

## editorial

# George can't pay the bills

Two weeks ago, Eaton's, perched sedately on the retailing fence, fell into the deep hole of bankruptcy protection.

Plagued by a sharp dive in sales and an increasingly competitive retail market, Eaton's bail bucket

## Eaton's bail bucket was too small for the boat.

were quickly taken out of the closet and dusted off. Radio stations and newspapers were bombarded with soundbites of nostalgia. "Sad, sad day," many a-said, but there is another side to this story that makes me feel even worse.

Look at why Eaton's fell. A few analysts said its demise was due to the incompetence and bad bookkeeping of the President, George Eaton. However, for a family-owned company which maintains its privacy to the point of fanaticism, these analysts could only be speculating. I'd rather hedge my bets on something a little more concrete, thank you very much.

Have you noticed, over the past few years, more and more big name American companies — Wal-Mart, K-Mart and the like — have crossed the border? With their huge buying power, it was only a matter of time until stores

like Eaton's, our stores, started to go under. Granted, George and his brothers failed to stay competitive, preferring to sit on the aforementioned fence instead of specializing their stores, but they didn't really have a chance anyway. We as consumers are scrutinizing SOBs, and rightly so. Loyalty to a store means nothing if you can get the same shirt for seven dollars less across the street.

So what does Eaton's receivership mean to Canada? Nothing much on the surface, but it may be wise to scratch a little bit deeper. There are not many fully-owned Canadian companies left. Even our phone lines have American control. We can whine about NAFTA being the unfair harbinger, but ultimately, it is our own disinterest in Canadian products that brings on losses such as these. I am in a class which deals with Canadian identity. We sit around and talk about what makes us decidedly Canadian, but at the end of the day, all we can agree on is that, "We ain't Americans, dammit!"

Losing stores like Eaton's can only be a sign of some major crisis to come. One day there could quite possibly be nothing left of our own. If this is the case, there may be a time when we have to sit down and think about whether or not "Canada" is still Canada.

Already we are slaves to the American way of life, albeit grudgingly. We see their commer-

cial and programs on TV while eating their chips and drinking their pop. We even sell our natural resources to the States so that they can make it into something that they can sell back to us. The picture is wrong, yet it still hangs on the wall. The fact is, Canada and its businesses are dependant on America and its factories to provide for us, because we don't have the same type of heavy industry. And by giving the ownership to them, we sharpen the

## We as consumers are scrutinizing SOBs, and rightly so.

sequences. We would starve for twenty years while the private sector scrambled to build some factories.

My answer is really quite simple: buy Canadian goods — even if it does cost an extra seven bucks.

JOHN CULLEN



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## contributors

Monica Gillis, Alan LeBlanc, Dan Hennigar, Eugenia Bayada, Carmen Tam, Stuart McMillan, Tania Trepanier, Farhad Dastur, Jeremiah Hiers, David Lovas, Sohrab Farid, Mohamad Morah, Brooks Kind, Glenda MacLean, Karen Densmore

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Student Union Building, Dalhousie University, 6136 University Ave., rm 312, Halifax, NS, B3H 4J2  
 editorial tel. 902 / 494-2507  
 fax 902 / 494-1280  
<http://is2.dal.ca/~gazette/home.html>  
 e-mail GAZETTE@is2.dal.ca

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The *Gazette* welcomes letters to the editor and commentary. All letters will be printed up to four 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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## letters

## Insulted alumni

After I read this issue of the gazette I was personally very insulted and ashamed that I am a Dal alumni. My first concern deals with the picture on the front page and my second concerns the "ditty" entitled "Jiggling the Lydon". I quite frankly could not believe that educated people could come up with such offensive material then have the gall to publish it.

The picture on the front of the "newspaper" shows a gun being held to the head of a dog and the caption reads, "VOTE, or we'll shoot this dog!" I can't even begin to comprehend who would consider this funny.

On the 4th page there is an insulting and degrading poem concerning Chris Lydon. I am amazed that the staff of the Gazette would actively involve themselves in this type of slander. The man's name is Chris, not Chrissy! If there are issues concerning an improper comment made by Mr. Lydon they should be addressed. However, this "ditty" addresses nothing and shows me that not only has the Gazette lost any journalistic integrity it had but also endorses discrimination and hateful teasing. I am amazed at the lack of thought evidenced by this decision to publish this poem.

I had hoped for more thought and critical thinking from people studying in post-secondary education. Also I had hoped for some display of dignity and inclusion. I DEMAND an apology and a response! I hold a BA from Dal and I am graduating from the Education program from MSVU. From now on when asked where I went to University I will not answer with pride that I am a Dal grad. I wonder if you are journalism students and if you are I hope you revise your professional standards before trying them in a professional setting. If I was your editor I would ensure that you never worked in the industry again.

Jennifer Chislett,  
BA, B.Ed (97)

## Nauseous cover

The front cover of the Gazette on Thursday, March 6, was inappropriate. It made me nauseous. A picture of a dog on the cover with a gun to its head was inhumane and thoughtless. It was not humorous nor did it provide encouragement to vote. I understand this sensationalism was an attempt to increase voter turnout. However I am sure there were other alternatives. Being a staff member of the Gazette I was embarrassed to be associated with the paper. Whoever was responsible for this should keep their sick humour to themselves — I hope the Gazette's taste will not stoop to the realm of Hades again.

Karen Densmore

\* In the editorial last week entitled "Chronicle Herald picks a fight at Auburn High", it was incorrectly stated that Sherri Borden had apologized to the school for her article. No such call was ever made. The author and the Gazette apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

Karla Makhan

## Offensive and tasteless

Thursday afternoons are a time for students to sit back and relax at the Grad House with a coffee and a copy of the Gazette. To my dismay when I picked up the Gazette last Thursday, I was greeted with an offensive picture of a dog with a plastic assault weapon pointed at it, the caption "vote or we'll shoot this dog" below.

On behalf of the Dalhousie PIRG organization, People for Animal Welfare (P.A.W.), I would like to express our disappointment in the Gazette for publishing such a tasteless elections campaign advertisement. It displayed an incredible lack of humanity and ethics.

I acknowledge the intent was to capture the student body's attention to vote and was initially founded on satire. Unfortunately, the art of satire is, at times, a parasite that feeds off current issues which are not the least bit humorous. Violence is a serious social problem that permeates our culture. Hence, such a violent representation, even if allegedly framed in satire, is not acceptable.

Essentially, the advertisement exploits the seriousness of animal abuse to grab people's attention. Unlike humans, animals cannot defend themselves and must be protected from being manipulated into justifiable victims of violence regardless of whether it is in practice or in representation.

P.A.W. suggests the Gazette be more sensitive to current social problems such as violence against animals in the future.

Catherine Craig,  
P.A.W. member

## Disturbing cover

The cover of your paper for this issue was very disturbing to many people and shows a lack of professionalism on your part. Not only "Pulp Fiction generation" students view this issue, and even though I may not take offence to it, many others do. For a university paper that is continuously vying for respectability you really should think before you print. Shock value only does so much.

Sincerely,

Timothy Pellerine

## Clarifying the story

I wish to clarify a misinterpretation that arose in The Gazette's article ("Trouble in the SUB") about the harassment situation in the Student Union Building.

The writer of the article indicated that I described a letter written by concerned members of SUPSA ((Dalhousie) Student Union Part-Time Staff Association) to different departments within Dalhousie as exaggerated in parts.

While I acknowledged that the letter was strongly worded, and that certain individuals took exception to aspects of the letter, I did not say that I personally felt it was exaggerated. I would never sign a letter that I thought was inaccurate in any way.

Sincerely,

Karla Makhan

If you have an opinion about anything you have read in the Gazette.

LET US KNOW  
If you have an opinion about anything.