

# Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

We strongly feel that Kim-Rilda VanFeggelen has opened herself to much criticism.

KimRilda has stated a very forceful and seemingly sound message in "Confessions of a Punk". However, to take a closer look, her major contradictions become obvious, in fact, it seems the article is a well constructed facade.

KimRilda says punk is a political/social view. She further explains how it is a form of self expression, fighting against the established norms. We cannot dispute her description of punk philosophy, but she is contradicting her own beliefs by accusing others of what she is actually a part of herself.

Firstly, she describes herself as a punk in terms of what she is wearing. If this contradiction weren't enough, let's look at what she is WEARING. No, she's not a proper lady in a skirt, she's not in designer jeans and Frye boots, she's chosen another "trendy" dress fad not uncommon in all larger North American and European cities. She backs up her dress style by saying it's comfortable; Chrissy Hynde look-alike gloves and 25 rock n' roll buttons. (Clones are, after all, clones.)

KimRilda has neatly packaged society into separate categories. She degrades people in terms of what they are wearing, how they socialize and what they choose as a way of life. She has also packaged herself along with the rest of us, but in what she calls a

minority group.

Just as KimRilda claims to be fighting against the established norms and demanding the right to be a deviant, other people have rights too. We all have the right to be happy or unhappy if we please; the right to be disillusioned.

We suggest that she take another look at herself or at least the picture of herself she has created. If she feels secure with her own identity, why doesn't she just laugh at or ig-

for the future "adults of society."

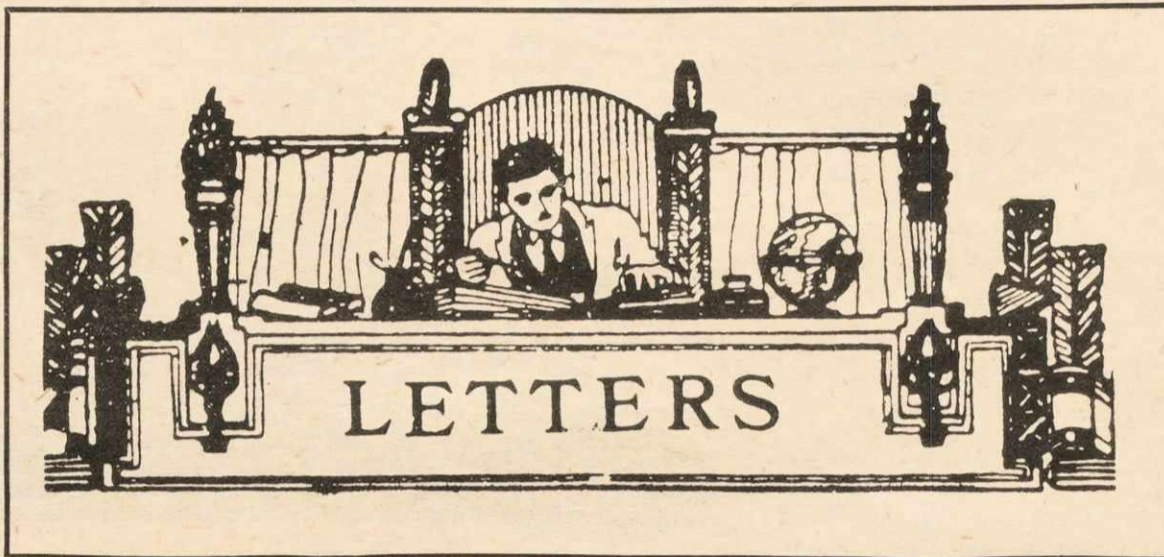
Maybe KimRilda is familiar with this quote...

"This is brainwash and this is a clue, Tell the stars who fooled you, Your only looking for a brand new you."

M. MacLean  
T. MacLean

Dear Editor:

We were very disconcerted to read in last week's edition of the Gazette, a most insensitive, jaundiced, and journalistically unprofessional representation (although misrepre-



nore those who don't fit into her personal realm of beliefs; or do they pose a threat? It seems she is in just as much need for an identity of her own as are those in the other categories she describes.

If KimRilda were a true punk she wouldn't be conforming to the system. She wouldn't be in university, dressing with the fads and most of all she wouldn't be wasting her time by writing B.S. in the Gazette

sentation would be more apt) of Joe Clark's visit to the Dalhousie campus.

It's not a matter of supporting the man's politics; whether we do or not — and we don't — is an immaterial consideration. However, irrespective of our divers partisan affiliations, we cannot help but be incensed by such flippant photography and derisive headlining as intruded upon your ink-stained pages. We have heard

detta: the former is productive; the latter is destructive.

Let's have no more cheap shots in the future.

Sincerely,  
Joe Mroz,  
Del Atwood  
Brendan Carr  
Anthony McLevy  
M. MacLennan

Dear Editor:

The Commentary, "Confessions of a Punk," would ordinarily be easily dismissed as a wrongheaded, insecure plea for attention, were it not for the ill-natured spleen Mrs. Van Feggelen directs at 90% of the Dalhousie Community population. She is quite welcome to her own unsure attempts at self-categorization (if she wants to declare herself a punk who's to argue) but I wish she would refrain from labelling other segments of the population. Epithets as unfounded and mendacious as "young jocks experiencing problems with their respective manhoods" and "girls in University for their MRS's" serve only to illustrate the author's insecurity.

Perhaps "Confessions of a Punk" was intended only as an intellectual exercise. If so Ms. van Feggelen may ignore the above paragraph for the article as quite humorous. If, however, it was not intended as a joke (which I fervently hope it was) Ms. Van Feggelen is in for a fair share of what she hoped to avoid; abuse. Creating a fictional elite and then declaring yourself a member is no way to court understanding. Declaring your contempt for those excluded from that same elite only adds to the fiction. I sincerely hope Ms. Van Feggelen's Commentary was an aberration, and that it does not reflect what she really feels.

Another thing, surely Eng-

lish departments were created to combat the usage of such monstrous words as "anti-disestablishment-airianism."

Tom Ozere

Dear Editor:

Punk is dead. To be a punk, according to Miss van Feggelen, is to be different; to veer from the ordered norm. Unfortunately Miss van Feggelen is confusing the term "punk," with the word individual.

By calling herself a punk Miss van Feggelen must first deny herself the individualism she prizes so much. Like hippies of the sixties she is allying herself with yet another counter-culture army. A sheep, is a sheep, is a sheep.

"We're all different, "the masses of dispondent, middle-class youth yell, "We're not the same." Miss van Feggelen is caught in the paradox of group individuality; in order to be an individual, she must join a group which professes to be individualistic (i.e. punks or hippies). The group, because of its alienating attitude towards society, is looked upon by the public as being different. From this reaction, the members of the group seem to derive the pleasure of dubbing themselves "individuals". In Miss van Feggelen's case this appears to be nothing more than an extreme manifestation of middle-class guilt. Because middle-class youth are not generally recognized, particularly by themselves, as being under-privileged, they seek short-term relief from their guilt by becoming an artificially oppressed minority.

Punk is hype: the Emperor's new clothes of the 80's. It is a marketing device used to sell records, clothes, posters, buttons, books, postcards, tickets and large bags of safety-pins. Punk appeals to some people because it implies that they are the secret sharers of an "in-joke" or a new movement; snob appeal.

Today's middle-class punk is individualism without rationality, a form of self-deception. The original punk movement self-destructed years ago. What remained was the sell-out punk. The authentic stuff spread out and went completely underground.

To be an individual does not mean to give up the suburban life style — although I myself find it difficult to appreciate the aesthetic, social or economic appeal of suburban life. If you want to dress "Different", if you want to listen to "Different" music, by all means do so, but don't be so self-righteous about it. Everyone is different. There are people who are less different from some people than others. Punks are "less different from each other than they are from society as a whole". It is clear that no punk can be an individual.

What happened to all the hippies? A lot of them got jobs, settled down and raised a family. A few tuned out and turned off. Don't worry Miss van Feggelen, punk is just a phase, you'll grow out of it.

E. Raserhead  
(Student)

P.S. Punk does not condone antidisestablishmentarism. Punks hate the state and the church.

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