

BLACKS ON BLACK

FALSE PROMISES...AGAIN

The past few weeks have provided immense turmoil for both students attending Dalhousie as well as for the greater community.

Strike One, ugh! Howard Clark lets the guillotine fall on Dalhousie's fine arts programs. This put to rest the notion that the university ever cared for the cultural and artist development of its students or the greater artistic community. Clark went on to say that these programs are not essential in the continuation of the mandate of the university. Odd how decisions become much more palatable when the person making them does not have to swallow them.

Strike Two, ouch! Howard Clark enforces heavy tariffs on imported African and Caribbean wine, oops I mean students. Along with the death blow given to the fine arts programs, Clark announces a \$1,000 increase in the differential fee paid by international students. How cruel! How Preston Manning of him! If Canadian students are experiencing difficulty in supporting themselves at university, how do you think the international Black students are feeling? They have felt the brunt of tuition hikes, as well as increases in the differential fee, and they are relegated to working on campus for a maximum of ten hours a week. Could you or I deal with

this additional financial constraint?

Strike Two, foul ball! The university announced that two sponsors of the Indigenous Black and Mi'kmaq program (IBM) have withdrawn their support cutting over 50% — \$127,000 of \$249,000 of the program's budget. This disaster will result in the elimination of the Director's position, and the elimination of the program once the current students graduate. The elimination of the Director's position will be effective in May, leaving the interests of present and future Black and Mi'kmaq students in limbo. Lest we forget, the IBM program was born out of the Donald Marshall Inquiry, which stated that Black and Mi'kmaq legal representation is crucial to help right the wrongs in the justice system. I guess this can only mean one thing, the justice system is doing a "good job" when dealing with the rights of Blacks and Mi'kmaq people.

Strike Two, foul ball! STUDENTS HAVE YET TO 'STRIKE OUT'. However, if the DSU does not strategize with all of those affected, that includes Black students, on an equal playing field, then they will be amount to nothing more than armchair revolutionists.

Jasen Gannon

Reform, NDP and the Greens were represented. The official explanation was that the debate was organized weeks ago and thus it was too 'difficult' to include the other five. Strange, because when the National Party candidate called the DSU on his own initiative he was given the brush off. Yet when several of the excluded candidates complained, a separate forum was arranged so that they could speak in front of the DSU Council the following Tuesday. This strikes me as being a lot more 'difficult' than merely adding a few chairs to the stage in the McInnes room.

What's going on in this country? Democracy is being destroyed because it's inconvenient, because some people take it upon themselves to decide who other people should hear from.

Our government just passed an election reform act which calls for the seizure of the assets of any party which fields less than fifty candidates in any federal election, while at the same time increasing the deposit from \$200 to \$1,000. This intolerance for new ideas and new parties recalls fascist legislation of the 'thirties'. We should remember that the Nazi government was democratically elected.

Megan McKay
Dominic Cardy

Dig the Diggers

To the editor:

I consider myself to be of the inquisitive sort, so after reading the Skydiggers concert review in September 30's *Gazette*, a few questions arose.

I'll start with some of the obvious: Who is Leigha White? Is she actually employed at the *Gazette* or does she freelance? Does she review many of the McInnes Room shows? Would she be considered an appropriate reporter to review concerts when she doesn't attend the show? And that she's uncomfortable around alcohol? (This I can respect, but booze is pretty much present at all of these functions at Dal, be it McInnes Room or Grawood.)

Unlike Ms. White, I actually attended the concert. The music didn't bore me. I

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Coverage

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claiming that they couldn't reach any of the other eight. Yet we managed to contact all eight in one evening. It is interesting to note that the majority of the executive of the society are members of the above named parties...draw your own conclusions.

At the Public Service Alliance of Canada debate on October 6 we saw yet another examples of such exclusions. In a violation of the inclusive spirit of the union movement the PSAC only invited the candidates from the old 'Big Three' parties. This union could do well to remember it's roots, labour would never have developed had those in power demonstrated the closed-mindedness that they are exhibiting.

At the Dalhousie Student Union debate on the 13 only five of the ten candidates were invited. The Tories, Liberals,

The dangers of Reform

There's a big difference between political reform and the Reform Party. What the Reform Party stands for is not "renew", but "return". When they're talking good ol' common sense about deficit reduction, cutting entitlements to the rich and fighting governmental waste and corruption — all fine, modern ideas with which I agree — they're also thinking about the host of dangerous, obsolete beliefs which they intend to bring back to Canadian society. Namely, women can head back into the kitchens and non-white non-Anglo-Saxons can head back to their homelands.

Listen to John Beck, the ousted candidate for York Centre: "I feel the time has come for white Anglo-Saxons to get involved." He claims that immigrants are "taking jobs away from us, the gentile people." "Gentile people"? The crowds of Reform supporters, of course, who statistically are older, wealthier and less racially diverse than the Canadian population.

Beck continues: "We're destroying ourselves hourly...and these people coming from another country, one evil is just as bad as another." He even sees immigrants who invest in Canada and thus stimulate the economy as threats, "You have a \$150,000 guy there coming...But what is he bringing? Death and destruction to the people." Who are "the people"? The 'full-blooded Canadians' who immigrated from Europe years ago and displaced the aboriginals?

Worse, Beck's unrepentant attitude after being forced to withdraw his candidacy shows that he still considers himself a good patriot. "They think I'm nuts, but I've had no breakdown. They asked me to resign, so I resigned."

But the remaining Reform candidates are nothing like John Beck, right? He was just an isolated case, a bad apple who got through the Reform's rigid candidate screening process, right?

Herbert Grabel, running in British Columbia, says that immigrants have been a net drain on the Canadian economy. Even if the statistics supported his view, which they do not, it's illogical to think that curbing population growth will create jobs for currently unemployed citizens. Perhaps Grabel also believes printing more money will reduce poverty.

Reform Party leader Preston Manning says that "anyone from Western Canada would know that we are a pro-immigrant party." I happen to be from Winnipeg, Manitoba, where the party had its founding meeting. I was not fooled then or now. It frightens me the number of thinking people that Manning has fooled, not just on the west coast, where right-wing close-mindedness still flourishes, but also here on the east coast.

The Reform Party threatens not only racial minorities, but also the status of women. Ron Mix is the Edmonton North candidate, and his opinion regarding the choices available to deal with an unplanned pregnancy is,

"When the woman lays with the man, she has made her choice."

At a candidate forum on law and order in Burlington, Ontario, Hugh Ramolla's response to a female NDPer who would not give up the floor was, "Hit her!" When charged with insensitivity, Ramolla replied that the "femin-Nazis" simply hadn't gotten the joke.

One Reform candidate claims that "the press is just in it to twist things, and Reform supporters might argue that the media is biased against the Reform Party. However, any other candidate from any other party making similar comments would provoke the same media and public reaction. Consider the heat Kim Campbell generated with her "enemies of Canada" statement.

I would very much like to support the Reform Party based on their economic principles. However, it is impossible to dismiss these various quotations as simple verbal gaffes or the words of just a few loose cannons. There are simply too many loose cannons for there not to be a secret war going on. Notice that out of all the candidates quoted above, only John Beck was asked by the party to withdraw. It is difficult to not conclude that Reform Party candidates and members must share a fundamental set of beliefs which does not include racial harmony and gender equality.

Richard Lim

NOVEMBER 13, 1993
AT 9:00PM

ROSE VAUGHN TRIO

THE DEBUT OF THEIR NEW ALBUM
"FIRE IN THE SNOW"

TICKETS:
\$10 ADVANCE, \$13 AT THE DOOR
AVAILABLE: OCT. 27TH AT RED HERRING, DSU ENQUIRY DESK,
& SAM THE RECORD MAN-BARRINGTON

IN THE McINNES ROOM
DALHOUSIE STUDENT UNION BUILDING
GENERAL ADMISSION
CABARET STYLE TABLE SEATING

N.S. Liquor L.D. or
Student I.D.
Required. Those under
19 years of age will be
admitted only with a
valid Dalhousie Student
Identification.

DSU CONCERT PROMOTIONS

OCT. 29 TH AND 30TH
THE DALHOUSIE ARTS SOCIETY
AND
THE DALHOUSIE SCIENCE SOCIETY
PRESENT

BOURBON TABERNACLE CHOIR

DSU CONCERT PROMOTIONS

\$5

IN THE GRAWOOD