

ED/OP

LETTERS CONTINUED

Literary prowess?

To the editor:

The sun was losing its drunken footing on horizon's hazy rail as I sat reading the *Gazette* last Thursday evening. As my perusal neared the Arts section, the sickening stench of "The Smell of Rotting Engines" became apparent. Even though I have an English degree from Dalhousie (and therefore am supposedly receptive to various types of literature), I was not quite prepared to read of "transcendental master chefs chopping up cheese-like coastline" and of "chimpanzees laughing as if high on really bad acid" in the same paragraph. So I passed the story on to my Psych major friend for psychoanalysis. She said "This story wasn't pretty. But I guess it wasn't meant to be."

We love metaphors as much as the next reader, but J. Cuervo proved himself/herself to be as talented a writer of metaphor as Alex Boston did himself a writer of marathon-length articles (Psyche!) obviously written to satisfy the glaring gaps in the *Gazette* on layout night (but not to be too hard on Mr. Boston, he has proven his worth as a photogenic subject for the *Gazette* recently: flaring his nostrils on Sept. 5 and frolicking for the camera with 200 of his closest buddies on Sept. 12).

We realize it is only September and pickings are probably pretty slim in terms of publishable material right now, so we encourage all you frosh and returning students to contribute your words to the *Gazette* and thereby relieve us from the plague of corny metaphors and rambling space fillers seen thus far!

Aspiring Literary Critics

Tongue & cheek

To the editor:

After seeing your recent article about the "KKK fighting back", I was inclined to think about racism and how it affects people. Everybody says that it is such a bad thing, that it does not belong in a progressive society. I don't know, are we in a progressive society? Anyway, people always quote the cons about calling down or treating another race differently. Even the University (Dal) has declared itself an Equal Opportunity Educational Institution, a term I like as it can mask the real treatment of minorities by people at our levels and make us look good to the outside world (Not that they care). I'd just like to take a few moments, though, to expound on the more positive aspects of racism and discrimination.

To start off, scapegoats have been around since time immemorial. Who knows, maybe they actually kicked a goat in days of old to relieve tension. With the absence of goats, however, and the ever-increasing anxieties of modern life, being discriminatory, taking your frustrations out on a less fortunate people, is an excellent way to relieve tension and clear the head. They say hatred causes one to lose part of one's soul, but it sure gets rid of unwanted tension, temporarily, anyway. And besides, the soul you don't have to worry about until your dead, right? I guess so. But, on the whole, it is a popular pastime for

most citizens of the majority and it does beat kicking a goat.

Another good point about it is that it can give one immediate acceptance among peers. You can be a complete loser and if people see that you like to defame, shame, make fun of, derogate, spit at, or all of the above, minority peoples, you suddenly become one of the "boys" or "girls". It makes you quite popular since people who share a pastime like to get together and cheer each other on. The practice of this thing can do wonders to enhance your circle of peers.

And speaking of peers, what better place to make more friends than at the office. A truly racist attitude can take you to the top, especially in certain parts of the world. If you're used to going to the office a nice guy or girl, try going in racist. Crack some jokes on the side; give minority employees a hard time. You'll be surprised how much quicker you can rise in your industry or company if

you try a little down home discrimination. And hey, the best part is that you can be subtle about it.

These are just a few of the pros of discrimination. If you hear people talk about constitutional equity and natural rights, well, it's only on paper. In our hearts, we can hate all we want. And the more we do it, the better it feels and the easier it becomes. So, remember, there are many good things to be gained "in this world" with a racist attitude. With all of the evidence around us, can anyone dispute what I say? I mean, it's not a pretty world and who am I to try and change it, right?

A.P.

Don't tax my loan

To the editor:

Carefully she pulled the brass handle of the bank's door, her right extremity clutching a 1991-92 Canada Student Loan. The fresh smile of the teller turned to greet her. Upon seeing the carbon laced document the

corners of that smile quickly dropped and a voice devoid of emotion inquired, "Do you have a cheque for the Receiver General ready?" A swell of anger surged inside her as she handed over the loan document and a cheque. Betrayed by a government that had promised to carry its fair share of the financial burden of post-secondary education.

She vaguely remembered hearing that the government planned to implement a three per cent tax on all loans this Fall. Mistakenly she had presumed that any tax would be added on to her loan balance not paid upfront. She thought about how unfair it was that she was being taxed to go into debt.

Stirred from her normal state of complacent apathy she wondered how the federal government could expect students to pay a three per cent tax. It was blatantly obvious from the student summer employment statistics, 15.9 per cent, (a nine year high) that those whom this tax

would hurt the most were students like herself. Students who were unable to find adequate employment and now had to rely on their loans to completely finance their education.

Would it not be more advantageous for the government to spend its time trying to prevent defaults? Students needed to be educated on how to obtain interest free status when their wages do not meet their monthly payment requirements. Likewise, students must be informed on how to initiate their repayment schemes with the loan manager of their bank. Apparently the government fails to see these points as valid for consideration and sees taxing students as the easy way out. She must protest this unfair measure.

For more information on how to reverse this regressive tax, contact the V.P. External of your Student Union.

Kristine Anderson
CFS National Executive



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