

White-collar terrorism

Terrorism. It was all the rage before "drug abuse" came along. But where have all the terrorists gone since last summer's "retaliatory" raid by the U.S. on Libya?

Are they still a threat to the stability of our society or merely a threat to the semantics of the English Language?

A new group has been established in Ottawa with the objective of fighting the threat of terrorism by using a non-violent approach to educate confirmed terrorists and by pushing for enacting world laws against the practice.

The founder of the group, Barry Randall, a former offensive linesman with the Montreal Alouettes, has written to 21 student newspapers in Canada and the U.S. in an effort to initiate a series of student debates on the problem of terrorism.

Randall is pushing for Canada and the U.S. to lead the way and enact anti-terrorist laws which "would include bringing terrorists back to North America for trial."

The problem is one of definition. Just who are the "terrorists"?

Originally, the word "terrorist" described the actions of the state-organized "reign of terror" in 18th century revolutionary France. During the 20th century, the word came to refer to a

member of a clandestine or expatriate organization attempting to coerce an established government by acts of violence.

Fine, but what then does "state-sponsored terrorism" mean? Does it include Libyan, Palestinian and Soviet sponsored actions but not those of the U.S. in Grenada or in Nicaragua?

It is clearly a term which acquires an ethnocentric interpretation when it is electively used to refer to the actions of a foreign governments by the media.

Randall never explicitly defines the term but seems to imply that it finds its roots in Marxist-Leninist and Maoist theory.

If we apply a broader definition of "terrorism", it can be understood as a more subtle state-sponsored social control mechanisms. One manifestation of this is the tendency of states to create external enemies in order to deflect criticism and discussion of domestic problems.

Randall says if we don't work to stop terrorism now, the "violence will grow until it envelops our countries."

By creating a paranoia of largely fictitious external threats, both Reagan and Randall are guilty of practicing a form of terrorism in order to counter their own selective definitions of "terrorism".

- Toby Sanger



LETTERS

Straight sex

To the Editor,

I am writing in response to your article "Birth control without going broke" that appeared in the November 20th issue of the *Dalhousie Gazette*.

The article said, "Both King's and Mount Saint Vincent universities have adopted the plan. However, each school has opted out of the contraceptive coverage, apparently for 'religious reason'." I cannot speak for King's but Mount Saint Vincent University did not opt out of the contraceptive coverage for "religious reasons". Our student council held a referendum to allow

students the choice of whether or not to include this coverage in our health plan. The coverage was defeated by 372 "no" votes, 360 "yes" votes and 38 abstentions. We feel the writer should have checked with us for details and not made assumptions.

Thank you for setting the record straight.

Sincerely,
Sue LeBreton,

P.R. manager for Student Union

Semantic sexism

To the editor,

Also to Ms. Lois Corbett, to whom I would like to say, "Calm down!" You gave a splendid

example of how pathetic and paranoid true feminism can be. The word makes me sick. I'm not knocking equality, but you are defeating your purpose of bringing the rights of men and women (sorry — women and men) to the same level by segregating yourself as different and lesser than men; it's your own 'master and slave' paradox, no pun intended. It's not the language that maintains the inequality, it's yourselves. Why not just BE equal and say to h--- to anyone who thinks different.

I don't deny that things aren't peachy between men and women, and you proved that, and I'm all for equality. But if it means having Lois pick apart every unintentional grammatical inference, every "he/she" misjudgement, and every compliment towards

the opposite sex then I'm all for nuclear holocaust. I mean, surely, Lois, there's a limit. How could you sign your letter, 'sincerely'?

So you and a million other women play basketball — more power to you — but do you seriously believe that Pat Savage's reference to boys playing ball will alter the minds of us chauvinistic, egotistical males against women?! I'm surprised you saw past his "slip-up" to read what he wrote. The "Search for Steak" could well have been written by yourself. And don't say you wouldn't look at the cute guys in the restaurant. Don't you think the girls have minds of their own? For all you know, they could have been saying "Get away, creep."

Think about it, Lois. If the *Gazette* is "committed to women", isn't it sexist??!

Remember, it's a two-way street and neither of us should cross the median intentionally.

Shocked and appaled,
Laurie Kinsman

Uninformed withdrawals

To the Editor;

I am writing in response to Dr. Sinclair's letter dated November 19, to Ms. Jackson and Ms. DeBoer concerning the new withdrawal dates for Arts & Science, Management Studies and Health Professions. Because of my concern with this issue, I have carried out some research regarding the decision-making

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Commentary should not exceed 700 words, letters should not exceed 300 words. No unsigned material will be accepted, but anonymity may be granted on request.

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The *Gazette* offices are located on the 3rd floor SUB. Come up and have a coffee and tell us what's going on.

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