

DRAMA



**under
attack**

No I'm not

Dear Editor,

I was very interested to read some of the comments in last week's issue in regards to my being racist, sexist and homophobic.

I have been quoted out of context and hopefully this letter will help clear the air. I would like to quote the policy in question which states that "The programming provided should adequately reflect the academic entertainment and programming tastes of the wide variety of students at Dalhousie, recognizing diversity stemming from differences in race, sex, sexual preference, age, national origin, ethnicity and general socio-economic background" (section 14.7c). I am in strong favour of this policy because it protects the diverse cul-

ture of this university. I am however, not in favour of the possible manipulation or misuse of this policy because by doing so we are in fact discriminating against a person's legal rights to freedom of speech and self expression. This is not saying that I will encourage discriminatory remarks. On the contrary, I am encouraging open mindedness, free voice, and the opportunity for everyone to be able to express their opinions and concerns.

I have been approached by several students in regards to this issue and I encourage others who have misinterpreted my words to come and talk to me in person at any time.

Patti Dow
Vice-president elect

Dear Gazette:

Women's rights are under attack!

This summer two men — one in Ontario and one in Quebec — succeeded in obtaining injunctions to prevent their ex-girlfriends from having an abortion.

Although the Supreme Court of Canada stopped these injunctions, there is now an even greater threat to Canadian women. Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and the federal government plan to set back the clock by returning abortion to the Criminal Code.

This bill, if allowed to pass, would give ex-boyfriends (and anti-abortion activists) the ammunition they need to drag individual women and doctors into court. Doctors (and women!) could be imprisoned for up to two years for "criminal" abortion.

Abortion services would become more difficult to obtain and more unevenly available across the country. The bill does not address the problem of provincial restrictions on access (for example, the Nova Scotia anti-clinic law), nor does it address the issue of prevention of unwanted pregnancy.

I'm writing to you today to let you know that you can support a woman's right to make the abortion decision free from interference by politicians, judges and ex-boyfriends.

You can do this by helping the Canadian Abortion Rights Action League (CARAL) in its national campaign to let the politicians know we don't need a new abortion law.

CARAL has been working on behalf of Canadian pro-choice women and men for over fifteen years.

Join the 71 per cent majority who say that the abortion decision should be made between a woman and her physician. Help make this goal a reality. You can make a difference.

Time is running out. Brian Mulroney wants the new bill to re-criminalize abortion passed as soon as possible. Help give MPs the message that women who seek abortions and doctors who help them are *not* criminals.

Kim Holmwood
President, CARAL

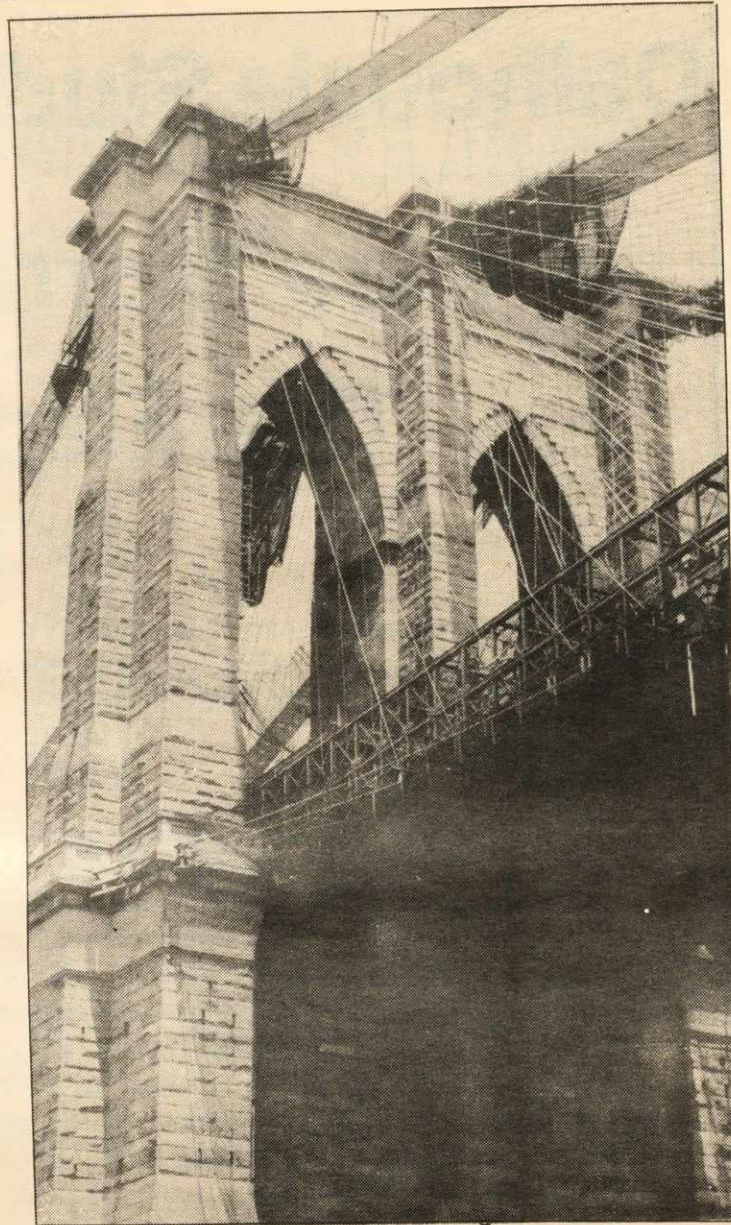


photo: Scot Campbell

Brooklyn Bridge held up by strings

**compleat
disgust**

I am writing to voice my disgust at the appalling DSU election campaign. From my perspective (which I'd like to think is objective since I'm not a student), the elections were nothing but a smear campaign from the beginning against two very qualified and experienced candidates — Lara Morris and Beth Beattie.

Unfair is the only (decent) word to describe how these individuals were treated. As a student at one time, I liked to think I was part of a group of free-thinking and open-minded individuals, but some of the attitudes I've heard expressed during this campaign have me feeling sad and yet, happy to say I'm no longer a part of this group.

What attitudes you may ask? Well, much to some people's dismay around here, racist jokes are *not* O.K. — no matter who tells them. Stating that a joke about a black person is "just comedy" is not something I'd want the head of the DSU promoting. Homophobia is *not* O.K. — come on people, what does one's sexual

orientation have to do with one's ability to do his or her job?

"Oh, no! They're doing well. People are listening to them — they are articulate and knowledgeable. The smear campaign is not working. Let's try something else. Didn't I hear that they had been campaigning before they should have been? I've got it — let's have them disqualified!!"

"Well, are you in the elections or are you not? Do I vote for them or not? I'm not sure — are they in?"

Every potential candidate talks to people before s/he decides to run for a position. How do you think potential leaders of political parties get the financial backing that they need? Asking someone what they think is *not* asking for a vote.

I've lost more than a little respect for the student body at Dalhousie University. But that's O.K., because I can walk away from it. But when the party's over at the end of next year, what really will have been accomplished for the students of Dalhousie?

Name withheld by request.

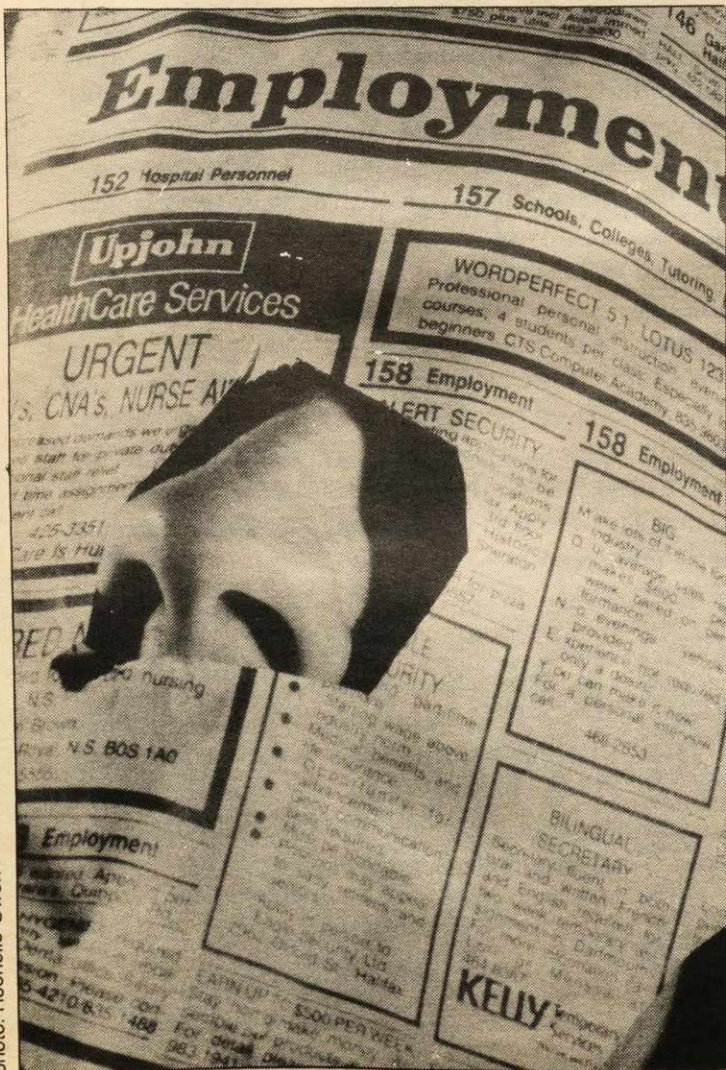


photo: Rochelle Owen