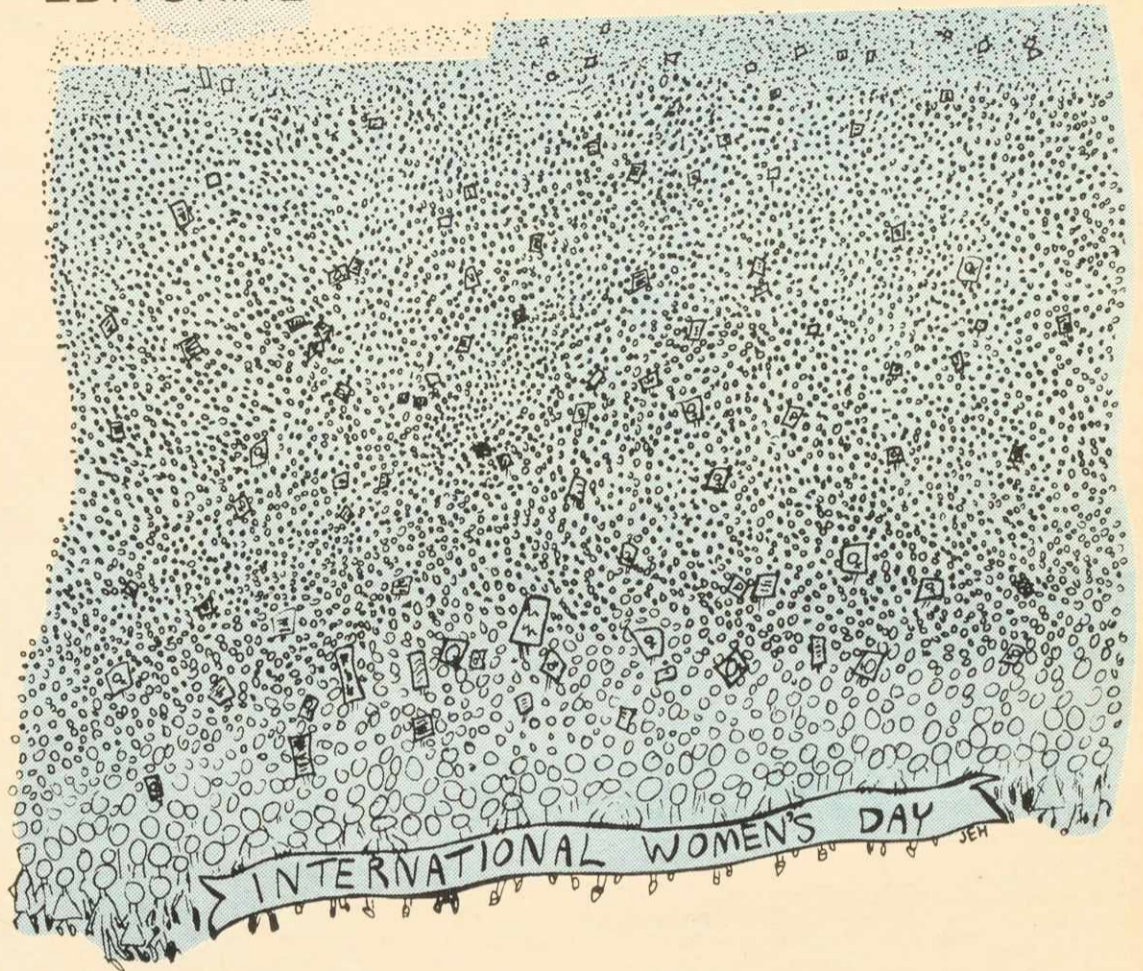


# A march for women

## Women EDITORIAL



I'm really looking forward to Saturday, March 11 when together with all kinds of other women in Halifax, I'll be marching to celebrate International Women's Day. I want to participate not because I'm a man-hater but because it feels good to celebrate women and it's such a rare event in our society.

The march will be a celebration and recognition that although the women's movement, especially of the 1960's, has taken us a long way, it's not over yet. We don't live in a post-feminist society as some would have us believe because there are still inequalities and societal roles to overturn. The women's movement or "Women's Lib" of the 60's is long past and our "movement" may sometimes seem like a misnomer during this rather low-key time, but there is work going on. There are women working for accessibility to daycare (essential for an equal society), for access to safe abortions, health care, help for bat-

tered and abused women and children and the list continues.

This march on Saturday is a chance to recognize and applaud the work that is going on, the struggles of the past and looking forward to the future. It's a march of optimism and strength not, as some may say, a bunch of crazed women with large chips on their shoulders. In a society which doesn't show much respect for its women, marching together with women of all ages, shapes sizes and colours feels powerful and it feels good.

I'm speaking from experience, having attended the last three years of International Women's Day marches, talking, laughing and singing with women (and a few men) without ever feeling I was being judged by the size of my bum, or my nose or by my fashion unconsciousness. I encourage all you women out there to try it out. It's a truly fun and empowering experience. All bum sizes welcome.

Ellen Reynolds

## Letters

### Supplement is eye-opener

To the editors:

I usually flip through the Gazette Friday mornings in my Psyche 1000 class. Today was different. I read my Gazette, cover to cover, and I was impressed. I was particularly impressed with the gay and lesbian supplement. I loved the honesty and sincerity of the articles, and the openness of their authors. Well done, Gazette staff and contributors.

My eyes were certainly opened. I didn't know such animosity existed toward our homosexual student community. I had always thought of GLAD as a well-organized and accepted school organization. I guess I was wrong to a certain degree. I hope things change for you, and become more positive, not only in the attitude



towards GLAD, but to all gays and lesbians going to Dal.  
I'm on the other side of the fence, so to speak, but I think I

can empathize, especially with the girl that wrote "I Shocked the Shirreff". She really made an impact on me with her attitude and courage. She's gay and she's comfortable with it. Why shouldn't those around her accept it too? I'm happy that her R.A. supported her when things got tough. I lived in Shirreff Hall last year and the atmosphere was a bit homophobic.

Whoever you are, way to go.  
Mary Beth Bourke



### Stereotypes go both ways

To the Editors:

I found the portable gay and lesbian reader to be an interesting supplement to last week's Gazette. One article in particular caught my eye. I found Dan Hart's offensive article "... Praise of Fags & Dykes" to be... well, offensive. Hart's sarcasm does address a point, (society's homophobia and stereotyping) and does so with impact, but as quoted from the opening article in the supplement "The majority of people don't give a damn about your sexual desires or preoccupations because they probably have

better things to think about." In short, just because we are hetero doesn't necessarily mean we are homophobic, narrowminded, repressed, bat-wielding individuals. Sorry to upset your stereotypes.

L. Jan Granger

### Six in 276 is too much

To the Editor:

In its February 16th edition the Gazette did not have to saturate the student population with six pages of articles dealing with homosexuality and lesbianism. True, it was a supplement, but your point could have been made in a far more concise presentation. Gays and lesbians make up only a small minority of the students at Dal, and in your attempt to express the point of view of this community and defy the discrimination which exists against it, you have misrepresented the majority of students at Dal and their opinions. In



defending minorities one must be careful that he or she does not ignore the interests and rights of

the majority. Because if you do, you become just as guilty of discrimination as those people you were trying to enlighten in the first place.

Stephen A.M. Jones



### The truth about Ruth

To the Editors:

Robin Metcalfe's untitled article on page 8 of the Feb. 16 of the Gazette mistakenly lists David and Jonathan and Ruth and Naomi among the "pairs of famous lesbians and gay lives". It is unfortunate that Ms. Metcalfe has mistaken these close and intimate brotherly and sisterly relationships as being homosexual ones.

The Biblical book of Ruth documents the relationship between Naomi and Ruth and clearly shows it as being similar to that of a mother and her daughter. Nowhere is there evidence of any homosexual behaviours on the part of these women. Both Ruth and Naomi were married by the way, in fact, Naomi was Ruth's mother-in-law.

The relationship between

David and Jonathan is chronicled in the book of I Samuel, particularly the twentieth chapter. This as well, speaks of a close brotherly relationship between the two and does not imply homosexuality. The fact that the two men are recorded as having kissed each other is not abnormal when one considers that that type of greeting is common in cultures other than ours.

It is unfortunate that close, same-gender relationships like these are all too often mistaken for homosexuality in our society which at times seems much too preoccupied with sex.

Eric MacKinnon

N.B. For the record, Robin Metcalfe is not a Ms. but a Mr.



### Petition for human rights

To the Editors:

The Nova Scotia government is considering amendments to the Human Rights Act. It is however, not clear to the general public as to whether or not the act will be

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