

8 pages for the oppressed

To the editor:

I am writing in response to Shane Wambolt's letter of March 8, and also to similar opinions presented in regard to the Gay and Lesbian Supplement. You're absolutely right ... there is no "pull-out" sports supplement. Do you know why? It is because a pull-out supplement only allows for an oppressed minority to get 8 pages of commentary a year, as opposed to the sports section which constitutes more than 30 pages a year. Based on your numbers, this would indicate to me that varsity athletes make up 30 per cent of the Dalhousie population, not a likely situation. Now, I don't want to be perceived as anti-athletics. On the contrary, I think everyone (especially oppressed minorities) deserve a voice in a student newspaper. Every year, the Gazette puts out more than 500 pages of information, and if you consider 8 pages to be "extensive coverage," then you are mistaken.

I would also like to address issues raised by Nipun Vats, who is probably correct in stating that "being gay is a natural state." Why then is he not appalled that gays and lesbians are only afforded one supplement to alert people that their basic human rights are not even respected in Canada. If anything, this issue warrants more coverage in the Gazette, as they are the only "natural state" that are not prevented from discrimination in the Federal Human Rights Act, as opposed to all other natural states (ie. sex, race, etc.).

Finally, just because there is no Straight Pride Week at Dal (although many would argue that every "typical week" is just this), does not mean that we should suppress the good intentions of those who are proud of their sexuality, despite such an unfriendly world.

Kim Vance

Historical accuracy?

To the editor:

The ad for summer jobs at the Halifax Citadel which appeared in the March 1 edition of the Gazette was incomplete. The line reading "... students are needed to portray nineteenth-century British soldiers ..." should have read: "... white male students only ..." I am surprised that such blatant discrimination based on race and gender is permitted under the justification of "historical accuracy."

I can understand cleaning up the environment for historical accuracy, or tearing down skyscrapers, or banning all nearby air traffic, or even banning unhistorical Nikkon-toting tourists. All of

these things detract from the Citadel's sacred historical accuracy, but it seems to me that someone has their priorities backwards. Perhaps it is just easier to be racist in Nova Scotia.

Human rights should never play second-string to the 'tidiness' of a white-male-only hiring policy at the Citadel. There are several convenient remedies to this injustice and I shall quickly outline two.

One possible solution is to simply throw out all concerns of accuracy if, in doing so, it would threaten human rights. Visible minorities and oppressed groups cannot be denied equal access to jobs. This is especially so when they are students who need summer jobs in order to make enough money to meet the costs of rising tuition fees.

An even better solution is as follows: However many jobs are presently slotted for white men only (as British soldiers) should equally be provided to visible minorities and other oppressed groups in the form of other jobs found in the Citadel. More specifically, if ten jobs are now reserved for white males right now, then ten jobs elsewhere at the Citadel (in the gift shop or as tour guides for example) should be reserved for visibly oppressed groups such as blacks and women.

"So what?" you say. What can I do about this injustice? Call the Citadel right now. Tell them you're angry. Tell them you'll never go there again if they don't change. Tell your friends, "do something. I did."

Name withheld by request

Racists losing

Dear Editor:

I'd like to point out, especially to the pitiful, debilitated, ignorant hate mongers in our society, that you can hate all you want to. You can try to round up racist followers for power, all you want to, but you are going to lose! Why? In our society and all others around the world, the ethnic minorities have the support of many, many more white people than any poll can accurately portray. As well, anyone who wants to be a follower of hatred, as disgusting, and literally stupid as that sounds, is only winding tighter his/her own self-destruct spring. Multiply that one by any number and you have quite a few very ignorant people who are losers, and I don't care what position they may hold in society. They are losers. They are hate-filled and therefore ignorant. They are very narrow minded. No one with an open mind, who likes him/herself, and who is at peace with him/herself could stand to allow such ugly, self-devouring emotions rule their minds, hearts, souls and very lives. Such hateful emotions eat up the very life

inside a human being. Any person who allows him/herself to be controlled by such hateful emotions ages in an incredibly obvious way. They become dead inside — just look into the eyes of 'a hater.' Do you see life, love, joy, youth, health of mind?

Our society is no longer as ignorant and uneducated as they were before the first and second world wars. Hate infiltration should be uncovered and exposed each and every time it rears its ugly head. It should not only be exposed, but as well pushed right back into the very hearts that are attempting to make others feel as ugly inside as they themselves do. If each mutual respecting, tolerant person did all he or she could, each day, to stand up for equal respect and tolerance for all races: hatred, racism and prejudice could not survive!

Hitler blew it anyway! Myself and millions like me throughout the world, will see to it that 'Hitler the intelligent fool and all his atrocities' will forever be remembered, so that never again will mankind allow such a horrendous evil to take root and grow and develop at the expense of even the weakest, and/or the most innocent of humans of any colour, creed or religion.

Yes, the majority of society is no longer uneducated or ignorant enough to allow racism to rule. My suggestion to anyone leaning toward a possible racist attitude is: educate yourself in the light of truth, dignity and mutual and self respect. You'll be ashamed of what you almost allowed yourself to become.

Again, I say to all you hate-filled, ignorant, self-destructing racists: look around you — open your eyes: look at Europe! Look at Russia! Look at Africa! Hear about China?

'Racists,' you are losing!

Carol Volk-Knibbs

Those who get off their ass

To the editor:

I would like to respond to the letters of Nipun Vats and Shane Wamboldt in the March 8 issue of the Gazette. Both of these writers seem to be saying that there is too much gay and lesbian material in the Gazette that it is not representative of the student body. The Portable Gay and Lesbian Reader took up about half of one issue of the Gazette or about two per cent of the yearly space available, as well there is generally a couple of short CUP briefs on gay or lesbian issues in each edition that take up perhaps another one per cent of the space available. Considering that gay and lesbian people make up about 10 per cent of the population and are interested in other news as well three per cent is probably a reasonable amount of space to devote to these issues. I think what makes the Gazette stand out is that it does give a reasonable coverage to these issues while every mainstream media almost totally ignores that gay and lesbian people exist.

There is nothing wrong with being straight. Straight people

get this message every day. Heterosexual relationships are portrayed hundreds of times each day on television and the radio (if you don't believe me just listen to C100 for an hour or two and count how many times you hear about some aspect of heterosexual relationships). There is also nothing wrong with being gay or lesbian but this rarely heard in our society. By writing the supplement we were trying to combat this situation and reach out to the gay and lesbian people who do not hear that message too often. By reading the supplement, I think that the only thing heterosexuals are in danger of is having their perspective on life expanded, sort of like travelling to another country and realizing that yours is not the only way of being.

I would also like to comment that the Portable Gay and Lesbian Supplement, like most other material in the Gazette was written by unpaid volunteers who wanted to see their interests represented. The Gazette thus represents the views of those who get off their ass and write for it. If anyone wants to see their views or interests represented they should quit whining about it and write, or if they want, get together a bunch of people interested in the same thing and write a supplement. If you make a regular habit of it you will soon be treated to a letter from someone complaining that the Gazette has too much (insert your issue here) and doesn't represent the interests of most students.

Joseph Peterson

M.S.V.U. GRADUATING CLASS OF 1990

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