

Letters

Gazette coverage lax?

To the Editor:

With reference to your article "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," I am appalled at your comment regarding foul ups which were primarily due to "poorly calculated scheduling" of the "theatre" (which by the way is commonly known as the McInnes Room).

First of all had Maven Gates researched into the subject before writing, she would have been informed that the luncheons were scheduled in April. Both Glenn Walton (the Director) and Marie Gulkinson (Campus Activities Director) had been informed before the booking had taken place. Only the back half of the McInnes Room was used which gave the theatre people the stage to work with.

It's not uncommon for foul ups to occur on opening night. It's too bad Maven Gates had to harp on such minor snags which only took places the one night in an otherwise sold out performance. Glenn Walton and his "crew" should be congratulated on a fine display of talent.

Denise Ingram
SUB Reservations Coordinator

Recognizing the right of both Arabs and Jews

To the Editor:

Geoffrey Katz is right when he says (Dal Gazette, Nov. 25/82) that the essential truth of the Middle East situation is that "both Jews and Arabs are human in every respect and each *must* have the means and ability to achieve national self determination" (emphasis added). I only wish he could convince Israel's leaders to recognize this.

I would suggest that it is precisely because the human and national rights of the Palestinian people have been denied for so long that war and conflict continue in the Middle East.

Millions of Palestinians live in exile deprived of their right to return to their homeland. This is due to Israel's violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and contemptuous non-compliance with repeated U.N. resolutions. The others, who are under Israeli occupation, are subject to: summary arrest and imprisonment, deportation, expropriation and destruction of property, denial of free speech and assembly, harassment by the military, required use of pass permits, and collective punishment, to name only some of the conditions under which the Palestinians live.

Only when Israel, and the world as a whole, recognises the essential and inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and allows justice to be done will a final peace be achieved for Arabs and Jews.

Yours sincerely,
Caroline Zayid

On racism and basketball

To the Editor:

Realizing that you have no control over the factual contents of letters which are printed in the Gazette I will not hold you responsible for the gross distortion and racial insinuations which Franz Von Albruch injected in his article to this newspaper titled "The ref, the Wambats and the Central Stars". To set the paper straight I will first inform Franz that Central Stars is not made up of African Students. The majority of the players on the team are black (and we are not all alike). I may continue to speculate as to why Franz chose to inform the readers of the ethnic composition of the team, but ostensibly it was to provide the basis for his later assertion of charges by our team of racial bias on the part of the ref.

The truth is that racial question was *never* an issue. What was being questioned was 1) the decision of the referee to end the first half of play after fifteen minutes when there apparently were another 30 minutes of play left, and 2) the absence of a score sheet to determine the eligibility of some of the players on the Wambats team.

Why the referee ended play after 15 minutes in the first half is not yet clear to anyone. Why he chose to give a yellow card to one of our players during the half time period when he sought clarification on the time discrepancy is still unclear. After all, the player proceeded to ask the referee some questions only after first asking and receiving his permission.

Just before play resumed the captain of Central Stars approached the referee to question the eligibility of some of the members of the Wambats team. This was a legitimate procedure, given the fact that there was no registration list, and from personal observation some of the players were not on the team which we had an earlier encounter with. The referee chose to ignore protocol and civility by refusing to answer the captain and blew the whistle to commence the second half. Two minutes later he again approached the referee to inform him that we would continue to play the game under protest. This is when the referee flashed a red card at one of our players who was not involved in the proceedings at that precise moment.

If Franz wanted to make a point he could have commented on the erratic scheduling of the games, the less than 24 hours notice of cancellation and rescheduling, and the lack of sufficient officials at games to record all the information. As far as I am aware the rules state that no team in the finals could sign up players who had played in less than half the regular season games. The organizers cannot provide conclusive evidence that all Wambats players who appeared in that game had played for half of the season.

In the good spirit of the game I am extending a challenge to Wambats to have a replay of that game. (A case of beer for the winner.) Choose the date, and we will settle the score.

David A. Simmons
Strictly Soccer (Football)

Someone has to be first...

To the Editor:

Re: Article — "On pick-ups, stereotypes, and taking a stand", November 18.

Sexual stereotyping is a severe problem that begins in childhood and reaches into adulthood. The effects destroy human potential. The article was well done and the decision not to print the original was an important step and one that is not often taken.

Doug Simpson
Editor
The Shelburne Coast Guard

CKDU's gospel music an infringement

To the Editor:

While sitting in the SUB lobby last Thursday morning, I noticed that CKDU was playing an abundance of gospel music. Upon phoning the radio station, I was informed that this was a regularly scheduled program.

Not being Christian, I took offense to this musical bible-pushing. Were I at home, I would simply change the station, but being in the SUB, this sort of action was not possible.

I do not feel it is proper for CKDU, a station representing all of Dalhousie and not just the Christian majority, to impose religious beliefs or morals of any kind upon the students. This is not to say that I would be any happier to hear "Hava Nagilah" or the Moonies' Anthem. Religion is a personal matter and should not be imposed on anyone as it is upon the students and staff who, for some reason or another, must be in the SUB at the same time CKDU is airing their gospel music program.

Yours truly,
M. Scher

Gazette errs big

To the Editor:

As someone who occupies the rather anomalous position of being both a student and an employee of this University, I felt it was necessary to write and correct repeated references to the 'secret staircase' in the Arts & Administration Building, about which there has been much complaint in recent issues of your paper.

The facts of the matter are quite simple: the staircase is neither 'secret' nor does it allow the President (or anyone else in the contiguous administrative offices) to leave the building unobserved. The staircase was installed when the University Administration was re-organized. As a result offices on two levels of the A & A building were occupied by the central administration, and an easy connecting link between them became necessary. When the stairway was built, the opportunity was taken to add into its structure some much-needed storage space. That's all there is to it.

I do not for a moment attempt to dispute that the result cost more than it ought (I don't know enough about the matter to make a useful statement one way or the other) nor that if the stairway was, in fact, too costly, the Administration is not blameworthy in the matter. But it does seem to me that matters of simple, observable physical fact, which you or any member of the *Gazette* staff could ascertain in less than 10 minutes of personal observation, ought to be properly represented. That in a case as simple as this you have failed to do so rather casts in doubt your credibility when you report on matters which are more complex and at some remove from your immediate environment.

Yours truly,
John Howard Oxley
Calendar Editor

Editor's note: The Gazette apologizes for the error in describing the purpose of the stairway, and for not correcting this earlier.

Clearing up assassination facts

To the Editor:

Last week's article on the Assassination Game played at the LSC suggested that most of the problems that occurred were due to a lack of security. In particular, power switches were located in unlocked hall cabinets and there was no way of keeping track of who was in the building (thus some drunk non-participants found their way into the building and started to fool around with fire extinguishers).

C. Ricketts reported that, "DSS vice president Giovannetti...said there was no security, and no requirement to sign into the LSC." This incorrect statement arises from some comments I made which were taken out of context. When Miss Ricketts asked how the non-participants got in the building I offered, by way of explanation, that it is possible to gain access to the building without signing in. I also mentioned that I did not see security after midnight - not necessitating "no security". Some people received the mistaken impression, from this particular sentence, that the student working security until midnight was somehow responsible for the events that occurred that night. This student did not only go out of his way to see that people were signing in, but he also checked to see that everything was in line at the warm-up - an enormous job for one person. I am sure that C. Ricketts did not intend to implicate this student in any way as responsible for what happened. However, I do agree with the reporter that lack of security was a major factor leading to the problems.

W. Gray Giovannetti

How immature!

To the Editor:

Haven't we outgrown the immature classification ordeal of our grade school years? I had assumed being rid of the "you are who you hang around with" syndrome when I left my place among the "Jocks, cheerleaders, Grebs (da-boys) and War Games Clubs" of High School. Obviously, I was wrong. Where there's a will, there's a stereotype. Pondering over this idea, I got into a fascinating discussion with a friend and fellow student, educated in the field, Mr. Riglet, as he chooses to be called, has concluded that, "You are who you take."

Riglet explained that the distinctions between cliques are easily discernible if one knows what to look for. Engineers, for example, are recognized by their jock-like "he-men" stature. They are known to drop out and into Commerce, uttering such revelations as "Dal coats are decent." Comedian David Healey summed them up, saying, "They are the ones standing in a clump, with a calculator in one hand and a beer in the other." Commerce students differ from the future engineers because they have females in their classes. The true "Preppy" is usually taking commerce. Appearance-wise, they can be seen in plaid skirts, rugby pants, alligator shirts and "Klick" shoes that warn you of their approach. Riglet also notes that most commerce students are on the swim team and you should watch out for someone named "Ping".

Science people, such as the Physics majors, also drink beer a good deal and are said to have cute hair cuts that have grown out and need recutting.

Chemistry students are never seen. ("Busy in the lab distilling ethanol to make cosmic jello!")

If you notice a minority with a Dalhousie bag scurrying from the MacDonald Building to the Killam Library in loafers, you can bet it's a Computer Science buff.

Then, there are those taking their B.A. (The confused girl next door who will graduate with a "C" average to work at Reitmans for \$4.20 p/h.) If they take Political Science or Philosophy, look for them at most marches on Parliament. These are the people you find at all "frat" parties.

Here are a few generalizations we have come across:

1. If you take theatre, you are a homosexual or wear fish-net stockings and probably work as a waiter at the Five Fishermen or Spaghetti Factory.
2. Music majors all have plain haircuts and the last name of "Pegley".
3. Medical students drive their parents' Mercedes.
4. Future dentists are usually born in Newfoundland.
5. Psychology students ride bicycles.

It bothers me to meet a stranger and immediately be asked what I am studying. When I answer theatre, I hear them thinking "I wonder if he swings both ways?" While I realize cliques are unavoidable, I can't but resent being stereotyped.

Alas, perhaps the art of judging a book by its major is one we must all learn eventually.

I think I'll make an appointment to get my nipple pierced.

Sincerely,
J.K.

alma mater loyalty?

To the Editor:

Nuclear disarmament is an illusion. Unilateral disarmament, as advocated by Kim Rilda van Feggelen, is plain stupid and a threat to our security. I feel much safer living under the American nuclear umbrella which has protected our freedom and democracy for nearly forty years.

There are two groups on campus who are pushing the idea of nuclear disarmament. One is the Dalhousie Student Movement (Communist Party of Canada) which advocates that there be, "No testing or stockpiling of Cruise missiles in Canada." The other group calls itself the Dalhousie Disarmament Society and wants students to tell our Government, "to oppose and not participate in the development, deployment, and testing of nuclear weaponry."

The referendum question and the Communists' propaganda both attack Cruise missile testing in Canada. It has been alleged that there is a link between the disarmament movement and Communist groups. There was also the recent terrorist bombing by "Direct Action" against the Litton Company in Toronto. My vote in February will be a resounding "NO" to the Communists and peaceniks, who are trying to undermine Canadian participation in the defensive NATO Alliance.

Craig Carnell

Fact clarification

To the Editor:

It was great to see an article praising some of Metro's less acknowledged talent in your November issue ("Water Street and Exodus put life in Halifax live scene"). I commend you on your taste and writing style. However, you foolishly left out one important element. The "funkt up" sound of the Water Street Blues Band, which you perceptively described as "good rocking music" is partly due to the superb bass playing of Patrick Kilbride, whom you carelessly chose to ignore. In total command of his instrument, Kilbride shows his proficiency on the electric bass, but is also at home with a stand-up bass and a bow. In my opinion, this is one musician who is going places.

Apart from your one mistake, I was impressed with the assessment and will watch for further reviews.

John Knowles

(Ed's note: Due to an organizational botch-up, this letter was missed when typesetting last week's issue.)