

The following letters did not appear in last week's *Gazette* due to a shortage of space.

Naughty, naughty mustn't do

To the Gazette,

My, my, my. . . Does everything have to be spelled out for you? I shall start from the beginning and try to make you understand. In the January 18 issue of the *Gazette*, you made the unforgivable error of misspelling the heading of a page. I did not exactly go into a fit of pique upon discovering that the second "n" had been omitted from the word "Entertainment", but to have allowed it to go unnoticed on three consecutive pages (pp. 15, 16, 17) was a bit much.

In response to that spelling mistake I wrote a letter to the *Gazette*, sarcastically pointing out the error. To my intense dismay, however, I picked up today's *Gazette* to find that my letter had been taken as a compliment! Do you not recognize sarcasm when you see it? My God, I even put the forgotten "n" in red print!

I feel it is the duty of the *Gazette* to print this letter in order to clear my name.

Better luck next time
Mary Dixon

Editor's note: That's show business.

Democracy like sinking ship

To the Gazette:

Do those of your readers who, during the rather farcical "Day of Protest", applauded Buddy MacEachern's speech so enthusiastically realize pre-

cisely what they were supporting? Has democracy in Nova Scotia really sunk so low that we want laws to be enacted to fine people retroactively, selectively, and without due process of law? Has the N.D.P.?

This suggestion that, in order to please C.U.P.E. 1392, Drs. Hicks and Vagianos be fined without a trial, or even the cumbersome process of finding a law that they have broken, would make us feel that the Nazis had seized power overnight, were it not for the fact that it is virtually certain that if this ludicrous legislation is introduced, it will be defeated out of hand. As far as the legality of the situation is concerned, can it be that Buddy MacEachern does not trust the Labor Relations Board to rule as he wants, and feels that in order to be certain of a reprimand, he must circumvent the established procedure?

Do Dalhousie students really want this kind of dictatorial law passed, or were the hundreds of students there just cheering because it was expected of them, without bothering to listen? This certainly seemed to be the attitude of the mob who threatened me with physical violence if I attempted to enter the library. They were under the impression that this mini-Nuremberg Rally was "an attempt to secure a bare living wage", or "to stop Hicks selling the cleaners to Modern". Obviously their concern with the lot of C.U.P.E. local 1392 did not extend to following the course of negotiations, or they would have heard Al Cunningham turn precisely those two goals down on television the night before, after having been offered them. (Would it be unduly cynical to suggest that one reason why no attempt was made to let the union vote upon that offer—sorry, "proposal", was that if the strike was over the Day of Protest might have had to be called

off?) The remaining issue, that of the "right" not to be moved from building to building, was never even mentioned. All that they did say in justification was that somehow my absence from a library would place an irresistible pressure on Dr. Hicks to give in to the (now unnamed) demands. This had something to do with "showing my support", under duress if necessary. Furthermore, "there are more of us, and if you try to get in there you'll get badly hurt". Do Dalhousie students really see this as the sort of power they want in our society? For that matter, is this what the N.D.P. stand for? Surely not!

Yours,
Robert J.M. Dawson

Harping on seals

To the Gazette:

The sealing controversy is unfortunately beset by bigotry on both sides. When we might have looked to a university newspaper to sweep this away and educate its readership, we were instead treated to propaganda on behalf of the sealers and the government, in Susan Williams' review of the "Seals and Sealing" exhibition.

I won't comment on her evident attitude to conservationists, and there is not space here to give a balanced account of the whole subject, but some of her misconceptions should be set right.

1. The harp seal population off Newfoundland may be "increasing", but this is far from proven. The most recent published assessment of this population (G.H. Winters, 1978, *Journal of Fisheries Research Board of Canada*, Vol. 35, pp. 1249-1261) shows a 3% per annum increase since the low point of 1972. No consideration of the limits of uncertainty of this estimate are given, but the data on which it is based, and the complexity of the analysis, do not inspire confidence.

2. The claim that these seals are the "best managed marine resource" was not supported at the exhibition. In view of: numbers killed frequently exceeding quotas (P.F. Lett and T. Benjaminsen, 1977, *J. Fish. Res. Bd., Canada*, 34, 1155-1187), that most of the dead seal pup is not utilized, and that no account is taken of the seal's interaction with capelin, cod, and other species, this claim seems strange.

3. The much-vaunted ultraviolet survey technique is not used in the management of sealing. Neither Winters (1978) nor Lett and Benjaminsen (1977) utilize data from this method. Indeed (unfortunately for Greenpeace, whose case leans heavily on it) the first survey estimated less pups born than were actually caught (D. M. Lavigne, 1976, *Polar Record*, 18, (114), 269-277).

Both "Canadians annoyed by the Greenpeace Foundation", and the two Green-

peace members at this university, might hope for a more balanced discussion of the complex social, economic, political, historical, biological and moral aspects of this controversy in the near future.

Yours faithfully,
T. J. Kenchington

"The inside story"

To the Gazette:

This is in response to a letter that was printed in the January 25th *Gazette* entitled "Rag Rages On" from E. Hominick. There were two points raised in this letter about the past CUPE strike and Mr. Cunningham's position. I am directly referring to: "Good work, Mr. C.—just what do you get out of it? Who do you think you're fooling? Sooner or later Local 1392 will realize they've been taken for a ride."

Being his daughter and a Dalhousie student, I feel close enough to both the man and the situation to clarify on Mr. C.'s rewards and perhaps set E. Hominick back on the informed path that he unfortunately has been 'mislead' from.

The hours that Mr. Cunningham put into this strike are equivalent to 2½ full-time jobs—everyday, no day-of-rest included and that's hours, not wages. Many of those hours were spent on the cold, boring picket line, but in one sense, it was a break from the many phone calls, not always friendly. The phone has not yet learned to distinguish Christmas Day from any other day (strikes don't take holidays), nor does that ring tell time. Two p.m. might well be two a.m. to a telephone!

Then there's the pressure pushing from every side: the young business-oriented student tugging at his right sleeve; the political opportunists from the far left leaning on the other side; the uninformed public poking everywhere (isn't it great to be a leader, Mr. Hominick?); the university under-cover agents sneaking in back doors with pail and mop hidden under bowler hats; on top, cops threatening peace and order; and loudest, but quite deserving, his wife ordering five minutes attention per week.

Then there is the news media. Unfortunately, Mr. C.'s find to fame with all the news coverage he's had lately will not earn him a seat in the Buchanan Cabinet or the Canadian Senate. "Conservatives rarely patronize union bosses".

Contrary to popular belief, union representatives do not bite, they do not earn \$50,000 for every strike they 'cause', nor do they carry violin cases concealing sawed-off shotguns. In fact, Mr. Cunningham signs approximately forty agreements every year—this is his first strike in over five years.

I suggest, E. Hominick, that if you are a concerned student

you should learn about such topics before you make rash judgements. The opportunity was knocking at your door from both sides. (Did you once during these past thirteen weeks walk a picket line, or once help Uncle Louis wash the library floor?) Have you even attempted to speak to either of these men yourself?

And now that the strike is over and the cleaning staff have won a fair settlement, I'd like to congratulate not only Mr. C., but all of Local 1392 for "realizing they've been taken for a ride"—by Dalhousie for 13 long, hard weeks.

Yes, E. Hominick, perhaps the *Gazette* is slanted and biased, but isn't it comforting to know that in a world so full of corruption, disease, and heartache, at least one group of people are slanted in the 'right' direction? Keep up the good work, *Gazette*!

Yours truly
Lynne Cunningham

Thanks for caring

To the Gazette:

Please allow me to register my support and thanks for your coverage of the strike which had been afflicting the whole Dalhousie community for the past three months. You should be commended for your efforts to present both sides of the argument in a fair manner and at the same time retain your own independent opinions. If you have done detailed and conscientious research, including interviews with both contending parties, and have first-hand observations of late-night confrontations on the picket lines you are entitled to state your perspective and support the side which you feel has the best case. Lest anyone complain that you gave an inordinate amount of coverage to the strike, I would quickly point out that this university had best stop trying to be the last remaining bastion of 'ivory tower academia' and realize its linkages with and the role it plays in business and government. Whether they graduate into the workforce or try to remain in this 'refuge', students will find the spending vacation is over and that questions of employment and expenditure cutbacks will increasingly confront them.

Not only do I reject the myth of impartial objectivity in the press, but I question the definition of an education which lurked behind many of our professors' arguments wherein they insisted on their sacred right to dispense the truth to their students in a lecture format rather than structure, learning experiences which might even include involvement in a real life struggle such as the recent Day of Protest.

Last of all let me say:
"WELCOME BACK, DAL CLEANERS."
Yours sincerely,
David Langille

the Dalhousie Gazette

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