

Belly aches, Go Go dancing

So I've been rejected.

Stared across at the blue eyes in front of me and poured my heart out. Said everything I've been thinking and feeling for the past few days. And I must admit it felt good to be saying everything instead of just inwardly worrying about it all.

But now here I sit two days later. Rejected.

I've just hung up the phone, wondering if the bank hires their staff on the basis of their syrupy, candy-coated voices or does it just come with practice?

I applied for a student line of credit the other day after realizing that if I wanted to pay rent, food, tuition, and not just master my Scrabble skills every Saturday night, I'd need some more money.

I guess the problem started this past summer. See, I worked for the university. Any of you who did the same — and I know there are quite a few of us — can probably understand my problem pretty easily. The rest of you who were smart enough to bypass the whole "giving back to the university thing" congratulations. (But I could probably beat you at Scrabble.)

It's a little ironic — you work for the university for a summer in order to pay everything right back to the school and then find yourself stuck halfway through the year, applying and being rejected for a line of credit.

But I'm not trying to make myself into a martyr. I knew going into my summer job what my wages would be.

Right now I have two part time jobs, and as of a few minutes ago, I'm looking for a third. I've just decided that there won't be any of this wussy stuff for a job. I'm gonna be a go-go dancer at the Palace, I'll

of advertising for the event. I'm not involved with CFS and I'm not working to organize the protest.

I'm just a student.

The thing that pisses me off about this day is that there are so many students involved in it — but chances are that their voices will remain ignored as they have for a number of years.

Think about it. Two years ago the DSU drove students to the polls to get university students put on the political agenda. This past October, student leaders spent a week in Ottawa lobbying and laying bricks on Parliament Hill for the "Education Builds a Nation" campaign.

Yet here we are, students in debt and throats sore from all of the yelling we've been doing.

I've found it so amazing to talk to people involved in organizing the February 2 student protest. The excitement on their faces is overwhelming and their obvious support for thousands of students they don't know is inspiring. So if my cynicism has overshadowed this, then I feel like one of those horrible people who never let you dream. But maybe that's what we need right now.

People are always saying university students are in the prime of their lives, and I'm not denying that we are — I laugh so much some days that my stomach hurts at the end of the day.

It just seems funny that it needs to be interrupted with go go dancing.

Amy Durant

EDITORIAL

be sure to make my rent in a week of doing that. Only problem is that I'm barely coordinated enough to catch a baseball, let alone dance around a pole erotically without tearing my little uniform — but maybe that would work in my favour.

But after the jokes are told and you've gone home and I'm lying in my room alone, it's no longer funny. Things are a little scarier with the lights turned off and no one to hear my poor student one liners.

The truth of the matter is that I'm not alone. How many countless numbers of students are making the same jokes I am?

I wrote an article last week about the upcoming Access 2000 — a full fledged walkout to address the financial concerns of most students. I wrote the article but didn't quite get it until right now, heard the words spoken without understanding them. This isn't a shameless spot

LETTERS

TV sets bad standard

LONDON, ON (CUP) — It's hard not to flip on a television set in the evening without seeing someone bedding someone else. What's even more frightening is that many of these television characters happen to play roles on some of the most popular shows.

Now I must admit, I don't watch as much TV as I used to, but when I do watch I'm more inclined to tune out than tune in. Take Ally McBeal for example. How many sexual partners has she had? Is she what you would call a role model?

In what has become a disturbing trend in our society the media, and more specifically television, has normalized what once was considered immoral behaviour. Multiple partners and lack of commitment are standard fare for many primetime TV shows. It's too bad.

I suppose TV has always been that way. Those sappy afternoon soaps always had cheating, lying and sexual partners as part of their storylines. And shows like Dallas and Falcon Crest, popular evening soaps, had the same garbage.

But there was one significant difference: how many impressionable young minds actually watched those shows? Those shows were

targeted to a more mature side of society.

Today's shows are aimed at the 18-30 demographic. And while no one would justify sleeping around by saying that Ally McBeal sleeps around, if one sees enough of it on every network and in movies one begins to think, "everyone does it, why shouldn't I?"

When was the last time you watched a movie or TV show that featured a happily married couple? Never mind seeing a married couple getting passionate with one another instead of getting passionate with someone else on the sly.

Television has evolved immensely since its early years. It's too bad viewers haven't become as sophisticated. Instead of demanding quality programming we get mindless tripe with the biggest mystery being who will sleep with who. How intriguing.

When the family unit disintegrates in the next 30 years we can all reminisce about the good old days, how things were so much better in the '90s and the year 2000. Then we can look back and know television started the trend.

John Said

A case for religion

I felt compelled to write this article after reading the opinions page of *the Gazette* a few weeks ago. The article dealt with the ills of "organized religion" and proposed that as an institution, the Christian church has little to do with faith and should have little to do with politics. It also suggested that religion is a hindrance to independent thought. These are questions I have toiled with personally and have come to some of my own conclusions.

First, although faith is a deeply personal thing, Christianity is a religion of fellowship — a community of believers that need each other's prayers and help. The reason I believe this strongly is that in those awkward years of my early teens, when my father walked out on my family, I personally felt God's love extended to me in the comfort of the local church. I also saw role models in the selfless natures of the youth pastor and men there that helped me in developing into adulthood.

These experiences alone allow me to look past all the imperfections, failures and divisions in the church, and see it as the beautiful society Christ set in motion some 2000 years ago. The capabilities that come with an organized group of people that have the same purposes in life are quite incredible when you look at the expression of humanitarianism the church has had globally by living out Christ's greatest commandment of love. In fact, governments have come to count on the church to relieve some countries of some of their social ills.

The church's relationship to the state is the issue about which Patrick Blackie was speaking in his article (*the Gazette*, 13 Jan. 2000). I agree with him in the sense that

there is a problem with a "hierarchy that takes control of education and influences government with fear and manipulation." This is a great contrast to the ministry of Jesus, who ultimately left the choice up to the individual and never coerced people to follow. Actually, he made it difficult to believe and lead a holy life, pleasing to God. The Apostle Paul contends that Christians are to be "subject to the governing authority. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God." At the same time, the Christian's role as a good citizen is to be knowledgeable of politics enough to be the conscience of the state.

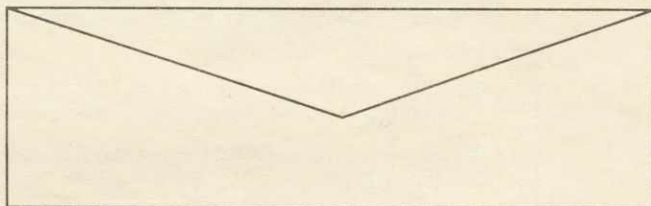
When this doesn't happen, terrible things can occur — like the Lutheran Church in Germany, who after misinterpreting Martin Luther's teachings on the authority of the state, sat back when the Nazi movement committed all its crimes against humanity.

This may also be an example of a church that blindly followed, instead of being led by their hearts and thinking for themselves. There have been many great writers, artists and scientists who were people of faith, as well as being great minds. At this point, I would have to disagree with Mr. Blackie's premise that organized religion is opposed to independent thought. The Bible teaches that one should work out one's own salvation, and, as Revi Zacharias said, "what one believes in their heart also makes sense in their mind and conversely what makes sense in one's mind needs to be embraced by the heart."

This is genuine faith — a faith that is built up by others.

Nolan Bentley

Comments?
email your comments to:
gazette@is2.dal.ca
or Rm 312 SUB



THE DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

editorial board

Editor-in-chief: Brianne Johnston • Copy Editor: Patrick Blackie • News: Amy Durant & Sally Thomas • Arts: Jon Elmer • Sports: Christian Laforce • Focus: Lee Pitts • Science & Environment: Naomi Fleschhut • Photography: Robin Kuniski • National News: Vanessa Owen • Opinions: Katie Tinker • Dalendar: staff • Office Manager: David Brock • Online Manager: Donna Lee • Layout: William Roberts

contributors

Tristan Stewart-Robertson • Scott Sancton • Terry Hawes • Amy MacDonald
Alison Capstick • Alison Ellwood • Daniel McKillop • Kathy Reid • Shelley Robinson
Katie Tinker • Mark Evans • Chad Beattie

Student Union Building, Dalhousie University, 6136 University Ave, rm 312, Halifax, NS, B3H 4J2.
editorial tel. 902 494-2507, facsimile 902 494-8890, e-mail. GAZETTE@is2.dal.ca

For advertising information, call 494-6532, 9am to 5pm daily.

The *Gazette* welcomes letters to the editor and commentary. Up to four letters will be printed 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.

Founded in 1869 at Dalhousie College, the *Gazette* is Canada's oldest student newspaper. With a circulation of 10,000, the *Gazette* is published every Thursday by the Dalhousie Gazette Publishing Society, of which all students of Dalhousie University are members. The *Gazette* exercises full editorial autonomy and reserves the right to refuse or edit any material submitted. All editorial decisions are made collectively by the staff. To become voting staff members, individuals must contribute to four issues. Views expressed in the *Gazette* are not necessarily those of the editors or the collective staff. Unless otherwise noted, all text © 2000 the Dalhousie Gazette Publishing Society. ISSN 0011-5819