

# EDITORIAL

## Unilingualism doesn't get to the CoR of the problem

Angry words, prejudice, and inequality are not new to the struggle towards a bilingual Canada. Grievances and a sense of conflict between French and English communities are an historic fact. However, for the first time Canada faces a political party which has been elected based on a platform of anti-bilingualism.

The Confederation of Regions party was elected in eight predominantly anglophone ridings in the New Brunswick provincial election this week. During its campaign, the party promoted that it wants English to be the only official language of New Brunswick and of Canada.

### The election demonstrates how many pockets of anger exist in Canada

The election of CoR candidates in Canada's only bilingual province demonstrates how many pockets of anger exist in Canada. It exposes a deep and visceral anti-French sentiment harboured by some citizens of this country - which can only be described as prejudiced.

It is true being a bilingual nation causes problems for those who wish to advance to top jobs in government. Without a working knowledge of both official languages advancement is limited.

In New Brunswick this is also true for public sector employment. The answer is not to try and extinguish a whole culture from our nation.

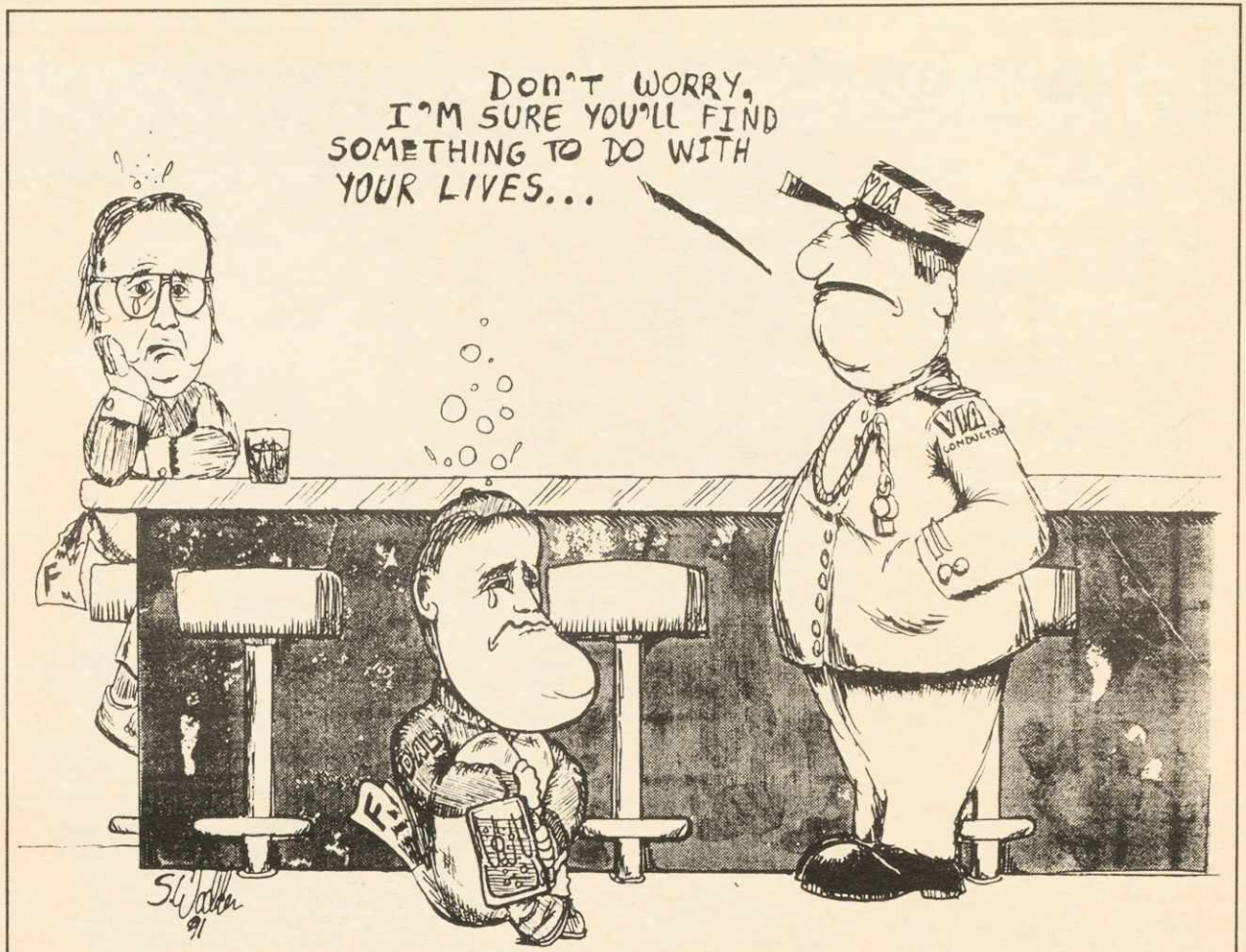
In the past few months the Halifax community slowly faced the reality of inherent racism within its society. Unfortunately before this issue was brought to the forefront, violence had ensued.

It would be nice to try and solve the language problems this country faces before any violence occurs. This requires understanding and education.

Canada is a multicultural nation. This is what makes our identity. In these times of Constitutional reforms aimed at keeping the country united, the eight seat victory of CoR is very discouraging.

Let's hope Canadians wake up to the beauty of diversity, and begin to realise the importance of both languages co-existing peacefully in one nation.

Marie-France LeBlanc



Brian Mulroney and Joe Clark both flunked out of Dal law school... unfortunately, they have been heard from since.

## LETTERS

The Dalhousie Gazette welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should not exceed 300 words in length and should be typed and double-spaced. The deadline for letters is Friday noon before publication. Letters may be submitted on Mac or IBM-compatible 3.5" disk.

### Mother Gazette

To the editor:

For the Gazette September is an open season for new writers. If anyone has doubts whether about writing, perhaps my experience will help:

One may accuse the Gazette of certain deficiencies, but nobody can deny it one outstanding achievement. The Gazette knows how to encourage new authors!

I wrote several contributions to the Gazette. Admittedly, my writing does not have a very noble motivation. I write when somebody makes me angry. Thus my letters are intentionally provocative. Provocative texts can attract unfriendly responses, which might discourage a new writer. But here comes the Gazette to protect the writer.

Last year I wrote a rude polemic in response to a letter from a zealous feminist ("Is Blair a man?"). Feminists are known to be dangerous antagonists. So the Gazette declared my letter MIP (Missed in Printing). Following my complaints, the letter was finally printed -

three months later. At this time nobody remembered what the feminist's letter had been about, so nobody could detect my malicious distortions. Moreover, some of my primitive jokes either had disappeared, or, after some subtle changes in printing, had become incomprehensible even to their author. Thus the risk of being assaulted by my potentially violent opponent was substantially reduced.

Later I spent many hours preparing another contribution - "Support this war." At this time the Gazette carried almost exclusively pro-peace stories, there were peace marches in Halifax and peace actions at Dal. Then, nobody foresaw the pro-war fashion ascending in the U.S. Thus my article would have been quite unique at the time. Yet I also could face the anger of peace activists, so the Gazette protected me again. After waiting a week I was told that my article would be in the following issue. It wasn't. Then the week after was study break. Study break ended, and

so did the war. There was no need for my article. The Gazette's editorial insight safeguarded me from peace activist aggression.

If the editors had told me that they did not like my article I could, in my youthful ignorance, try to publish it somewhere else, and therefore, endanger my writing career by making new enemies. The editor protected me from such an irresponsible act.

The letter above was submitted to the Gazette on March 20. I was told it would be printed in the next issue. It wasn't. Nor in the next. And then, came summer break. The Gazette's consistency must be commended.

One has to admire the Gazette maternalism. Disregarding the views and protests of its young (writers), the Gazette persists in doing what is best for their upbringing.

Conventional newspapers often hide the identity of their contributors in order to protect them from retribution. The radical student

newspaper, the Gazette, protects radically - it hides the whole stories!

I would like to encourage potential writers. Write to the Gazette! Do not be afraid - mother Gazette will protect you. My experience may become your experience. Write!

Piotr Trela

### No party - \$

To the editor:

I am writing in regards to the article "Meet the Dalhousie Student Union," in the August 29 issue. I wish too clarify that the winner between buildings of the proposed energy conservation Eco-Olympics competition will not "win a PARTY" but, will win the monies saved by the conservation process. These monies will go towards capital projects in their own building. This is to ensure that those people who conserved the most will see the fruits of their labours in a tangible fashion.

Hilary Wells

Executive vice-president, DSU

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# THE GAZETTE

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announcements is noon on Friday before publication (Thursday of each week). Submissions may be left at the SUB Enquiry Desk c/o The Gazette. Commentary should not exceed 500 words. Letters should not exceed 300 words. No unsigned material will be accepted, but anonymity may be granted upon request. Advertising copy deadline is noon Monday

before publication. The Gazette offices are located on the third floor of the SUB. Come up and have a coffee and tell us what's going on. The views expressed in The Gazette are not necessarily those of the Students' Union, the editors or the collective staff.