

Zoots! Errors

To the editors:

Thank you very much for your coverage of the DSU council's discussion of the status of collective bargaining between the Dalhousie Faculty Association and the Dalhousie Board of Governors. ("Dalhousie Council Spineless, gutless Jelly Fish?" by Katie Fraser, Nov. 1.)

There are a number of points which could bear clarification, however.

First, it is not correct to assert that Dave McCann "was the only councillor to come out in direct support of the DFA." We all support competitive salaries for the Dalhousie faculty. In addition, McCann did not actually offer his unconditional endorsement of the DFA at this stage in the negotiation.

As for the statement attributed to Alex Gigeroff that "something else would lose out" if faculty wages are increased, this paraphrasing does not represent his or the student union's opinion. While there are legitimate concerns over a balanced university budget, we feel that there are means of increasing the university's operating resources to the benefit of all.

It should also be noted that McCann was the individual who suggested that the DSU council would be "spineless, gutless jellyfish" if it chose to continue to remain "neutral" during a DFA-Board confrontation, however neutral is defined.

Finally, it was McCann who referred to the rebate to residence students during the custodial strike of the late 1970's, not Geoff Mar-

tin, as the article implies. The figure of \$70 is not correct.

We feel it is necessary to clarify our comments as reported while negotiations are still continuing in good faith. Thank you for the opportunity.

Sincerely,
Alex Gigeroff, President
Rusty James, Vice-President
Geoff Martin, Board of Governors
David McCann, Senate

Editors' note: We stand corrected.

Piercy coverage commendable

To the editors,

As someone who followed the Killam Lecture series on "Feminist Visions" with great interest, I would

like to commend the *Gazette's* coverage of the Marge Piercy lecture in particular (p. 13 of *The Gazette*, 18 October 1984).

First of all, the article on Piercy's lecture was striking in its visual layout. The accompanying illustration conveyed something of Piercy's fierce, radiating energy, while the heading under which the article appeared—"CULTURE", in large black letters—was cheering in its assertiveness and its ironic impact. Feminist writers have been lumped under many headings—but "Culture" is not one of the usual ones, despite the very significant cultural contribution that writers like Piercy (still not recognized in many university course offerings) have made and are still making.

Second, and perhaps more important, I thought that the article itself by Samantha Brennan comprehensively covered some of the key issues raised by Piercy and conveyed the force of her delivery ("it wasn't so much a lecture as it was a poem," Brennan writes). I have only one small quibble with its content (aside from the misspelling of Piercy's name): Brennan writes that Piercy is "angry" with the feminist separatist movement. I don't think Piercy expressed such

"anger" in her lecture, and certainly she doesn't angrily berate feminist separatists in her writings. Feminist separatism is not a movement that Piercy actively supports, but I thought that she made it very clear that she affirmed its right to exist—and beyond that, the value of the insights it produces (its "cultural contribution," in effect). Piercy describes herself as a "pluralist," and repeatedly affirms in her poems, novels and essays that pluralism means respecting the choices of others and ensuring that they have the freedom to make their own choices, follow their own ways of seeing, speaking and acting. As she puts it in one of her most moving poems, "The Sabbath of Mutual Respect,"

Praise all our choices. Praise any woman

Who chooses, and make safe her choice . . .

Praise the lives you did not choose

You eat the bread of their labor.

You drink the wine of their joy.

Piercy's main point about separatism, I think, was that the majority of feminists are not separatists and that separatists ought to respect the choices of the many feminists who choose to live with men, just as those women in turn

should respect the choice of their separatist sisters.

Respectfully yours,
Marjorie Stone
Assistant Professor
Department of English

I want to hear about it

To the editors,

Regarding Barb Coleman's letter appearing in last week's issue of *The Gazette*: The gay/lesbian supplement is not intended to be a forum to discuss our sex lives. The idea is to address issues which homosexuals must face almost daily, not to discuss sexual practices.

While her animosity is misplaced, her attitude is commendable (and worth repeating—"If they can do the job, let them; be it teaching my children or building my house. If they are good, honest people, let them be my friends."). The supplement attempts to foster this ideology.

If more people thought as Ms. Coleman does, perhaps a formal discussion of issues as presented in the supplement might not be necessary.

Fred Rowe



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