

## letters

### Freaks of revolution

#### To the Editor:

Stuart and Colin did raise in their letter a couple of things that did matter.

If the United Nations rate Canada the best place to live in the world, then what's our beef?

Hmm, let's see...U.N. "peace-keepers" murdered Congolese leader Patricio Lumumba in 1964; oversaw the genocide of the East Timorese (with Canada's help) from 1975 - present; devastated Iraq (1991 - present); tortured and murdered thousands in Somalia (1993); and, these are only the crimes that come immediately to mind as I write. The U.N.'s record of murder and betrayal is a long one indeed.

The status of women in Canada has dropped from 2nd in the world (1978) to 9th (1995).

Over 1 child in 5 in Canada lives in poverty and Canada has the highest unemployment rate in the industrialized world. The winter cold is killing homeless people in the streets and the income support programs the unemployed desperately need are being dismantled.

Are you proud of this, boys?

As for revolution, learn your history. If human beings are anything, they are freaks of revolution. The continual striving to better our social situation is very much part of who we are.

Cape Breton Labour Leader J.B. MacLaughlin once stated, "Under capitalism you have but two choices. You can crawl or you can fight."

What sets us apart from you, Stuart and Colin, is that we chose to fight.

**Stephen Ellis**  
International Socialists

### Intramural refs lacking

#### To the Editor:

I recently took in an intramural 'A' hockey game between Smith/Bronson and Cameron house. It is unfortunate that the biggest impression that was left with me as I exited the arena, and that is still on my mind, is the quality of the officiating in the game.

To say the least, the on-ice officials were lacking in training, and did not possess the ability to control a game. Throughout the year I have found that this phenomenon is not limited to the sport of hockey.

Almost every single intramural sport I have played or watched this year has been officiated by young men and women who have either no desire, or lack the ability to keep up with the play. During the games it appears that the officials simply don't care about the job they are doing.

This attitude on the part of the officials, if it is allowed to continue, will inevitably lead to serious injury of one or several players. It is not fair to the players, the spectators, or the officials themselves to allow this trend to continue.

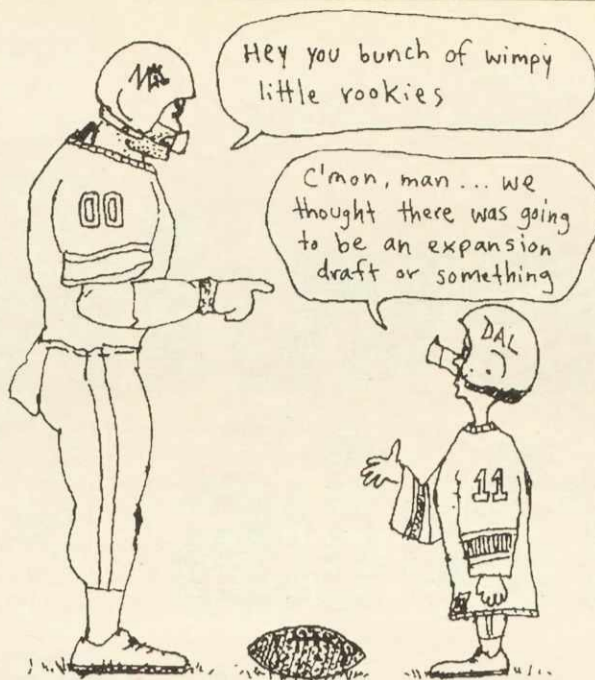
The organizers of intramural sports, as hard-headed as their reputation makes them out to be, should open their eyes and implement mandatory official training programs in the fall of each academic year for any student who wishes to officiate any sport during the coming school year.

Throughout the year the student-officials should be closely supervised, and scrutinized by a suitable senior official, who holds no allegiances to any one house or faculty on campus.

I do not write this letter as a criticism of the intramural program that brings about immeasurable house pride and campus spirit, but I do hope that this issue will be taken under consideration by the organizers of intramural sports.

Sincerely,

**Mark Scott**  
Howe Hall Resident



editorial

# That's the news(paper) and I am outa here...

This is the end, beautiful friend  
This is the end, my only friend, the end  
of our elaborate plans. The end,  
of everything that stands, the end,  
No safety or surprise the end.  
I'll never look into your eyes again.

— Jim Morrison

Almost.

We've actually got two more issues after this one, but as this will probably be my last editorial, and the new copy editor (hi, Tim) will soon be ready to take over, it represents a kind of end, for me anyhow.

Looking back, it becomes immediately evident that I did not accomplish everything I wanted to do this year. I take some solace in the fact that Gazette editors say that every year, but it's still disappointing.

One of my goals with the Gazette this year was to de-stigmatize it. Having lived in residence for three years, I saw and heard a lot of (sometimes deserved) negative things about the Gazette. A lot of people wouldn't pick up the Gazette because someone might see them reading it. Hopefully, that small-mindedness has all but disappeared. I'm sure some of it still goes on; it's common for a university newspaper to be seen by much of the student body as a refuge for freaks, lefty pinkos, militants, and losers. My first year as a writer, I basically just dropped off a sports article, said 'hi' to a couple of people, and left. And I'll readily admit that there were some people that hung around the office that I classified as weirdos. But, as I got sucked into the paper and crossed paths with these people more often, I started noticing the similarities that we shared as opposed to the things that made us different. Familiarity has bred friendship and tolerance. To use a 90's catchphrase, my awareness has been raised.

I hope more of you decide to come up to room 312 of the SUB and check us out. Give us a chance; don't

be scared away by rumours — find out what we're about for yourself. I'm sorry that I spent three years as a Dal student before I gave the Gazette a shot.

But back to my initial point. Over the past three years, I think I have witnessed a growing student approval for the Gazette. Not to say that the goal of the paper should for students to simply like it, but if more people can tolerate it enough to pick it up, then maybe more people are reading it and, hopefully, thinking about what they've read. This is a stretch, I know, but it is something that the paper should be shooting for.

It's easy to get caught up in the mindset of the masses. You know, the "mob mentality." In residences, in societies, and in your circle of friends, the collective mind often clouds the decision-making capabilities of the individual. One of the strengths of university (or any educational facility) is that there is the opportunity and encouragement to think for yourself, to form your own opinions. Usually, university is a totally new scene for first year students — a new beginning; a rebirth, if you will. You may see the world one way, but you come here and are exposed to many other viewpoints. The worst thing you can do is not give any of these other ideas a chance. You might not agree with the concept being expressed, but at least consider it and examine why you disagree. Then put yourself in the other person's position and imagine how you would react to the given set of circumstances. Ultimately, you might still disagree — and you have every right to do so — but hopefully, you'll come out of the experience with a greater understanding of what makes somebody else tick.

While you're here, you'll be exposed to countless ideologies. Don't accept them blindly; don't dismiss them in one fell swoop. Most people walk out of here after four years with a degree and an education, but it's a shame if they're one in the same.

**SAM MCCAIG**

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## opinion

# More election crap

**T**HANKFULLY, it's all over!!! The elections, I mean. We can all go back to our ordinary lives, and perhaps, save a few trees. For one solid week, we had our lives completely disrupted by the rantings of far too many people using the same old tired lines that were old when Moses used them. More accessibility, more this, more that. More crap is more like it.

I mean, we all know why they do it. They just want to improve their résumé so they can get a job when they leave. And, the \$18,000 isn't too bad a package, is it?

But, who have you all elected this time? Probably just another Ken and Barbie. Who knows? We shall see. Maybe they'll be really open and above board, or maybe they'll be just like this year's executive. The rumours that I've heard surround the return of David Cox, this year's outgoing President, who could be reincarnated as DSU treasurer. From what I've heard, he wants to make sure that his vision is carried on. But then again, this is only rumour. I'm sure that Brad and Katherine won't make any rash decisions based on some strange notion of patronage. I'm sure they will choose with the interests of the students they serve being foremost in their minds.

If there is one wish that I have for the coming DSU administration, it would be for them to keep quiet, do their job, and don't hold any more private meetings. You know, those infamous "In Camera" sessions that were so popular with the outgoing administration. I begin to get antsy when any organization with the power of the DSU doesn't let people know what they are doing.

I also hope that the incoming President doesn't follow the example set by the outgoing Prez when the next elections come around. This year's Prez thought it might be funny to use his authority to bully the Elections Returning Officer into letting him appear at the All Candidates' Meeting, posing as a candidate for office. Now, I don't exactly know what the Prez's drunken appearance was supposed to do, but it appeared to be a vain attempt to intimidate some of the candidates.

I don't know about the rest of you, but to me, his actions were inappropriate and constitute an abuse of power. But then, I expect a certain level of decorum from the person who represents my Student Union to the outside world.

Maybe I'm asking for too much.

Maybe I should just keep my mouth shut.

Hello, whatever!

As if!

**JOSEF TRATNIK**  
Candidate for Godhood!

Only two issues left!