

Warning: Any sexual innuendo found in this piece is the sole responsibility of the reader

# The new Generation XXX

Marketing. It's behind what you wear, what you drink, and apparently, two Dal students' parties.

You see, Bruce Yip and B.W. Wildsmith are Dalhousie's official *Playboy* representatives. Which, given that both positions are volunteer, doesn't seem to mean much except some "bunny money" for parties and the kind of media coverage you're reading.

But it seems Yip and Wildsmith are saying it means much more — that *Playboy* is, in fact, a lifestyle.

Another lifestyle?

Tip one: Get in line boys. The condom and cola people are way ahead of you.

Tip two: Pick a better concept. *Playboy* sucks.

I know 'cause I just bought one.

The guy behind the counter was very polite, even when I freaked out over how much it cost (\$7.99 including tax). He calmly explained that it was a buck more because of the Cindy Crawford...coverage...spread — how do you describe a centrefold without sounding crass?

"Nice girl, she's worth it," he said as I left.

Along with "Cindy Crawford: 14 pages of new nudes",

the cover offered 20 Q[uestions]: Tori Spelling (naked), *Playboy's* "#1 ranked college football forecast" (fully dressed), "Interview: Geraldo Rivera" (dressed) and "Sex in the '70s: The hottest decade ever" (various stages of undress).

Oh, and "Gym babes: When spandex means 'yes'" — a title I found especially ironic given one of the chants at last Friday's *Take Back the Night* march: "Yes means yes/ And no means no/ However we dress/ Wherever we go".

Tell me again what's so classy (and feminist) about this magazine?

See it's not *Playboy* I have a problem with — it's *Playboy* pretending to be something it's not. *Guns and Ammo* may not be *House and Garden*, but it also doesn't feature Martha Stewart between the M-16s. It is what it is and everybody knows it.

But *Playboy* doesn't own up to it's rightful place as the picture book for guys who outgrew the lingerie section of the Sears catalogue.

Liking porn is fine. Liking porn and wanting people to congratulate you on your "lifestyle" is, well, kinda weird. Isn't that why bathrooms have locks?

And it's especially odd given that people keep saying they'd read

it without all the skin.

Uh huh.

Every month *Playboy* tries to parade naked women around, be proud of it, and then act like it's a serious magazine.

"Who snuck those photos of the big-chested, cavorting co-eds in?" Hugh Hefner would good-naturedly grumble.

The October issue of *Playboy* had 57 bare breasts in it (107 if you count comics and illustrations). Yes, I counted. It also had one penis. Yeah, yeah and a bunch of articles.

I'm not saying that counting just about everything in a magazine isn't lame — but I am saying that pretending people only read it for the articles and then celebrate it as a "what we do" lifestyle is lamer.

I've got a better slogan than *Playboy's* current, euphemistic subtitle: "Entertainment for Men".

"Playboy, the women are mostly naked, the men are mostly boring."

If you happen to catch one of these *Playboy* parties, ladies, if the magazine is anything to go by, I'd check the dress code and bring something to stifle the yawns.

Besides, do you really need a brand name to throw a good party?

SHELLEY ROBINSON

## Index of Playboy Pictures

For those of you without subscriptions, here's a quickie guide to all things photographic in the October 1998 issue of *Playboy: Entertainment for Men*.

### Women

129 women's body parts  
13 faceless body parts  
57 bare (nipple-exposed) breasts  
31% of the women were dressed (including bikinis)  
9 athletes (all dressed if you count lifejackets as clothes)  
no photographers  
no writers  
35 actresses (if you count Cindy Crawford as an actress)  
**Of the 35 actresses:**  
28.5% were dressed  
7 were porn stars

### Men

86 men's body parts  
5 faceless body parts  
1 penis  
38 athletes (all dressed if you include full football uniforms as clothes)  
7 photographers  
8 writers  
11 actors (if you count Geraldo Rivera as an actor)  
**Of the 11 actors:**  
82% were dressed  
1 was a porn star

In the magazine's 46 illustrations and comics there were: 50 exposed breasts, 0 penises

Oh yeah, and 'Hef' also appeared once: he was clothed.

# The Dalhousie Gazette

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The *Gazette* welcomes letters to the editor and commentary. All letters will be printed up to four per week. The printing of additional letters will be at the discretion of the Opinions Editor. Letters may be edited for length above 300 words and we reserve the right to edit commentary.

All submissions must be typed double-spaced on paper, e-mailed, or on a Mac or IBM 3 1/2 inch disk, in a WP version not greater than Word 6.0 or equivalent. The deadline is Mondays at 4:30 p.m.

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# LETTERS

## Clarifying the Church of Christ

To the editor,

I would like to make a needed clarification to the article (which I have yet to read myself, but have had shared with me), regarding the Halifax-Dartmouth Church of Christ. The clarification is that this group is a part of a group known as the International Church of Christ (ICC) — a denomination whose abusive and aggressive tactics are a matter of record.

However, there must be a careful distinction made between the ICC and the non-denominational fellowship of churches who are associated with what is known as the Stone-Campbell Restoration Movement, which include the churches of Christ, the independent Christian churches, as well as the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). All three streams of this Christian fellowship use the name "Church of Christ" on their church signs, literature, etc., here in the Maritimes and must not be confused with the ICC in any way.

The ICC began as a break away movement within our fellowship (early 1980s), but left when their leader, Kip McKean, began teaching and practicing what we believe to be abusive tactics and practices.

Please print this clarification so as to not tar all those churches in our fellowship who use the designation "Church of Christ" with the same brush.

KEITH BRUMLEY  
Minister, Convoy Avenue  
Church of Christ  
Halifax

## In search of a disabled advisor

To the editor,

Two weeks ago my opinion piece provided a critique of the patronization of the disability advisor's office (Sept. 10). In advocating equality for disabled persons, my recommendation proposed that a person with a disability be appointed as Advisor.

In recent days, in an apparent bid to gain credibility with students, the disability advisor has been mentioning her own experience with attention deficit disorder during orientation sessions. It should be clearly stated and understood that, although an attention deficit disorder is no doubt a challenging situation for those affected, it is a vastly different thing than being a wheelchair user.

The fact remains that advocacy for the disabled community demands that the incumbent be replaced by a person with a disability.

MARY MACDONALD

## Two sides to the pro-life/pro-choice argument

To the editor,

The overall political apathy on Dal campus is no secret. Those of us who have been here for a few years are used to it, and either rebel against it or join in. The energy of the frosh who have not yet been converted is necessary to combat the lack of social interest we have succumbed to after a few years at school. Because of this, I think it's important for those of us involved in campus life to be aware of the messages we're giving to frosh — to make sure they are hearing all sides of the story. Displays like the ones at welcome fair and the volunteer fair are, in some cases, the only introduction frosh are getting to campus and Halifax politics.

And so be it; that, in itself is not a concern. But the concern I have for Dalhousie is linked to these fairs: while wandering through the volunteer fair last week, I stumbled upon Birthright. Birthright, for those of you lucky enough to be unfamiliar with the organization, is one of Halifax's pro-life organizations. As a young woman, and as a feminist, I take personal issue with Birthright. I don't expect everyone to share this opinion with me, and I don't expect them to be kept away from Dal because I disagree with their politics. What I do expect is that all fronts will be represented at a school fair, if the school has the concern that all of us have the freedom to express our political/religious beliefs. The fact that there were no pro-choice organizations from the area is unacceptable and upsetting. Apparently, pro-choice agencies that are usually invited to be involved in the volunteer fair and frosh initiation activities were not invited this year. The message this passes on to us is frightening: in this case, Dal encourages you to volunteer with a pro-life agency — that's the only option (of that genre) they're going to give you. And the only option Birthright is going to give you (i.e. — continuing pregnancies) is not necessarily useful for a young woman with an unplanned pregnancy.

The people organizing the fair this year may not have been conscious of the act of omission they were performing, but the message they got across is unfortunate. We need to be aware of the groups we invite on to campus, especially in sensitive cases like these. We also need to be informed: so let's make sure that all sides are covered in cases like these.

KATE GREENAWAY

THE GAZETTE NEEDS AN  
OFFICE MANAGER.  
TO APPLY COME TO ROOM  
312 SUB AT 4:30 ON  
MONDAY SEPT. 28