

LETTERS

Will the real Wildman please stand up?

Dear Editor,

Once again I am forced to suffer the slings and arrows of outrageous freshmen; I refer, of course to the intellectual epistles offered in this section of the Gazette on numerous (only twice? Odd, it seems like more!) occasions by one Wildman Dave.

Pugwash conference; 'Science in Society'

Dear Students:

Are you interested in genetic engineering, the development of new weapon technologies, or the effects on society of new communication technologies? Are you concerned about Canada's support of research and development? In general, are you concerned about the role of science in our society?

If your answer is yes, you may wish to attend the first Canadian Student Pugwash conference on "Science in Society: Its Freedom and Regulation" at Carleton University in Ottawa from June 12 through 14.

Sparked by a manifesto issued by Bertrand Russell and Albert Einstein, the first Pugwash Conference on Science and World Affairs was held in Pugwash, Nova Scotia in 1957. Canadian Student Pugwash continues this tradition by promoting the free discussion of science and ethics issues in the university community.

The first National Conference of Canadian Student Pugwash will bring together 50 students and 25 eminent senior participants from academic, research, legal, administrative, and business circles. The five workshops and two major public debates will focus on different aspects of

To begin with, I have taken the initiative in organizing a campaign to save the whale (and other noteworthy mammals) on Dalhousie campus, through the establishment of the Society of Whale and Aquatic Mammalian Preservation (S.W.A.M.P.), and the founding of a clearly marked official

the freedom and regulation of science. The published proceedings will include a selection of student and senior papers.

The following are the workshop topics: Society's Support of Scientific Activity; International Security and the Regulation of Defence Technology; Biological Research and the Manipulation of Life Forms; The Freedom and Regulation of Social Research; and, The Freedom and Regulation of Communication and Information Storage Technologies.

While in Ottawa, all costs for the student participants will be covered by Canadian Student Pugwash. We may also be able to provide some travel assistance.

If you are interested, brochures and applications for this conference should be available at any natural science, social science, or philosophy department at your university. If you cannot find this information, please write to me at No. 806-474 Wilbrod Street, Ottawa K1N 6M9, and I will forward an application. Completed applications must be received in Ottawa by April 7.

Thank you.
Yours sincerely,
Fraser Homer-Dixon,
Conference Coordinator

Whale Sanctuary on 2nd Floor, Smith House, Howe Hall (visitors welcome, especially to the C.F.C. lounge). Whales have been shown to have the brain structure necessary to put them on an equal footing (finning?) with humans in terms of intelligence, in fact which probably explains the absence of whales in most first year courses, not to mention many other areas of the Dalhousian culture.

As if the whales alone were not enough to occupy the thoughts(?) of Mr. Dave, he then takes it upon himself to attack automation and mechanization. I only hope that your identity is not discovered at the library. (Since you have written two letters, I assume, with some misgivings at hasty judgement, that you are literate.) If the Grand Zebra-Stripe Reader (i.e., the computerized book checkout) ever links up your name to your number, one may have cause to refer to it as the "Kill'em" henceforth.

To be honest, I have had little experience in actual attending class with robots/automatons, etc. (although I may have been instructed by some who would qualify.) The robots I have met

have been quiet and courteous (as befitting under Asimov's Three Laws of Robotics) unlike some human students of my acquaintance whose chief joy in life is attempting to render working objects less so, and/or testing stereo equipment at the optimal hours of 3-4 a.m. ("It's real quiet, eh, so you can, like, really hear the distortion, you know?") while conducting research on the comparative effects of high decibel interaction of voice and stereo. Slavery and prejudice are supposedly frowned upon, if not banned, at institutions of higher learning, and so I object to the bigotry exemplified by Mr. Dave's call to "disassemble, deport, or sell in public auction" these humble servants of steel, whose only crime is being what they are. (We tolerate freshmen, engineers, and pre-meds, don't we? What else could be worse?) My opinions are further intensified by a new friendship I have forged with a cute curvaceous fembot (Ann Droid) I found close to ohm...er, home. (I found I had not the capacity to resist her. Oh, well, watt will be, will be...)

To close this missive, may I

say that Mr. Dave's letters had one beneficial effect — it caused me to shirk off my apathy and actively respond. However, I must take exception to one last feature of Wildman Dave's letters — that being his pseudonym. I have been known as the Wildman around Dalhousie (or at least around Residence) for 3 years now, so much so that some people have forgotten my given names. I was born with the surname "Wildman" (a real ice-breaker, better even than "What's your sign?") and have had to suffer for over 20 years with endless disbelief (NO, that's NOT a nickname; it IS my name!) and considerable persecution and anguish. I feel I have earned the right to bear such a name, a right earned by years of hardship, and I take considerable exception to your choice of nom de plume. You may be of the opinion that such a name lends a certain appeal to your work, but you must endure the thorns before the rose is yours to enjoy.

Tolerantly (but only barely)
yours,

Lawrence Wildman
3rd Year Survivor(?), Howe Hall

98 percent of Dalhousie guys labelled 'Jocks and Studs'

To the 98 percent of the male population of Dalhousie:

We the women of Mount Saint Vincent University would like very much to be given an opportunity to clear up the numerous misconceptions that you have applied to the females at Mount Saint Vincent who are seeking a higher education.

Who gives you the authority to label us as "easy women"? There are always a few in every crowd who conform to

your ways, but why do you insist on labelling the innocent females?

As we only have a male population of 10 percent, we certainly seek male companionship. However, we are looking for company not sexual harassment.

Can you so called Gentlemen (as you label yourselves) find a difference in the females at our university as compared to others? Had we gone to Dalhousie, St. Mary's etc., we would certainly behave in the same manner. Be this manner to your approval or not, why should this affect the university community as a whole? This description has been in existence since the

early 70's and we women attending the Mount now, have not been given the chance to prove ourselves. Just as we would like you to prove that you are mature men.

Your adolescent attitudes give us reason to believe that 98 percent of the guys are nothing but Jocks and Studs.

Think about it! Perhaps in time you will come to realize that we are not out for our Bachelor of MRS., but instead for higher education.

How do you, the 98 percent, feel about being labelled Jocks out for what you can get????

Sincerely,
the Females of
Mount Saint Vincent

The revelations of Vrandenburg

To the Editor,

Beneath the flippant tone of Thomas Vrandenburg's article, "Fear and Loathing on the Reagan demo trail" (*Gazette*, 19 March), there is an important message for those concerned with such crucial issues as acid rain and American military involvement in El Salvador. Vrandenburg characterizes himself as a nonconformist, a man apart, an individual. Hiding behind this facade of detachment, he enjoys making light of serious matters and poking fun at those who are involved doing what they can to make things better.

Thus, in his report of the Reagan visit to Ottawa, he says, "The demonstration was run by the Ottawa-El Salvadore Solidarity Committee, whoever they are." If Vrandenburg had a better appreciation of the struggle in El Salvadore between, as Os-

car Romero put it, the government and the people — a better understanding of how cheap and expendable life in that country, has become — he might have been more interested in finding out who the organizers of the demonstration were.

But Vrandenburg would rather stick to the surface of things, preferring appearances of substance, form to content. In a particularly revealing passage, he tells us of buying a copy of the *Socialist Voice* from one of the demonstrators. His only comment: it "wasn't badly produced." Obviously, Vrandenburg feels that it is better not to think than to run the risk of having to take a stand.

But what of the "message" referred to above? It is found in a brief passage towards the end of the article. Looking back over his experience of the Ottawa de-

monstration, Vrandenburg finds that he has not, after all, remained entirely immune to the consciousness-raising efforts of the crowd. "At the time," he says, "I didn't take anything that was said too much to heart; I was busy taking pictures, and somehow trying to remain detached. But now I can shed a genuine tear for innocent, illiterate Latin peasants, as well as our own jakes, tap water and scallop fishermen." However much we dislike the condescending tone of this confession, however insufficient we find that "genuine tear," the fact is that a dent has been made in the wall of Vrandenburg's avowed complacency. As paltry as it seems, this change of attitude is the stuff of which larger change is made.

Yours truly,
Eric Ball

VD in Halifax, not just Dalhousie

Dear Sir:

Concerning your article regarding Sexually Transmitted Diseases in the *Gazette* of March 12th.

I would like to point out that your headline of the rise in gonorrhoea from 984 cases to 1064 cases are figures for the metropolitan area of Halifax and not those of Dalhousie University.

I would also like to assure all students of complete confidentiality. The statistics collected are purely numbers and no names are ever identified.

Yours sincerely,
J.C. Johnson, M.D.
Director
University Health Service

