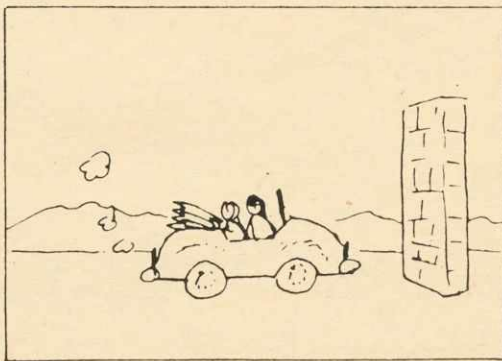
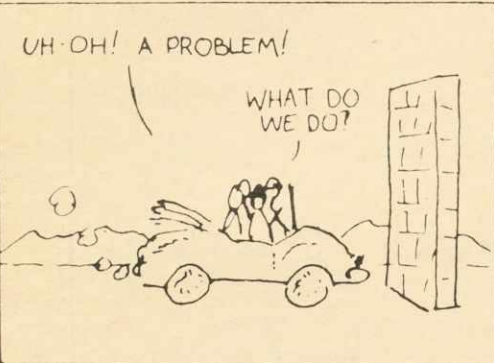
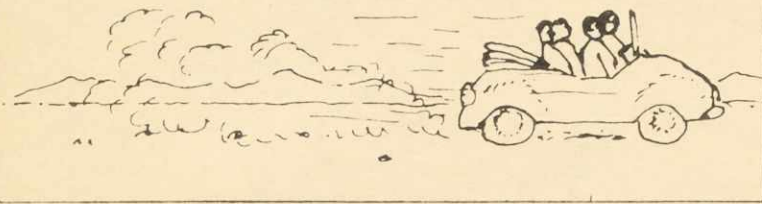


Banana Republic



G. PORTER / MUSE

Kens and Kims need time to cry

To the editors,

Your article on stress is a very topical one for this time of year. It is quite understandable why all the Kims—and Kens—on campus feel desperate. "She finds herself laughing hysterically and crying uncontrollably." This is a natural body reaction to pain; it is the means by which she can help heal herself. Kim is very fortunate to be able to cry so easily as some women and most men find this difficult because of the conditioning of society. If she takes time to cry (for as many hours as necessary), she will feel better and her very intelligent mind will begin to function well as she tackles the term papers, assignments and exams which had seemed to be such obstacles.

The one useful suggestion in the article came from Judith Hayashi when she said that "students don't talk to each other enough." Talking is one way to deal with stress for in the process of conversation with another human being, one's thinking becomes more clear. For this to happen, we need people to listen. Close trusting relationships facilitate this but are not essential. As Dalhousie students, if we can listen to each other in the SUB, on the street or in the classroom, we will be helpful to each other at a difficult time of year; we will be truly human.

Murray Baillie

Pro-lifer disappointed

To the editors,

I was disappointed when I read the article "Morgentaler repres-

ents valid views," in the March 21 *Gazette*. The comments of the entire first paragraph, and "...pro-lifers here don't have abortion clinics to bomb or march outside," present a negative and inaccurate image of pro-life people. Pro-lifers are caring, and are concerned about the welfare of all people.

It was also stated that "For years the Nova Scotia chapter of the pro-life movement has been looking for a cause." We have always had a very worthwhile cause; promoting respect for life from conception to natural death, through education. We believe that not only must the law be changed, but the hearts of the people as well.

Regarding the Morgentaler lecture at Dal, Rusty James says the DSU wants to start discussion on the abortion issue. We feel that discussion would be rather limited if only Dr. Morgentaler's views were to be expressed.

Sincerely
Monica Flinn
President

Nova Scotians United For Life

A note from a spring cuckoo

To the editors,

As the days grow longer, the sun gently lifts the veil of snow away from the face of the earth, exposing the soil beneath in all its warm anticipation of renewed life. The first crocuses and snowdrops lift their heads in response to the sun's gentle stimulation, and slowly open their petals to display their reborn fertility. The once-silent birds now vie with the young leaf buds for space on the sap-heavy branches, and fill the air with their wings and voices. And, with these other harbingers, a familiar

face, with familiar pamphlets appears in front of the Student Union Building.

Is this the first cuckoo of Spring?

Peter F. Dawson

Agrees with message but not method

To the editors,

The Euphoria article in *The Gazette* this year has sparked a great deal of discussion amongst the medical students at Dal, and perhaps the university community in general as well. A four hour variety show representing a lot of hard work on the part of those involved was reduced in some minds to a distasteful exercise in crudity and condemnation of women, particularly the "Comelot" skit put on by the Med II class. I believe enough has been said by way of previous letters to the editors about "Comelot" but I would like to make some general comments.

As the new president of the Dalhousie Medical Students' Society (DMSS) I strongly urge the executive not to pursue legal action with regards to the perceived slander of the Euphoria article. I anticipate no resistance to taking this stance. A legal battle would be much too costly in financial, emotional and logistical terms for both parties and a decision for either side would have marginal, if any impact on the course of affairs of either end of the campus. An apology from *The Gazette* was hoped for but in a discussion with the co-editor I was told this was not forthcoming and she proceeded to explain their reason.

The Gazette is a student newspaper and as such perceives its role as to initiate and promote dis-

ussion and debate on issues of concern to students. This is a noble ideal and one which is vital for the evolution of a university community. However, their methods of focusing attention on these issues, namely the hard core radical approach, disturbs myself and my colleagues, so much so that legal action with regards to the possibly libelous content of the Euphoria "review" was threatened. This put *The Gazette* staff in a somewhat defensive position, one which terminated the possibility of further debate. As well, their lawyer felt that these statements were not libelous and they, therefore, decided an apology was not appropriate.

I feel an apology should at least be offered for their methods. The reporter from *The Gazette* had a copy of the script of "Comelot" and had discussed it before having gone to see the play. As is obvious from the article thus produced she saw largely what she wanted to see. This is not to say that there were not parts of the skit that were in poor taste, I am hereby publically stating that there were, but it really was not as bad as she portrayed in the minds of most in attendance.

This certainly was not a "review" due to the overwhelming bias that the reporter brought with her as well as the fact that the other three hours of entertainment, largely, although not exclusively very wholesome, were not even mentioned.

Also of concern is the method of highlighting this issue. A member of the Med II class secured a copy of the script, apparently with one goal in mind, did not attempt to have any of it changed or even discuss problem areas with the director (even though when others had grievances parts were changed) and went before the performance

to the press. I would suggest that most of the article could have been written before ever having seen the play because of this. The director, a woman, was very receptive to ideas and criticisms. Discussion would not have resulted in all of the apparently disturbing parts of the play being changed, this would require scrapping the entire play in their minds, but it certainly would have resulted in some and at least it would have been an attempt at conciliation.

Most people are supportive and sympathetic of the feminists concerns (ie. equal pay for equal work, getting rid of sexual discrimination, etc.) but problems arise with the way they try to express their views. My feelings are that some of the problems with the feminist movement are not with the message, but with the method. People are turned off by the hard sell radical approach. Their argument is that this is the only approach that works but I must disagree. One can effectively represent a point of view without becoming fanatical about the cause.

In my admittedly limited dealings with feminists I have found them very dedicated, intelligent vocal women who may be as narrowminded towards men as many of the men who hold attitudes toward women they object to, are towards women. Several times in the course of an hour long discussion with the editor of *The Gazette* I had to remind her that as a man I did not, nor did many if not most other men profess the beliefs that she universally associated with men. I state emphatically that I will, through my office defend many of their concerns should I have the opportunity to do so because I feel them to be very valid.

In conclusion my best wishes for the next year. You have a difficult job to do, one which I think would be easier with improved relations between the various groups on campus, including the DMSS and yourselves. I think through our discussion we have at least made a start, and my hope is that relations will improve. I must reiterate my suggestion, that you are of course free to ignore that the slightly toned down approach might reach more people. I agree with the message, I do not always agree with the method.

Sincerely,
Stephen Beed
DMSS President
1985-86

