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individual success. She received first-team All-Canadian honors and was selected as the tournament's Most Valuable Player (MVP). Certainly, these accomplishments should have been mentioned. Her selection as the tournament's MVP was mentioned in the "AUAA Athletes of the Week" box (for which she was the female athlete of the week), but this does not excuse its absence in the article. I believe that all other individual award winners were mentioned.

Moving on, I feel it necessary to defend our coverage in general of women's athletics. You must realize that this is our first year in the position of section editors (I'm a co-editor of the sports section with Carmen Tam). Thus, I think that blaming the lack of women's coverage in past years on people who have only been here since September is pretty stupid. As far as our coverage this year, I think that the women's teams have received their fair share of coverage and this trend will continue. We have one writer for each varsity team and I think that this is as fair a set-up as one could ask for. I think if you got really bored and decided to count the number of men's articles versus the number of women's articles, it would be a pretty tight race with any discrepancy being due to the lack of a women's varsity hockey team.

In ending, I'd like it to be known that we appreciate letters and input of any kind. At least we know somebody cares enough to write in. Furthermore, our door is open to anyone who would like to make a contribution or has an idea for the sport's section (or any section, for that matter).

Sam McCaig

Response to parking problems

To the editor,

At a recent meeting of the University Security and Parking Committee, a copy of the article "Dal parking sucks" (Gazette, Nov. 10, 1994) was brought to the attention of members. The author, Ms. Kristin Denault, raised a number of points to which the Committee felt a response might be helpful, hence this letter.

It is true that, for many at Dalhousie, the search for parking seems to be a constant struggle (although only, it must be said, for those who arrive after 8:20 a.m.). The Committee has itself struggled with the problem of parking for many years, thus far, without resolution. Ms. Denault suggests "there needs to be an increase in parking areas or a decrease in permit sales." Unfortunately, the current price of a parking permit militates against both notions. Ms. Keri Robinson's assumption, quoted in the article, that "for the price students pay, there should be sufficient areas" (to park), is, unfortunately, naive in the extreme; one need only look to neighbouring hospitals and downtown parking lots to see how much one has to pay to be sure of a place to park. The fact is that, at \$100 a permit, our revenues are such that we will never be able to afford to construct a parkade (the only way we could cram significantly more parking on campus) and, as \$100 does not seem to deter students from purchasing what essentially is "a license to hunt," we are unlikely to experience a decrease in permit sales. One obvious solution is to hike permit prices five- or six-fold.

Another solution to the problem of limited parking is car-pooling, a programme offered to the University community for the first time last year. In this programme, faculty, staff or students who come to Dalhousie at least three times a week, and who agreed to travel in a group of at least four persons per vehicle, would be eligible for a Reserved Parking Permit. For a cost of \$270 per permit, i.e., less than \$70 per person, participants were guaranteed a parking spot. "What a deal!" you say...

yet, despite widespread publicity, the programme failed to attract a single taker. We can only assume that most Dalhousie drivers would rather hunt alone than share and be sure.

To conclude, the University Security and Parking Committee is well aware of the problems of parking at Dalhousie. However, until the community as a whole determines that the parking issue should be made a priority, Ms. Denault's advice is probably your best bet — "If you want a good parking spot, come early in the morning to get it."

W.H. Lord
Director, Physical Plant & Planning

Stats fighting stats

To the editor,

Last week in the Opinions section, Glenn Wylie wondered why we choose to focus solely on violence against women during the Week of Reflection.

Mr. Wylie agrees with the author, Christina Hoffe Summers, that some feminists mislead the public with inflated statistics and scare tactics. I, too, believe that feminism can be undermined by exaggerated statistics because it stretches our credibility in an often hostile public climate. However, I believe that more often statistics are simply distorted or decontextualized and that this is not an error which feminists for misleading the public.

Although I take issue with the way in which the health-related statistics are presented in Mr. Wylie's article, I will narrow my focus to the statistics regarding violence against men. I do not dispute the statistic that men are twice as likely as women to be victims of violent crime, but to state this bare fact ignores the source of the violence and almost suggests that men and women are pitted in an equal battle of the sexes when it comes to committing violent acts against each other. The statistic obscures the identity of the perpetrators of the violence because for the most part, the assaulters, rapists and murderers of men are other men. For example, 95 to 99 per cent of rapes and sexual assaults on men are committed by other men.

It is largely men, then, who commit violent acts against women, children and men. Mr. Wylie seemingly disputes this fact by quoting that 14 studies show that men and women are equally likely to initiate domestic violence at every level of extremity. It is

interesting that this statistic of violence committed by women is confined to a domestic sphere. Many assaults and murders committed by women are in retaliation against their batterers, rapists, etc. who are most often their partners. By contrast, another study states that only 8 per cent of battering is committed by women and usually their victims are their children, not the men involved in the domestic arrangement. This is not to excuse all violence committed by women, but it certainly presents a broader picture than the one Mr. Wylie does.

But really — I'm just fighting stats with stats here and likely the methodology of any study is open to criticism. Perhaps Mr. Wylie is correct when he suggests that the Week of Reflection should question the existence of violence in general and not just that which is directed towards women. But in taking a broader approach, we cannot forget that men are the main perpetrators of violence. Women do not forget the gendered identity of violence. How many women or men, for example, feel threatened by an approaching woman when they are walking alone, late at night?

It is still to be determined whether it is a balance of genetic make-up or culturally-determined factors which lead men to commit physical violence more often than women. Certainly there are frequently issues of low self-esteem and powerlessness which may help to explain why some men commit violent acts. Women cope with these feelings too. But why do men and women seem to act out their rage in markedly different ways? That men commit suicide at much higher rates than women do for all age groups, seems to also be indicative of choosing a more violent "solution" to their problems.

Mr. Wylie wonders whether there is more sympathy accorded to women victims of violence because we are "weaker." Unfortunately women generally are physically weaker than men. The lack of sheer physical power is one reason why women and children can be helpless victims in the midst of a violent act. But more important than physical weakness, I believe, is the general inconceivability of physical violence as a real choice of action in most circumstances. Socialized as a female, I have only been taught to fear physical violence, but not to use it. Sometimes I wish it could be otherwise because I think I would feel safer. For me, it is my lack of understanding of male vulnerability and the recognition of my vulnerability to it, which make me empathize with its female victims and survivors.

Chantal Richard

Studies fighting studies

To the editor,

As a woman, I had to respond to Glenn Wylie's reflections on violence against men. He gives some supposedly authentic statistics which serve to show that men may be the true victims of society.

He claims that men account for 94 per cent of occupational fatalities. Many fatalities occur due to inefficient laws and ignored safety procedures that were designed within a patriarchal society, by other men.

Men may commit suicide more often than women, but women far outnumber men in attempts. Men are more "successful" because they tend to use violent means, such as firearms, whereas women more often use non-violent means, such as pills, which do not kill immediately, and are, thus, more likely to be found in time.

Perhaps the factor most responsible for the 50 per cent increase in life expectancy for women, within the last 70 years, is that reproduction has become significantly less life-threatening to women. No comparable reproductive risks have ever existed for men.


He states that men are the subject of one medical journal article for every 23 written about women. This claim certainly did not include so-called gender-neutral articles. Such articles, which far outnumber sex-specified articles, are based on men but are present as being applicable to both sexes. Just read any gender-neutral article on heart disease or cancer, including studies on ovarian cancer which use male subjects.

According to 14 studies, women are equally likely to initiate domestic violence. This does not specify what actions are considered to be initiations of violence. Do they include the woman who overcooked her partner's steak or who tries to restrain him when he attacks their children?

Men are twice as likely as women to be the victims of violent crime. This ignores the fact that both sexes are usually victimized by men.

My criticisms are not intended to be definitive refutations of these numbers. They are meant to show how easily statistics can be presented as facts when they are actually gross misrepresentations of reality.

Wylie asks the question, "What are we to make of this?" The fact that these statistics appeared in Forbes magazine is a valuable clue. Forbes is not a social issues publication, but a financial one. What we are to make of



Dalhousie Women's Centre

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Halifax, N.S. B3H 1T4
(902) 494-2432

December 1st is

World AIDS Day

The Lester Pearson Institute
is sponsoring two discussions.

Noon - Members of the Canada-Gambia Association Peer AIDS Education Team will discuss their experience.

7:30 pm - Anne Marie Dower "Gender Inequality and HIV - Lessons from a Cross Cultural Perspective."

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*Hours may be limited in December, please call ahead. The Dalhousie Women's Centre will be close for the holidays on December 14.*

*DWC t-shirts are available at the Centre for \$10.00 each, all proceeds will go to the Avalon Centre.*

Whether celebrating or relaxing, have a  
*Happy and a Safe Holiday!*  
Please don't drink and drive.

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