

LETTERS

Peas and carrots

To the editors:

Good job Paul Webster on the grocery store piece. You are absolutely right: it is impossible to buy decent fruit and vegetables in Halifax. I guess you have to live in the middle of the corn belt or in a major Canada-U.S. artery to get fresh produce at a lower cost. But compared to the rest of Canada Halifax ranks ok — try being a vegetarian in Newfoundland.

Another thing I'd like to comment on is Nicole Schmidt and Jennifer Penman's letter regarding offensive campaign posters in Henderson House, Howe Hall. Friends, things have not changed in the last few years. I recall seeing similar posters a few years ago, during residence elections which depicted soft-core porn — and the candidate won. Way to go Henderson, for maintaining a repugnant tradition. I am not saying "yes" to censorship, I am simply saying "no" to the degradation of women.

Mary Beth Bourke

Humanity is sad

To the editors:

Ten years or so ago, my mother, who lives in the United States, wrote a letter to the daily newspa-

per. Disturbed by the political, social and moral decline in American life, she began her letter: "One must feel a little sad to be an American these days." At that time I was still too much a child of my age to see as clearly as my mother, but the words of her letter came back to me when I picked up the February 14 issue of the *Dalhousie Gazette*, discovered the *Gay and Lesbian Supplement* and began to read. I was, as my mother, disturbed, and I also felt sad — only I felt sad to be a human being. Lest anyone accuse me of homophobia and dismiss what I am saying, let me say that I would feel as deeply disturbed and sad if the articles had been written by and about heterosexuals.

Does the "diversity and freedom of expression" that Julie Lewis says the *Supplement* is "about", mean that there are no longer any intellectual or moral standards in the universities? Is, as Dostoevsky stated, "everything permitted" now that we no longer believe in God or immortality or truth? We of the last few generations pride ourselves on our concern for human dignity and human rights, and we so readily raise our voices at what we consider the least infringement, but few of us dare raise our voices against the prurience that is now the most pervasive feature of our age.

Is it possible that anyone could read the articles in that *Supplement* and then speak convincingly of human dignity and human rights? Is it possible that anyone could really "celebrate" the Pink Triangle? If so, one must feel a little sad to be human being.

Elizabeth Boyd
Former Dal student

Pro-life posters

To the editors:

The cover to the Jan. 31 *Gazette* (CENSORED) noted the censoring of the "Mainstream Media" while promoting the idea that the "*Gazette* is not censored". Although I do not wish to debate the content of the title page, I would like to thank you for its provocative nature. In fact, it caused me to sit and take the time to share how a very real example of censorship affects our own university campus.

Educational, thoughtful, informative, stimulating, and, sometimes scientific, posters are being torn down from the many bulletin boards around this university campus; an educational institution that proclaims to support the academic method of researching, reflecting and expounding upon the various thought-provoking and intellectually stimulating ideologies and theories.

Ironically, the posters appear to be torn down by persons who consider themselves to be open to the idea of choosing between alternative ideas; or at least the name of their own ideology suggests that. Although I would never wish to suggest that these persons represent the "pro-choice" movement as a whole, it should be recognized that these individuals are, in fact, censoring optional viewpoints. How can one even become pro-choice if they have not had more than one resource to choose from? How can one reflect or research intelligently, in an academic environment, when "thought police" are cruising the campus and tearing

down other opinions? Whether differing opinions appear legitimate or not within one's own mind, or within a specific trend or academic theory, these non-racist, non-sexist, non-homophobic posters should be simply left to be read and considered by others. They are not to be banned.

If, however, one feels compelled to continue with this form of censorship, please donate some financial amount to your nearest "pro-life" student organization in order that the cost of printing, etc. may be covered. Incidentally, some of these posters were advertising assistance to those women who may be experiencing post-abortion complications.

G.B. Stiller

Campus rape

To the editors:

RAPE, it's not often we hear this sickening four letter word around the perfect Dalhousie campus. It makes me wonder, why don't we hear of rape around Dal? Is it because Dal is such a safe campus that rape never happens? A beautiful picture, but I doubt it.

Rape happens, yes girls, I'm sorry to say, but it happens right under our noses here at Dal. Funny, I've never heard of any warnings or statistics about rape on campus. (A DSU or Dal Admin responsibility?) Funnier still, I've never heard of any women being raped since I started here at Dal four years ago. Am I missing something? Maybe some small poster on a crowded bulletin board warning me? I don't think so. Yet, from a reliable source, (as reliable as they come when these topics are so cleverly swept under the Dal carpet) I have been told that five women have been raped since the beginning of January around campus.

Unbelievable! I'm furious about knowing, but also scared. How many times have I walked home at night, alone in the last month? I could have been one of these "never heard of" rape victims due to my ignorance.

Something MUST be done about this problem. Dal isn't the safe little haven we are led to believe. People should know. The women on campus have a right to know, so they will be scared and protect themselves. Then perhaps the statistics (that we never hear about) will be a reality.

Gazette, maybe you can dig up a solution, because women have a right to be informed about these circumstances. Give them a chance to avoid being raped.

Thank you for printing this letter and informing an ignorant public.

Anonymous
Halifax Rape Crisis Line: 425-0122

Dalhousie Sexual Harassment Committee's sexual harassment line: 494-1659

The War issue

To the editor:

It would seem to me, that many of those involved in peace marches, as well as those who put together the "Peace Supplement" are enjoying the privileges and freedoms that living in a democracy bring. Yet these same people are unwilling to pay the price as such when called upon by their country to do so. We as citizens, have a moral obligation and a duty to our country to stand up and defend it. As well, stand up and support Canada's moral obligations to the United Nations and it's judgement of what is right and wrong in international affairs. We as a strong supporter of the United Nations, which Canada endorsed, would have been appropriate. The United Nations have stood for international law and against international aggression. This may have not been done in the past as forcefully as it should have been but that is irrelevant, nothing can change the past. Here we have a chance to do the right thing. It is a just thing to liberate a member nation from the clutches of a tyrant, who has murdered, destroyed a nation, and broken international law.

Remembrance Day, not commemorated to glorify war but to honor those who have fought and to remember those who have died. We continue to enjoy the freedom as a nation, which were fought for by idealistic young men so many years ago. The *Gazette* with its phobia against the armed forces reserved a small space on the back of the paper so they could reflect on our war dead "Lest We Forget". How fitting to have a paper print a peace supplement and yet wave a finger in the air to the many veterans from this university, who not long ago in striving for peace, realized that they must go to war.

As long as nations exist there will be war and as long as there is war, young men will die for the ideals which they possess. It is the duty of those who refuse to serve, to support in every way possible our troops, not treat them with less respect than they would an animal. It's too late to pull out of this war and for those who believe it isn't are gravely mistaken. We are in this for the duration, against injustice. You the editors, who refuse to support our troops in the gulf and on other United Nations missions, should tone down your attacks for the sake of the many at Dalhousie who believe in this action and are prepared to go to war.

Maybe someday young men will not be sent to die but until that day comes we have little option, for cowardice is no excuse for not doing ones duty for their country.

Peter Patterson

ATTENTION !!! GRADS

NOMINATIONS ARE NOW OPEN
FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:

GRAD CLASS '91 PRESIDENT

VICE PRESIDENT

SECRETARY / TREASURER

ALSO: Valedictorians from EACH
Faculty MUST be Selected

Applications Are Available:

Council Offices ROOM 222 SUB

Deadline: March 6th

Any Questions Contact Patti Dow

Room 222 SUB or Phone 494 - 1106