

Letters To the Gazette must be typed if over 100 words. Letters must be less than 600 words. They will not be edited for brevity, coherency, or other reasons. Letters will be published as soon as possible.

Persons submitting letters must provide their name and a telephone number or some other method of reaching them, should there be some question about their identity. Anonymous letters and those with false signatures will not be printed. The use of pseudonyms will be considered in some cases. Deadline for letters is Monday noon.

Letters

Editor's note: This letter was misplaced and did not appear in the 9 December issue as intended.

To the Gazette:

Smiles, laughs or sneers must have been the reaction of all literate "francophones" on campus who happened to read, in the GAZETTE of December 2nd, Blair Dwyer's translation of the article by Susan Johnson and Allan Zdunich about the recent AFS / FEA conference in Sackville. Without even counting the accentuation errors (which quite probably were all misprints), I found, after a quick check, about 84 errors of translation, idiom, grammar and spelling (I have the red-penciled text at hand for anyone who wants to discuss those errors with me, but there are so many of them that I'm not sure of my count). I have only counted those errors which would be considered as such on both sides of the Atlantic; some other expressions, which would not be admitted in my native European French (I am Belgian), are perhaps correct in Canada and were not included in my tally.

Don't misunderstand me: I want to commend Blair for his effort at learning and writing French — because it is quite clear, from unmistakable signs in the text, that he did indeed work carefully on his task. However, in spite of all his good intentions, he is not yet familiar enough with the French language to do this kind of job alone. There probably is no real way of learning a language without some period of total immersion, something not possible in Halifax. I agree that a certain number of the errors I found may have been purely typographical, that French grammar is difficult and that idiomatic expressions cannot be found in dictionaries nor learned from manuals.

I don't think it is in the interest of the GAZETTE to make readers laugh over its translations. I thus suggest the following: let Blair or other anglophone students continue their occasional translation job for the GAZETTE, but from now on with compulsory checking of their production by some French Canadian student (there are dozens of those students on campus). That way, everybody will be happy: the would-be translators for a good opportunity to learn more French through corrected but ungraded papers and the francophone GAZETTE readers who, whenever you consider they should be offered reading matter in French, won't need any more to read the English version in order to understand what you tried to tell them in the French version. Besides, I don't think that the Dalhousie student body in

general should be exposed to faulty French. I don't demand that the GAZETTE use high-brow literary French, but that its French be almost as good as that found in any francophone student journal in Canada.

Although Blair is welcome to seek me for comments on his translation, I am not volunteering for the checking jobs I alluded to above: your translations should be primarily aimed at French Canadians and the differences between Canadian and European French are such that, with my lack of experience of Canadian French, I would be a poor choice as a corrector.

Sincerely,
Georges Merinfeld
Oceanography

Editor's note: The intent of the Dalhousie Gazette was not to destroy the French language since we sincerely believed we had done an acceptable translation. Since we did not, we apologize.

There were no typesetting errors, all the errors were our own.

Please remember that quite often the English in the Dalhousie Gazette is not much better.

Blair Dwyer translated the article as a favour to the Gazette, and we thank him for his help.

To the Gazette:

I'd like to commend three student council members, Anne Gillis, Mike Sherar and Keith Evans on their stand at the December 5 council meeting on the issue of the boycott of CBH advertising, as reported in the Gazette of December 9. I don't know their reason for this, their views on the issue may be the direct opposite of mine, but I applaud them anyway. It was refreshing to discover among council what seems to be a spark of public responsibility.

The simple fact of whether CBH is allowed or is not allowed to advertise in any given publication is not an individual concern, so much as is the reason for the Gazette's intended boycott. I believe that CBH was right in refusing access by GAE to its public service announcements; any announcement that does not contribute to the public good is not a "public service" announcement, and for this GAE does not qualify! As a tax-supported institution, the CBC has a responsibility to improve the public consciousness, not debase it.

There is enough moral pollution in the world already—it does not need to be advertised on public radio or promoted by the student council under cover of "equality".
Yours truly
Charmaine Wood

Editor's note: Probably Councillors Gillis, Sherar and Evans appreciate

your show of support, but that does not mean that they or you should support discrimination because you adhere to a different moral code.

We at the Dalhousie Gazette and the Dalhousie Student Union believe that each person should be judged on their own merits, and each person has the

right to be treated in a manner equal to that of others. To deny this is to deny the right to "equality".

Calling the actions of people you disagree with "pollution" and efforts to legislate their behavior "pollution control" is an attempt to put golden words on gut level bigotry.

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