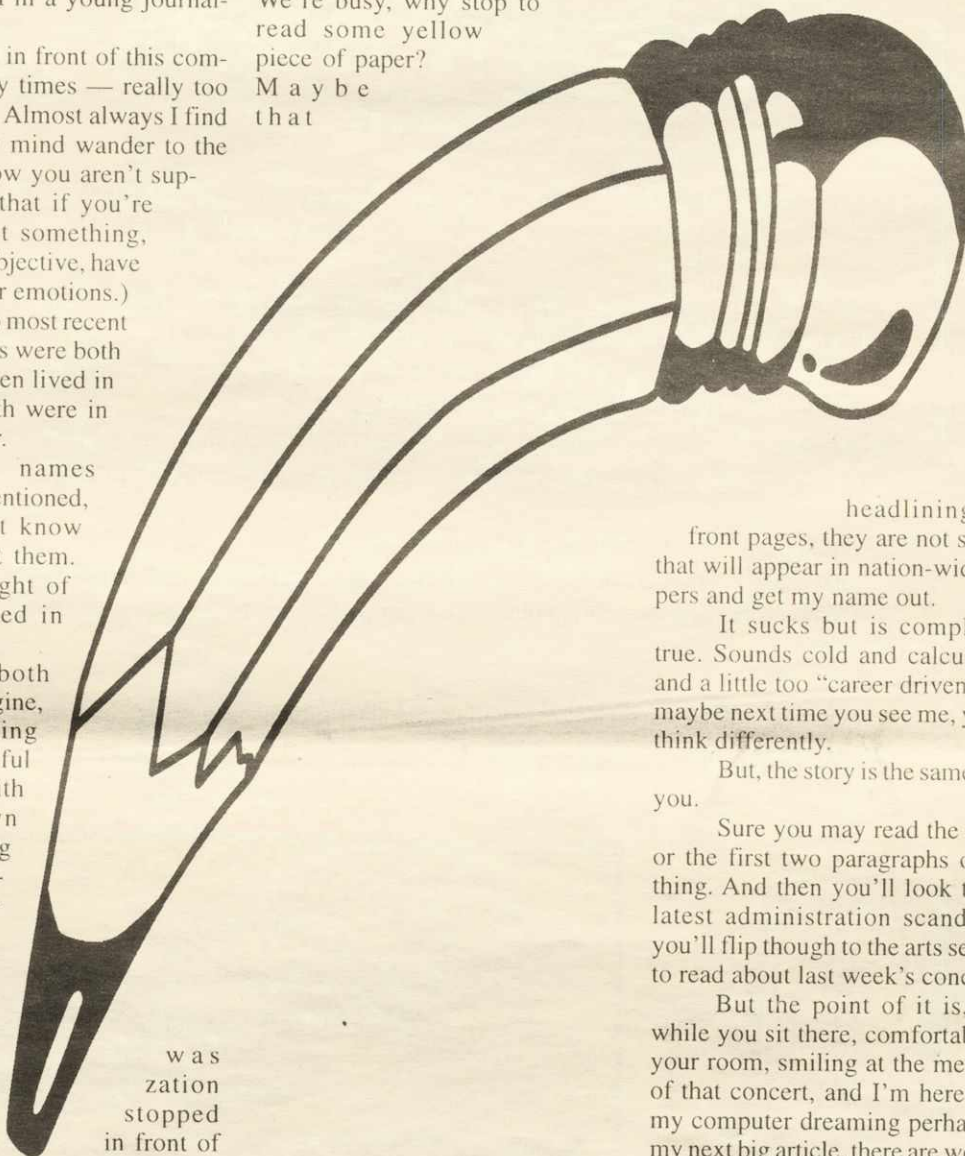
But, the story is the same with you.

Sure you may read the story, or the first two paragraphs of the thing. And then you'll look to the latest administration scandal or you'll flip though to the arts section to read about last week's concert.

But the point of it is, that while you sit there, comfortable in your room, smiling at the memory of that concert, and I'm here with my computer dreaming perhaps of my next big article, there are women all over campus, thinking of their experience that we all know about.

Amy Durant

EDITORIAL



LETTERS

To the editor,

Students should have faith in the History Department's democratic process, Chairman Michael Cross counselled last week. We have to have faith, he told us, that the "democratic" process he administers is a good and just means by which to hire professors. But on what basis must we rest our faith? The process in which the Chairman demands us to have faith does not have much to recommend it.

The Chairman's process, so good that we should accept it on faith alone, failed Dalhousie University. It resulted in a selection of a candidate for the position of Professor of American History who does not even have a Ph.D. That candidate, chosen by the Chairman's revered process, will replace Dr. Jacob Vander Meulen next fall. Hopefully, she will have successfully defended her doctorate thesis at the University of New Brunswick by then. Time will tell.

Dr. Vander Meulen, unlike the individual chosen in his stead, actually has a Ph.D. and from one of the best schools in Canada. More than that, he is widely published, an

excellent lecturer, and has the overwhelming support of the undergraduate student body. Further, he has devoted seven years to teaching at Dalhousie. He is clearly a fine choice for the position of Professor of Modern American History. Indeed, Dalhousie would be lucky to count him among its assets.

Unfortunately, the Chairman's process did not see it that way. The process chose to disregard excellence in favour of mediocrity, and to put personality before professionalism. It resulted in the selection of a candidate of questionable qualifications, and, most tragically, in the loss of an outstanding scholar. That loss will have a negative effect on the quality of education at Dalhousie.

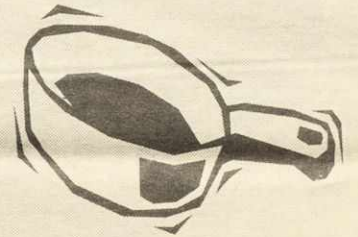
Chairman Cross needs to be held accountable for his role in eroding the quality of education at Dalhousie. He needs to do more than offer patronizing assurance that his process works. Clearly it does not. Students deserve to know why.

Sincerely,
Terri Noonan

Breakfast Pie

Feeds one

- You will need:
- 4 eggs
 - 2 sausages
 - cheese (grated)
 - tortilla shells
 - 40 oz Colt 45



Fry 5 eggs with 2 italian sausages, grate cheeze on to a tortilla shell, put egg/sausage mixture over cheese, add more grated cheese and cover with a second tortilla. Put in frying pan for a few minutes on low heat to melt cheese. Sour cream for dipping is strongly recommended, as is a glass of Colt 45 for full flavor. Green peppers and chicken can be substituted for eggs and sausage for a non-breakfast pie.

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The *Gazette* welcomes letters to the editor and commentary. Up to four letters will be printed per week. The printing of additional letters will be at the discretion of the Opinions Editor. Letters may be edited for length above 300 words and we reserve the right to edit commentary.

All submissions must be typed double-spaced on paper, e-mailed, or on a Mac or IBM 3 1/2 inch disk, in a WP version not greater than Word 6.0 or equivalent. The deadline is Mondays at 4:30 p.m.

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