

## DSU cops out

Some say the Dalhousie Student Union are "spineless gutless jellyfish." We agree.

Alex Gigeroff's letter entitled, "Gigeroff clarifies DSU position on DFA." raised more questions than it answered. The most glaring of these being, "Just what is the DSU's position on the DFA?" They have made it clear that they want no part of the faculty's dispute with the administration, no matter how legitimate their grievances are.

Gigeroff's letter was simply an attempt to excuse the DSU from taking any position under the guise of looking out for student concerns. The DSU seems to have failed to realize that they are not operating in a vacuum; the concerns of the students are directly linked to

those of the faculty. They are running the risk of completely alienating the faculty, if they haven't already, with their non-committal attitude of neutrality.

The DFA is not blind to student concerns, and they have said they will not take any action that would deeply affect the students. But why should we expect the faculty to go out of their way to watch out for us when we aren't even prepared to offer them some support. Maybe they could accomplish their ends more effectively with a complete walkout.

It is about time the DSU stopped sitting on their hands and gave us a real statement on their position, not warm, fuzzy remarks about "peace and harmony." □

## Hill's loss, failure of students to mobilize

The victory of education minister Terry Donahoe in the provincial riding of Halifax-Cornwallis is very much a defeat for students. It is a defeat for students not only on an electoral level, but on their ability to organize and bring about change in the treatment of post-secondary education in this province.

It was a chance for you to send a strong message to politicians about the state of this university and the post-secondary education system in Nova Scotia.

This week student leaders should be picking up the pieces and re-

evaluating their role as student leaders.

Through the student union and SUNS we could have done substantial damage to the Donahoe campaign by throwing ourselves full force into the campaign. But we didn't. In the cold morning light we sit facing lost opportunity once again. We need student political power. We need real student leaders. We need to send a strong message that we are not going to accept the decay of our educational institutions. When are we going to do it? □

## We can't make you feel

Every now and then the television media break out of their limited scope of routine coverage and show us the ravages of our unjust world.

This year the cameras have arrived in Ethiopia to do their best at scooping up the carnage there. Instead of our usual diet of talking heads blathering on about their self-importance, we see journalists falling over themselves to bring home the realities of the famine in that country.

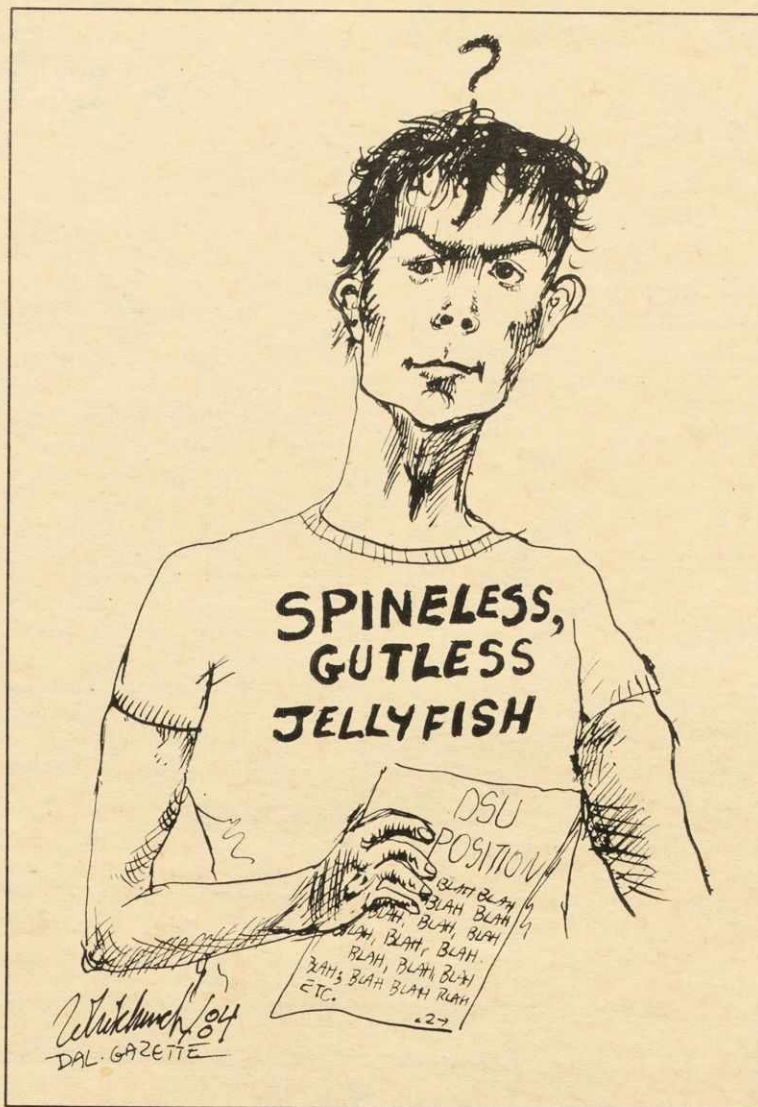
Our so unsophisticated society asks itself—how could it happen? Why didn't we know about it before? The answer is that we did.

For years relief agencies have been telling us about famine and starvation. In our comfortable homes we've turned the channel or gone to the bathroom when Liv Ullman appeared on the television screen to tell us about starving children in Ethiopia. Suddenly some television executives in New York or Toronto hit upon the idea that this could make for some sensational stuff. They pull our emotional heartstrings and things happen.

Don't fool yourself. There are dozens more Ethiopias. There are

brutal killings galore in Central America and elsewhere. Ethiopia is a matter of selectivity. Every now and then when we sit smug in our intellectualization of the world's problems, some iota of those problems sneak past and come and smack us in the face, telling us what assholes we really are.

We are all part of a world conspiracy of ignorance. At the *Gazette* we can not show you the same kind of visual carnage a CBC or CBS can. We can only intellectualize and hope that your intellect is somehow connected to your emotions. We wish we could show you nightly pictures of the aftermath of Hiroshima to make you feel the terrors of nuclear war. We wish we could show you endless pictures of body-strewn battlefields in Iran and Iraq to make you feel the senselessness of conventional war. We wish we could show you the ravaged lives of Nova Scotians living in abject poverty amid one of the richest societies on earth to make you feel the inequities of our supposedly free and democratic nation. When you hear about the lives being lost around the world due to famine and war, feel it, damn it. It is our only hope. □



## Single mothers living on borrowed time

Single mothers are fed up with lack of government concern for women's issues. Marching down to province house, banging on pots and pans and carrying placards to protest the lack of affordable and adequate housing, these women took it upon themselves to wake up politicians and people of Halifax on Nov. 3.

Many of these women were forced out of their homes because of the threat of beatings or nasty landlords. Emergency shelters are filled to capacity, leaving women and children basically on the street. "We are living on borrowed time," said one single mother.

These emergency shelters, although essential for women and children in transition, are only temporary. There is an overwhelming need for more permanent housing.

Single mothers are plagued by irregular maintenance payments, unemployment and low social assistance incomes, making much of Halifax's housing unaffordable.

Nova Scotia's social development has virtually ignored the changes in family structure over the past decade. Over 80 per cent of single parent families are headed by women and they're increasing in number.

Public housing for single mothers and their children is far from adequate.

Halifax housing authorities say there is a waiting list of approximately 700 for two-bedroom units. What is our Housing Commission doing about this?

The answer: Nothing.

It is apparent that issues affecting single mothers have not been a priority for male politicians. □

## Zeta Psi host goon party

Well the immature little boys at Zeta Psi are at it again. This week the *Gazette* learned they are hosting an "Anti-Gayzette Male Chauvinist Pig Party" in which a "paper burning" will be taking place.

Some people think homophobia and sexism are funny. The victims don't. Ask the gay person who has been beaten up by so-called "gay bashers" on a Friday night. Ask the victims at a rape crisis centre how funny misogyny is.

Having failed to intimidate us through a letter from their lawyers in which they threatened legal action if we printed any of your letters about the Zeta Psi invitation we printed a few weeks ago, they are resorting to goon tactics. Klu Klux Klan type activities are not acceptable here.

When we met with members of the fraternity several weeks ago they tried to distance themselves from the actions of their elders. They certainly did not endorse the invitation that went out under the name of their fraternity. We now have to seriously question how sincere they were at the time. Apparently the face they show within our office is a lot different from that they show outside of it. Some call it being "two-faced."

Keep the cards and letters coming. □

## Erratum

The *Gazette* has credited two photos incorrectly. In last week's issue a photo of Tim Hill attributed to Mary C. Sykes was actually taken by Peter Katishtis. The photo credited to Deepak Seth in the sports section of the Oct. 25 issue was taken by Sean Forbes. We apologize.



## Letters

Deadline for letters to the editor is noon, Monday before publication. Letters must be typed double-spaced and be less than 300 words. Letters can be dropped at the SUB enquiry desk or brought up to *The Gazette* offices, third floor, SUB.

## Thanks to Dal security

The staff of the *Dalhousie Gazette* thank Dalhousie security for their cooperation in riding with the distribution team on Oct. 25 and again helping us on Nov. 1.

Although the engineers still stamped the Nov. 1 issue, thanks for helping to make sure the papers were distributed and that no one was hurt. Thanks. □