

The Letters/Opinions section of the Gazette is meant as a campus forum for all Dalhousie students. The opinions expressed within may not necessarily be those of the Gazette staff or editorial board. We welcome all submissions, but reserve the right to edit for style and content. It is the Gazette's mandate not to print racist, sexist or homophobic material.

Historic event or just another sequel?

The Persian Gulf War is undoubtedly a historic event of the 20th century. In response to Saddam Hussein's takeover of Kuwait, the UN retaliated by attacking Iraq.

The US military is by far the most prominent force of the UN. Where the United States government considers the Gulf War as a high point in their history, they neglect to mention the grave consequences that innocent victims of war are going through in Iraq as we speak.

Aside from causing severe economical and industrial damage to Iraq, the US and its allies used weapons of unspeakable destructive nature against Iraqis and have committed such inhuman acts such as shooting soldiers who have surrendered and burying alive those who were taking refuge in trenches by bulldozing sand on them. Yet, US officials

regard the statistics of Iraqi casualties as a number that they are not interested in.

Even uglier and more horrifying is the aftermath of the war. The US saw fit, and was supported by the UN, to impose sanction on Iraq. This includes blockade of food and medicine.

By virtue of this sanction 5,000 children die every month of malnutrition. According to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), 576,000 children have died in the past five years in Iraq. A fairly recent analysis by UNICEF indicates that 1.5 million more children may die in the near future (without any military strike). Most of the victims will be children under five years of age.

Unfortunately, Canada was among the countries that followed the US to wherever she took them, which was beyond the boundaries of humanity. The US is now

planning to launch another military attack on Iraq using Iraq's possession of "weapons of mass destruction" as a scape goat. Can any weapon of mass destruction have any more terrorizing effects than the sanctions?

So who should the strike be launched against? And what manner of a stone hearted, soulless beast would attack a country in which children under 14 constitute 40 per cent of the population, and which has had a mortality rate way above the average for the past seven years with no sign of decline?

The historical and economical ties between the US and Canada are understandable, but Canada should not have volunteered to get involved in a military strike that will unjustly kill innocent women and children.

Canadians are peace-loving people and it is hoped that they

will play their role in these crucial moments and thus help save lives of countless innocents.

It is the opinion of some experts that if there is a military strike, Saddam Hussein will not be so much as scratched, suffering will be solely on part of the civilians. And the blood of the innocents will be on the hands of not only those who played either active (like the US) or passive (like the Canadian government) roles in the attack, but on the hands of everyone who did not try to stop this inhuman tragedy.

We are all duty bound to do our share to avoid a military strike on Iraq. The Prime Minister is taking opinions from the general public on this matter. He can be contacted at:

e-mail: pm@pm.gc.ca
telephone: 613-992-4211

Also, the Muslim Students Association are organizing a rally against Canadian involvement in Iraq. Please join us outside the SUB on Friday, Feb. 20, at 2pm.

Your efforts will be appreciated by multitudinous victims.

ASADULLAH RAZVI

WANT TO GET YOUR OPINION PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE?

We will happily accept submissions for the opinions section from all members of the Dal community.

Just remember to submit your name and phone number with the piece.

LETTERS CONTINUED

Canadians across the country ought to support Rebagliati with all of the kudos that his pot-smoking hometown of Whistler, British Columbia, plans to upon his return. Rebagliati has my utmost respect, because he won the first ever Olympic gold medal in snowboarding and he did it stoned.

R.J. MATTHEWS

Sexist traditions at Dal

Dear Dr. Traves,

I have recently received and read *The Eagle's Eye*, (Vol. 7, No. 2). In it the Planned Giving Advisory Board, presumably through *The Eagle's Eye* editor (Charlotte Sutherland?), is promoting the donation of securities to the

university to take advantage of the 1997 federal budget changes. Fair enough. The majority of those donors may well be women widowed in later years.

The newsletter then tells one how to donate such securities and the rules. Fair enough.

But then you ask the donor to fill out and sign a form headed, "Know all Men by these Presents".

Really! Surely Dalhousie is marginally more sensitive than this. Or they can at least pretend to know the basics of being politically correct. Let me predict that were this heading changed to "Know all Persons by these Presents" no court in the land would reject the form — not even the predominant male judges would

dare.

Or if you chose not to, then at least be consistent and change the internal text to read, "...and to substitute one or more men with full like power...".

It would seem to me that if you are bound and determined to throw off tradition and plan to get rid of Latin on Dalhousie degrees so that Americans can read them, then you might also consider getting rid of certain inbred sexist traditions.

Perhaps the root of the sexist problem comes from having only one woman on the eight person Planned Giving Advisory Board?

ALAN RUFFMAN

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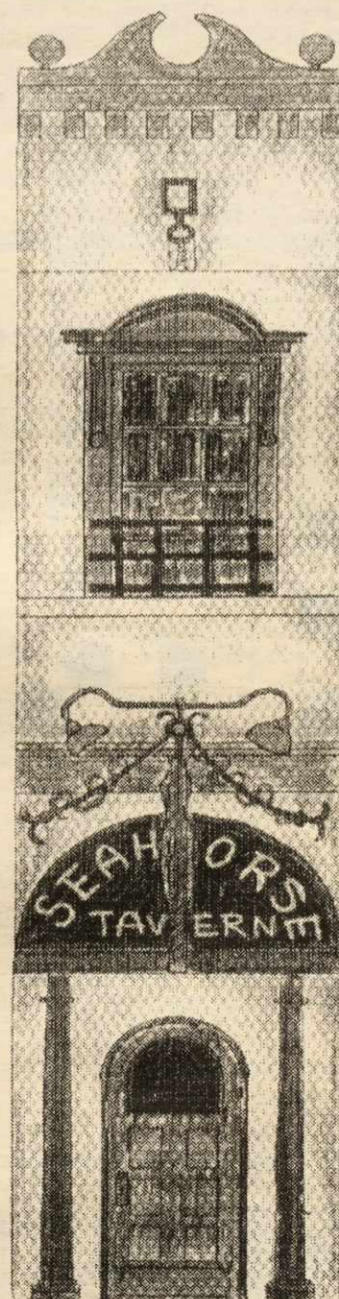
Web site: <http://www.ednet.ns.ca/educ/nslinks/>



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