

letters

Pork-bellied swine responds

To the Editor,

Let's speak of irony for just one moment, if you will. I find it ironic that anyone who wanted to be taken seriously would quote Alan Morissette to begin a diatribe. However, on second thought, I guess it is consistent with the rest of the letter written by D.H.

I am that ghastly and offensive object, the Chief Returning Officer for the DSU. This past election period did have problems occur, and I take full responsibility for them. Some of the poll clerks who were hired made mistakes, and while I cannot control their actions at all times, they were my employees. I wish that people who have these concerns would have raised them to me, and the problems could have been fixed sooner. As it was, I did have one person whose sole task was to go from station to station, ensuring that all was well. Yes, there were some problems, but the Elections Committee was able to handle them with expedience and efficiency.

Now, let us speak of your third point. I have known the outgoing executive since September, when I was hired to this position. I have worked closely with some, and just became acquainted with others. I would not call them my friends, as I do not know them well enough to take that privilege. Now let's look at the incoming executive. I met most of them during this year's campaign period. I'm flattered to know that I can attain "best friend" status so quickly with people I've just met.

Yet of patronage you speak. Yes, I am the new chair for the DSU. Never mind the fact that I applied for this position last year. Forget that I took the CRO's job, hoping to make a good impression, and maybe get chosen for chair this year. Who cares that I assisted James Pflanz with Robert's Rules of Order at general meetings this year, or chaired a council meeting when James was ill. Perhaps I was not the most qualified candidate, maybe I was rammed through a "quiet Wednesday night meeting" (incidentally, an open council meeting, at which I was unopposed for the position).

I'm confused, the room is spinning. I've been bloodied by your unfounded allegations. However, one thing I do know is at least my conscience is clear enough to sign my name to what I write.

Andy Doyle
DSU CRO and pork-bellied swine

Leave new prez alone

To the editor:

In response to the letter written by D.H. in the March 28 issue:

Enough already with slamming the new DSU. I've read all the letters and opinions in the Gazette over the past few weeks. Most made sense and argued valid points. The letter by D.H. however, struck me as being the ravings of someone who has nothing better to do than criticize people, and hasn't the courage to give his or her own name.

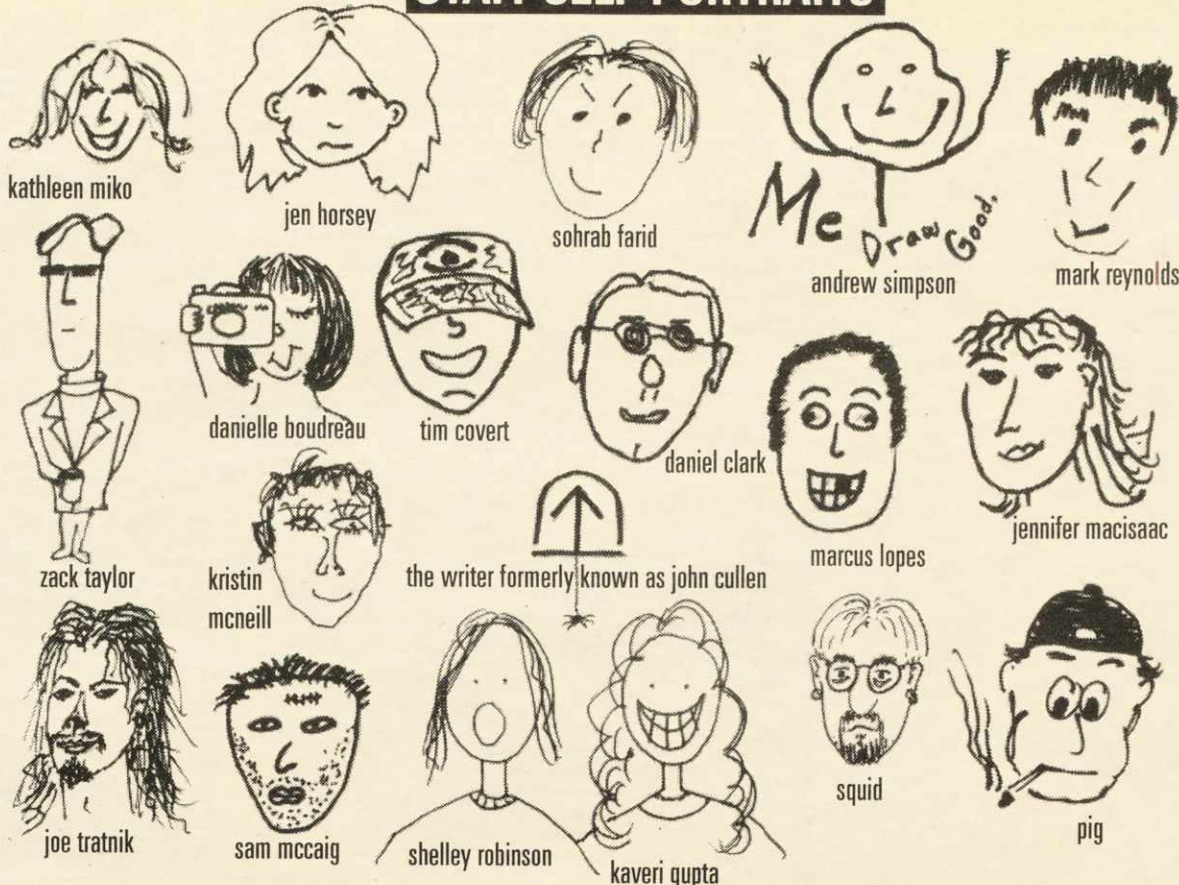
I won't argue the points made by D.H. about the poll clerks or the CRO. I don't know whether or not the accusations were true, so I won't argue the point.

What I will argue is the questioning of the character of the DSU candidates, particularly the new president. I have been friends with Brad MacKay for nearly three years, and I have never known anyone to have cause to call his character into question.

By making these accusations, you do not bring disrepute to Brad MacKay's character; instead, you show the smallness of your own.

Dan Dickinson

STAFF SELF-PORTRAITS



editorial

Bring on the virgins

Hi I'm Tim Covert. And I'm Shelley Robinson. And we're the two head editors for next year's Gazette. The two Gazetteers, so to speak.

Sam McCaig and Jen Horsey had our jobs this past year and they leave us very big shoes to fill. Fortunately, our feet swell. Why, you may ask? We have no idea, it's an editor thing.

Combined, we have about two-and-a-half years of experience at the Gazette and while it seems like a short period of time, we spent those years resolutely ignoring our school work in favour of the paper. So whereas some of you might escape from school work by playing sports, drinking, or falling asleep, we managed to do all three from the comfort of SUB room 312.

We have some lofty goals on how to do things next year at the Gazette, none of which will probably interest you, the reader. But they will interest you, the writer, which brings us to goal #1. We want you, the person who says there's never anything good in the Gazette — even those who say there's lots of good stuff but want more — to come up and bash your brains against one of our outdated Macs and write some stories. If you've ever written an essay — and we know you all have — writing for the Gazette is nothing like that. 'Nuff said.

And we want to know what's going on around campus. You might think that the Gazette only covers SUB-centred events, and in a way you would be right. Part of that reason is that, working on the paper most of the week, it's rare that we see much outside the immediate periphery of the SUB com-

pound. That's why we need you to come by the office, or call us, or fax us, or email us, and tell us what the news is, what we're missing, and what we completely bofed. When it comes to things we're stupidly not aware of, it's up to you folks to shake us soundly by the shoulders and tell us to wake up.

If we had to define the objectives of this, our newspaper — er, your newspaper — it would be to inform and entertain all in one modern, hip, easy to read, tabloid format. Whatever. If even one story whets your appetite about the campus and indeed, the world, then I think we're doing something right.

For us, the Gazette succeeds with one simple test. Picture this: you're walking around between classes, and you're feeling kind of not in the know. What do you do? If your first thought is to pick up the Gazette, we've done our job.

We'd like to wish y'all a happy summer but unfortunately, we're working just like the rest of you poor shmoes, so we know how unfun summer can sometimes be. But enjoy what little free time you have and when it comes to the end of the summer and you start to get sick of having money, you can come back to school with the knowledge that there'll be a Gazette waiting for you, telling you what you missed and what to expect in the months ahead.

In the meantime, if you want to pick up a rag, like the Horrid or the Daily Spew, be our guests. But remember, nobody does Dal like the Gazette and nobody does the Gazette like we do (Thank God! — Sam & Jen.)

TIM COVERT & SHELLEY ROBINSON

the Dalhousie Gazette

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96

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Loud library

To the editor,

As an employee of the Dalhousie Killam Library, I've had the privilege of being able to witness the project taking place on the third floor every day for the past week. Never mind that many students are already in the thick of their exams and need to attend to their studies in peace — someone has decided that manual labour in the form of replacement of lights, restructuring of the ceiling, etc. is going to take top priority. There have been numerous complaint forms issued by fellow students (myself included) in the past week because of the disruption. Obviously this has been to no avail and coupled with the fact that no instructions or notices have been posted to bring this subject to the attention of the students, it is crystal clear that Dalhousie University could care less! Exactly how many complaints would have had to have been made for the problem to be acknowledged — let alone rectified — at the Dalhousie Killam Library?

If it is of such enormous importance that this project be completed ASAP as opposed to after the students have written exams, then the administration should have paid for the work to be done at night after hours. I, along with many of my fellow students, am of the opinion that if we are going to work hard enough to be accepted to Dalhousie University and if we are willing to fork over such ridiculously high dollars for tuition, then we should at the very least be treated with the respect that we deserve at this institution. Thus, the present disaster on the third floor of the Killam Library is at the height of ignorance and has proven to be yet another way in which Dalhousie University works its students over.

Curtis Parker

Accused science student responds

To the Editor,

I am writing in response to the spurious allegations made by Steve Parsons in a letter published last week. I was the unnamed science student made reference to in this letter, and I am writing to debunk his slanderous lies. I am not responsible for verbal assault, as Steve suggested. What Steve mistook for verbal assault was actually constructive criticism; albeit passionately presented. I uttered no demeaning remarks, no threats, no insults, no derogatory language; all of which are necessary features of verbal assault. What I am guilty of is denouncing the DSS for the bureaucratic, constitutionally-minded nightmare it has become. At the meeting on March 25 I told the assembled DSS that they had lost touch with the needs of Dalhousie science students, and that this needed to be remedied. Perhaps the President-elect is not open to criticism, nor to a suggestion as to how his \$50,000 budget might be spent. It is my opinion that this money should be used to address the needs of all science students, and not only on those issues that Steve Parsons deems appropriate. If Mr. Parsons takes issue with this, then perhaps he should make way for someone that can represent us all.

Jason Jacques

Dirty water

To the Editor,

Each day, 100 million litres of untreated sewage is dumped into Halifax Harbour. Although the harbour serves as a home to marine and plant life, for industry, tourism and recreation, the problem of contamination continues to go unsolved. In 1991, 97% of Haligonians surveyed by Omnifacts felt that sewage treatment was crucial.

Extensive research studies have been conducted in the last five years (Halifax Harbour Task Force and Halifax Harbour Cleanup Inc.). Both concluded that the problems of contamination must be addressed and