

EDITORIAL

We love controversy

WE HAVE AN ADMISSION TO make. We love stirring up controversy.

This week's editorial and opinion page should show there's a fair number of you who love being stirred up.

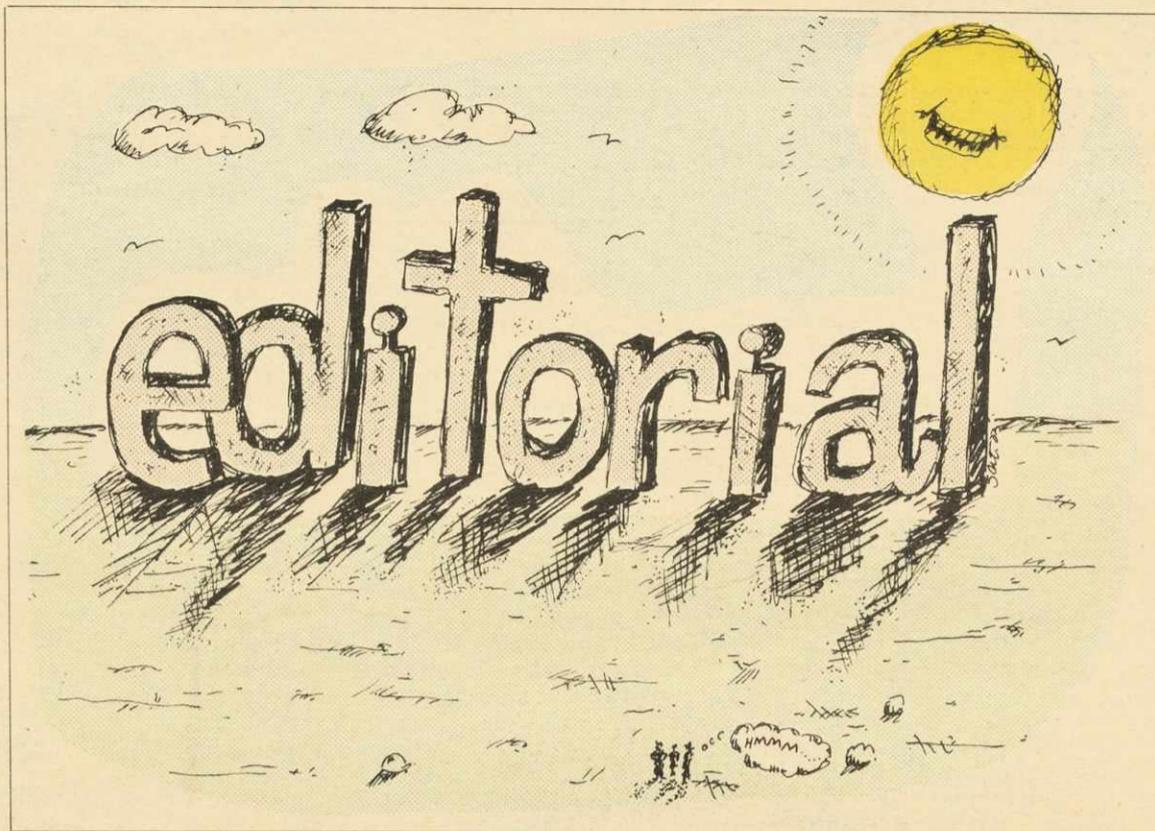
We've got letters and commentary in response to last week's "View of South Africa." We have a rebuttal of the "Get out of NORAD" editorial. An irate jogger has taken sports editor Mark Alberstat to task. And the "Dalhousie Gentlemen" calendar controversy is moving into its third week.

Mercy sakes, alive. Looks like we got us a dialogue goin' here.

And that's the whole point. The Editorial/Opinion pages are *the Gazette's* forum, Dalhousie's weekly soapbox. Editorials are where we can take off our "fair journalist" disguise and give the system hell. And Opinion is where you can tell us (and anyone else) that we're full of it.

It's come to our attention, though, that some of you don't completely understand how the forum works. So here, for your edification, are the rules of the game.

First, commentary does *not* reflect the opinions of *the Gazette* staff. Commentary is anything



you see in the forum under a byline, plus letters. So please don't send your hate mail to us.

Second, editorials *do* reflect the opinions of *the Gazette* staff. They don't have bylines because the staff decides, through the democratic process, that they are willing to stand behind the views expressed therein. Any *Gazette* staffer is eligible to write editorials, which helps take the heat off the co-editors.

Third, commentary must be received by 5 p.m. on the Monday

before publication. Obviously, the sooner the better. We make every effort to print all letters and opinions we get; however, they may be edited for length, style, and for content that the staff believes to be racist, sexist, homophobic or libelous. They will not be edited for content believed to be stupid; we think anyone wanting to make an ass of themselves in print should be allowed to dig their own grave. The rest of the readership is cordially invited to bury them.

Fourth, typewritten copy will take precedence over handwritten copy. We will not be responsible for errors made due to illegibility.

A glance at the masthead will show we have two co-editors, one man, one woman. The salutation on letters should be "To the editors." Expressions such as "Dear Sir," "Dear Editor" or "Dear Scumbag" will not endear you to our hearts.

That's about it. Keep those cards and letters coming in.

With women making up over half the population of students enrolled at Dalhousie one would think that there would be a strong society already in existence. But considering the conservative air surrounding Dalhousie, it is not surprising that a women's society has taken so long to be formed.

Registering and applying for a grant from the DSU is the only thing that stops this society from becoming full fledged. The new society represents some good thinking. Dalhousie campus is beginning to move.

Women's society about time

IT'S ABOUT TIME.

For too long women's issues have been muffled and silenced on the Dalhousie campus. Now women have a medium through which they can express their concerns: the Dalhousie women's society.

A women's society for Dalhousie is a great idea. There is never enough room exclusively for women.

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OPINION

Letters

Deadline for letters to the editor is noon, Monday before publication. Letters must be typed and double-spaced and be less than 300 words. Letters can be dropped at the SUB enquiry desk or brought up to *the Gazette* offices, third floor, SUB.

Running for nine years

To the editors,

I would like to comment on the remarks made by Mark Alberstat, on jogging.

I jog, and play other sports too. I've been running for nine years now and there are several reasons as to why I've kept at it. For one thing, the feeling you get after going is like no other sport. You feel refreshed, healthy and ready to face the world again. There is no better feeling than running on a dirt road in the country with nothing to distract you except the potholes. If anyone jogs, they know what I mean. It's something you don't have to do with anyone else; you can run anywhere and at all times of the year (if you're prepared).

As for the fact that Alberstat states how bad joggers look after running, take a look at some other sports. He's right. I've never seen a prettier sight than a sweat-

ing, grunting football player after a hard game! Or have you ever sat next to a hockey player after a game? Phewy! I've nothing against these sports, but want to prove a point that not everyone looks fantastic after exercise. Also, it is only the elite runners that look like near shadows; other runners look no different than you or I. Although by your picture, you do look a little anemic and pale.

I would suggest, Mr. Alberstat, that you try the sports before you comment on them. It would add credibility and some respectability to your article, especially since you are titled Mens Sports Editor.

Shawn Delev

South Africa's human rights record

To the editors,

One rarely finds intelligent commentary in *the Gazette*. Thus, reading James Glazov's "A View of Africa" was a pleasant surprise. Unlike most *Gazette* pundits, Glazov used an impressive array of facts to support his contention that constructive engagement is the best policy by which to combat apartheid, given that South Africa already possesses one of the best human rights records in Africa. If it continues to publish at least some first-rate work, *the Gazette* might earn a modicum of credibility.

Glen Johnson

Calendar flack: oh yeah!

To the editors,

Re: Rosemary Power's letter regarding sexism in the Dalhousie Gentlemen calendar.

Oh, yeah!

Alison Hunt

P.S. Thanks for the publicity—calendar sales are going great.

And again

To the editors,

Re: Sexism and Dalhousie Gentlemen.

Define Sexism: Everything, everywhere, everytime, everyday!

Jim Snair

Canada doesn't have the sway

To the editors:

Your editorial in the Oct. 3rd issue of *the Gazette* had, to say the least, the uncanny ability to make this reader gag. To get out of NORAD would, as you say, bring the MAD myth to its knees. So, in essence, if Canada drops out of NORAD, then suddenly the negotiators in Geneva, cowering at the sheer might of our sovereignty, will kiss and make up. I would like to think that Canada

has that much sway but I fear it is not so.

Unilateral disarmament and other idealistic rot is nice to think about but highly unrealistic. Go chant your pastoral views to the Kremlin and see how far you get. What we are dealing with here is not a rational thinking government but a highly paranoid one. This statment applies both to Russia and the US. On one hand you have the Marxists who follow a social order which has as one of its tenets that they are to dominate the world through, forceful if necessary, expansions. On the other, possibly the most arrogant country in the world who believes that they must win in the end because God is on their side, unlike those pinko athiests.

Until there comes a radical change in the ideals of both government bureaucracies at a grassroots level through better education and understanding of the people involved, not through protests and petitions, will disarmament become even a remote possibility. Until then, unpleasant as it is, MAD is all we've got.

Suppose, both, right now, unilaterally disarmed. Nice, but we have not removed that fear which exists.

Now, how do we make sure that the disarmament treaty is not contravened? Well, we could check up on each others' nuclear facilities. In fact there are a number of ways. *But* how do we enforce the treaty in the event of a violation? Send them a letter asking them to stop?! No, I don't

think that would work. Seems the only way to stop it is to threaten to violate the treaty also. Ah, but that fuels the fear which in turn fuels the need which...and it starts all over again.

I have heard many screams of disarmament. But I have never heard anyone say, in detail, how it would be implemented. If someone would come up with, not a foolproof, but at least viable scheme, I personally would love to hear it.

So, sit down, and look, not with rose colored glasses, at this and try to find a quick solve-all solution to soothe your own personal fears, but with clear eyes at the hard facts of the problems which must be overcome before disarmament becomes rational. Protests are a waste of energy. The public awareness of this issue is quite high. And in these times, we cannot afford to dawdle on the dreams of terrified people. Use your energy to educate first yourself and then others as to what these two countries are like. Just human beings who want to live their lives undisturbed.

Insomuch as the rhetoric between the US and Russia is distasteful to the ears of the rational so is that which comes from the disarmament movement. Idealistic bullshit from government, idealistic bullshit from people; it all smells the same. To have your time, but it is not now.

Bryon Fevens
BSc. III

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