

## Treat your fleas

To the editor:

A client recently informed me about an article in your paper which suggested the use of brewer's yeast as a flea control measure in pets. This was suggested to be environmentally friendly as it would not adversely affect the ozone layer.

Unfortunately, this approach to flea control is too good to be true. Controlled studies have repeatedly shown brewer's yeast to be useless as a flea control method (as is garlic, ultrasonic devices, herbal collars and thiamine).

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numerous measures, including good sanitation, treating the pet and also treating the premises (over 90% of a flea population lives off the pet in carpets, cracks and crevices).

Most of the flea control products available at veterinary hospitals are ozone friendly. Manufacturers are using hydrocarbon propellants as alternatives to chlorofluorocarbons. Numerous products are also available in powder or pump spray formulations as well.

With regards to safety, the most common ingredient in flea control products is pyrethrin, a "natural" insecticide derived from the chrysanthemum plant. Newer insecticides are also available in microencapsulated formats which reduces toxicity significantly. There is even a product which acts as a growth regulator to inhibit maturation of the immature flea into the adult state. This product has the approval of the World Health Organization for use in drinking water to control mosquitoes in certain countries.

I am enclosing a handout on flea control products and methods for your perusal. If you require further information, please feel free to contact me.

W.H. Chisholm, B.Sc., D.V.M.

## Cockburn a visionary

Dear Editor:

Re: *Big Circumstance* review by David Deaton.

"Don't criticize what you can't understand." — Dylan

It is a sad fact that small puddle mind cannot comprehend vast ocean mind.

I would search my motivations deeply before doing a cynical hatchet job on a Canadian who deserves reverence rather than abuse. We have enough body/speech/mind/environmental pollution as it is. Cockburn's a mystic, a visionary — he's been through the fire.

His work is not manure for horseflies — rather it contains invisible signposts for potential sainthood, sanity and trembling humanness. If you can let go of your blinding arrogance, sit on the ground of humility and open to the subtleties of his music, you may surprise yourself by learning something.

Would that reviewers such as yourself had the same courage to be vulnerable that Cockburn reveals through his art.

Dawn Suzuki

substantive portion of Ms. Harris' letter, with which I entirely agree, is limited to the last couple of paragraphs. The rest of her letter is devoted to confuting a supposed argument that "women who wear revealing clothing are sexually assaulted more often than other women". A careful reading of my letter will show that nowhere was that stated or implied. Furthermore, the quote attributed to me by Ms. Harris in her letter is a fiction; I neither wrote nor said it.

With regard to the pamphlet, further clarification is obviously required. To put it in context, the item to which both Ms. Leiterman and Ms. Harris took exception was one of about fifty suggestions contained in the Rape Awareness pamphlet. Anyone reading the pamphlet objectively will see that it does exactly what Ms. Harris counsels, i.e. it encourages women "to be both cautious and powerful". The first forty items deal with precautions that can be taken in various situations; the last ten suggest ways in which women can be more powerful, i.e. self-defense. In this regard, I should mention that, as another service to the University community, members of Dalhousie Security will be providing instruction in self-defense for women students in residence.

I invite Ms. Harris to read the Rape Awareness pamphlet for herself. We will be glad to incor-

porate any changes in the next edition which she believes will make it more acceptable to those whom it is intended to assist.

W.H. Lord  
Director

Physical Plant and Planning

## Sorry...

To the editor:

Two typographical errors by the *Gazette* staff in my letter last week may have led to some confusion.

First, my sentence read "The problem lies in the socialization of men to confuse sex and power, to eroticize conquest (not "women", as was printed) and not to take women seriously."

Second, Mr. Lord's statement was a paraphrase and should not have been put in quotation marks.

Thank you  
Barbara Harris  
Chair,  
Sexual Harassment Advisory  
Committee

*Editor's Note: Our apologies for the typos. The letter we received was not typed, but due to its nature, we deemed it worthy of our attention. Please make certain your letters are typed, double-spaced and include your name and phone number. This way, we can avoid these ugly mistakes.*



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## Rape awareness

Dear Editor:

Ms. Harris' response (*Gazette*, October 26) to my "revealing letter" managed totally to miss the point I was making. However, I am glad if it provided her with a springboard to leap into the debate. The problem is that the

## o p i n i o n

### Sigma Chi drives on

The major purpose of a fraternity is to encourage its members to take full advantage of their university years, both academically and socially.

On Saturday, October 14, members from Sigma Chi and Alpha Gamma Delta took part in their third annual canned food drive for the Metro Food Bank Society. This year's food drive, organized by Sigma Chi brother Andy Williams and Alpha Gamma Delta sister Jill MacKinnon, was the most successful yet. It brought in over 100 shopping bags full of canned goods. The Metro Food Bank Society will distribute the canned food to those people and organizations in Metro most in need of it.

This year's drive involved over twenty brothers, sisters and pledges from both of the Greek letter societies, including their chapter presidents, Sigma Chi's Craig Chisholm and Alpha Gamma Delta's Shauna Nickerson.

Chisholm, president of Sigma Chi's Gamma Rho chapter, was questioned on the importance of the participation of Sigma Chi's pledges (selected university students seeking admittance into

Sigma Chi as brothers) in the food drive. Through participation in the food drive, Chisholm said, Sigma Chi's pledges "realize the importance of community projects so they will learn how they come together and how they're run." He added participation in the food drive would instill in pledges the importance of community and interfraternity relations.

Sigma Chi's interest in the community does not end with its annual canned food drive. The fraternity also holds blood drives for the Red Cross. All of the fraternity's brothers are encouraged to donate. Last year, Sigma Chi canvassed money for cancer research, as well as the Canadian Heart Fund. Sigma Chi plans to repeat its tramp-a-thon for the children's Wish Foundation this year. The tramp-a-thon is a favourite activity of the fraternity.

All of the Greek letter societies participated in raising money for the World Wildlife Fund last year. More cooperative ventures of this sort are planned for the coming year.

Manni Lee Wood

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