

Yeah, whatever

Just before I left my little island-in-the-Mediterranean-sun, I was warned by several parties of how politically correct I would have to be once I set foot on the other side of the Atlantic, otherwise I would no doubt be dragging myself through an endless stream of lawsuits (Oops, must say 'legal action' there!).

Canadians, I was told, were not 'white' or 'black'; they were Caucasian-Canadian, and African-Canadian. They weren't gay or straight; they were homosexual or heterosexual. They weren't tall, short or fat; they were vertically-advantaged, vertically-disadvantaged (or vertically-challenged) and gravitationally-challenged. They weren't this, they weren't that, you mustn't say this, you mustn't say that. Armed with this valuable information, I came to Canada.

At first, I found it really odd how people weren't as uptight (Oops! Meant to say 'politically correct' there) as I had expected them to be.

"Maybe it's the people I'm hanging around with," I said to myself. I almost convinced myself, too, that Canadians have this miraculous gene that allows them to be politically correct at all times.

Except that things don't quite work that way on this side of the Atlantic. In Canada, from what I have gathered, people only go into PC-mode when they are in the presence of a person who is likely to be offended. This is not to say that there's an entire nation of two-faced people (People with personality disorders? People with multiple personalities?) out there... I only discovered this because I was on the butt end (posterior appendage side), until people discovered that I wasn't really bothered with it.

In my few short months here, however, I have come across several people who have 'enlightened' me. For example, until I came to Canada, I had always presumed that I was 'white.' Except I recently discovered that I'm not. Fine by me. So what am I then? I was told that I'm a Latin-Caucasian. That's very interesting — I wonder if my parents knew that. After much debate and discussion, I was told that I am also a 'person of colour.' That's wonderful! Erm, aren't we all 'people of colour'? I do not recall ever encountering anyone who did not have a specific skin tone that may be put into some colour category.

Well, six months later and I couldn't care less about being politically bloody correct. There is a very fine line between trying not to offend people and being anal. Political correctness successfully manages to cover both. However, I have learnt a whole load of new terms such as 'person of heft,' 'environmentally sensitive' and (my own personal favourite) 'non-sectarian festive shrubbery.' (Shame. I used to quite like Christmas trees.)

Personally, I simply try not to offend people when I don't mean to. (Yes, I admit it: sometimes I offend people on purpose. Being nasty and bitchy happens to the best of us at times. It is human nature.) If I have offended anyone in any way, please excuse me. I'm just a bloody foreigner and what would I know, anyway?

Eugenia Bayada



THE SMOOTH ROAD TO JOIN HALIFAX UNIVERSITIES.

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LETTERS

The Dalhousie *Gazette* welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should not exceed 300 words in length and should be typed and double-spaced. The deadline for letters is Monday 4 pm before publication. Letters may be e-mailed or submitted on Macintosh or IBM-compatible 3.5" disk.

Accessibility half-truths

To the editor,

I read with amazement and disbelief the recent article "Dal not accessible" (*the Gazette*, Feb. 2/95). Replete with half-truths and outright fabrication, it was clearly based largely, if not solely, on an interview with one disgruntled individual.

I would be the first to admit that, despite huge strides over the past few years, Dalhousie still has some way to go in achieving a fully accessible campus. However, one would have hoped that the writer could have confined his critique to fact rather than simply repeat the baseless and previously discredited, claims of his source. As it is, your readers have been left with a totally false impression of the Department of Physical Plant and Planning's commitment to accessibility, and of its dedicated and competent staff.

Perhaps it would not be too much to ask that, in future, your writers seek out, and then include in their articles, the facts as well as opinions.

W.H. Lord, P.Eng.
Director,

Physical Plant and Planning

Broomball equality

To the editor,

I am writing in response to the article regarding the All-Night Broomball tournament in the Feb. 9 edition of *the Gazette*. It was a great tournament and I was on the Killer Cod team that won it all.

I am, however, disappointed that the writer of the article ended it by congratulating Cameron House on the win.

The team was co-ed so there is no way that Cameron won the tournament by themselves — being an all male house. The team was registered under Newcombe/Cameron — Newcombe being the sister house and where the female participants on the team live.

To all those who are unaware: there is a Shirreff Hall, a Newcombe House and women who participate on co-ed

teams. I am tired of people only recognizing the male houses in residence when it comes to co-ed events and supremacy.

Newcombe deserves to be recognized because the four girls on our Killer Cod Squad broomball team, Tanya Johnson, Angela Thistle, Innis Leblanc and myself, had a lot to do with our win!

Amy Miller
Newcombe House President

Access priorities

To the editor,

The members of the Dalhousie Women's Centre Management Collective would like to respond to Nora Bednarski's letter which appeared in the February 9th issue of *the Gazette*.

Dalhousie has repeatedly been criticized for its widespread lack of inaccessible facilities. As Ms. Bednarski pointed out, there have been some recent attempts to deal with this problem. Hopefully, these policy changes will just be the first steps taken on a path which leads to a university that is completely accessible to all students and members of the community.

Most importantly, we would like to say that we agree wholeheartedly with everything Ms. Bednarski had to say. The inaccessibility of the Centre has been a definite problem since it opened and, as such, has been a top priority and will continue to be so until the problem is solved.

Susan Inglis
Facilitator,
Dalhousie Women's Centre
Management Collective

TV Jesus Judas

To the editor,

I would like to comment on the article "TV Jesus" (February 9, 1995) in which the author states "We had no idea that during the war, 100,000 Iran civilians were being killed in order to free the undemocratic nation of Kuwait."

I hope the author of the article realizes that as a result of that statement, he comes across as a complete idiot. I would like to point out to our most edified 'TV Jesus' that it was Iraq, not

Iran, that was the target of the campaign in 1990—91. There is a world of difference between the two.

Furthermore, what kind of criticism is "undemocratic"? Is our 'TV Jesus', in his eternal wisdom, equating democracy with justice?

Does our 'TV Jesus' actually know anything about Kuwait? I am a Kuwaiti and I want to tell him that Kuwaitis are very happy with their government, far more so than Canadians or Americans are. Besides, Kuwait is far more democratic (whatever that's worth nowadays) than most countries in the middle east.

The world would be a far better place if more people actually put some thought into what they say before they say it.

Siad Al-Omari

Dastardly Dags

To the editor,

I happened to walk in to the Grad House the other day, and there was a strange buzz in the air. I was only there a few minutes when someone walked up to me and said, "Have you heard? The Forces of Darkness are gathering."

I, being the astute person I am, quickly understood this to mean that there was a Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students (DAGS) rumble coming. I quickly took my ass up the stairs to the DAGS office (for those of you who don't know where it is) and asked Chris, the office manager, if there was a DAGS meeting coming up, and if so, was there an agenda ready.

Quickly scanning the agenda, I saw that at the top was a motion to "discuss the functioning of Council." I quickly figured this to be a sadly worded attempt by Sour Grapes to get back at Alexander 'Sandy' Ross (DAGS President) for not cowering to their petty demands.

I think Sandy is a pretty good guy, so I took it kinda personal-like.

I, of course, took it upon myself to attend the meeting, and I can tell you it was a joke. The "Forces of

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