

International Women's Day

BY MARCUS LOPES

Solidarity.

It was a time to organize, a time to mobilize, to celebrate and reflect: it was Friday, March 8 — International Women's Day.

The Dalhousie Women's Centre organized a Variety Show, and it was one of many events in Halifax marking International Women's Day. On the way home that evening, I thought a lot about the songs that were sung and the words that were spoken. The sense of solidarity that was in the room overwhelmed me...it inspired me.

It inspired me to write this article because I wanted to share with others the message that I had received by attending the variety show. I was not only entertained, I was educated. The difficulty lay in trying to express how the variety show influenced my life, my way of thinking about feminism.

It must have been during the month of February when several of us *Gazette* staffers were sitting around the office talking about a number of issues. Somehow we got on to the topic of feminism and I was asked if I considered myself a feminist. I responded, with hesitation, "Yes."

The reason that I was asked if I was a feminist was because people remembered the article I submitted to the *Gazette's* supplement during the week of reflection in December, 1995. When I wrote that article, I did not consider myself a feminist, just an individual who was adding his voice to the fight to end violence against womyn, adding my weak voice to a strong movement of action, of change, of liberation.

As I tried writing this article, I began to feel uncomfortable with the answer I had given to that question. I concluded that I really



didn't understand what feminism was all about, that in professing to be a feminist I was simply demonstrating just how uneducated I was about feminism and the womyn's movement. I decided to talk to some other people who were also present at the variety show.

As I talked to Karen Marchand, the station manager at CKDU, we reached a point in our discussion when we agreed that maybe *feminist* was not the correct word. That made sense because as a male, there are certain experiences I will never be able to experience and in turn, I will never have a true understanding of that bond that exists between womyn.

"I came away with a strong sense of solidarity with womyn from different backgrounds; womyn I'm not in contact with in day-to-day settings," said Karen.

Solidarity in music, solidarity in song — solidarity in action.

We continued our conversation when Karen mentioned the word *pro-feminist*, a word that I never thought about until then. The more we talked, the more it seemed to fit. I may be pro-womyn, but I recognize that

I lack a clear understanding of feminism and of the issues affecting womyn, and that which womyn are fighting for. But by going to events like the International Women's Day Variety Show, and by taking the initiative to educate myself, that understanding will evolve.

For Lis van Berkel, the current affairs director at CKDU, the variety show sent a message of strong womyn in the community. When you look at the lineup of those who performed, both amateur and novice, there is no doubt these performers are strong womyn from within their communities: Evelyn Riggs, The Women Next Door, Murleta Williams, Paula Arsenault...to mention but a few.

Strong womyn in the community. When I think about strong womyn in the Dalhousie community, I think about Heather Gibson, an organizer of the event, Jo Sky, one of the performers, and so many others. The point that I'm trying to make is best expressed in these few lines from the poem "Bread and Roses": "As we go marching, marching/We heed the greater call./The rising of the women/Means the rising of us all."

Study, stupid

BY JOHN CULLEN

OH yes, it is coming to that time of year again. The smart worry about their exam schedule, and the dumb worry if they will make it back next year. Being a member of the latter group, March and April are months that have me gripped by The Fear. Will I be on academic probation? Will my parents disown me on the Ricki Lake show? Well, I took some time the other day to find out how easy (or hard) it is to get kicked out of our blessed school. For those being shaken by the paranoia of passing, read on.

Aside from obvious reasons — murder, drugs, racketeering — it is hard to get kicked out of Dal. Scholastically, one can get five D's in five classes and still stay in school (arts & sciences), although that person is probably wasting their time.

Flunking courses is the easiest and most popular way to end one's university career. However, there are other, more original means to the same end that are worth a look.

Plagiarism instills a feeling of unrest in the Senate Judicial Committee, the governing body over these matters. But what student hasn't used some obscure source of information to beef up an essay? Most research essays involve finding out what other people think on a particular subject and then rehashing it. Since you have not suggested any new ideas, isn't this just condoned plagiarism? Quotation marks, the six and nine of punctuation, are the small barrier between Right and Ripping Off.

Another way to get your face pointed toward the Great Exit Sign in the Sky is to be void of 'intellectual honesty.' The meaning behind this one is vague, to say the least. The wording of this clause in the student calendar is confusing. Does this mean every student who pretends to be smart or who is pseudo-deep can get expelled? It would be nice to have every person who talks about things they know nothing about

kicked out, but university enrollment would drop faster than any tuition hike could achieve...of course, I'd be first out the door.

All these ways of expulsion are related to grades and academic foul play. But what about the other side? Could someone get the boot for doing bad things during class? Aside from obvious deeds like hostage taking and bomb threats, I don't think minor offenses like raising your hand too much in class can work against you. The reason for this is simple. The administration side of the university does not care what you do. They are concerned with your payment of tuition. The way I see

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it is that it is cheaper to keep a current student in the school. It costs too much to process all the transcripts coming from high schools across the country. So to get rid of this problem, why not increase the entrance requirements while lowering the minimum GPA within the university? This means anyone who can get through first year pretty much has a free ride. Mind you, this could just be a crackpot idea brought on by lack of sleep.

For all of those worried about your academic standing, reject The Fear and worry not. As long as you stay within the law and above a 1.00 GPA, you will never have to say, "Mom and Dad, I have something to tell you..."

dalhousie student employment centre Room 446, Student Union Building, 494-3537

Kraft Canada Inc. — Kraft Canada Inc., a leading professional and progressive company is offering a summer position to a third or fourth year program student, with a desire for a career in Sales. The position involved is an entry level Summer Merchandising position. The term of employment is sixteen weeks, starting April 29th - August 16th, 1996. Copies of the job description, and qualifications are available at the employment centre. Deadline date is March 20/96, please visit the employment centre soon.

Farmers Co-operative Dairy — Farmers is currently accepting applications for the positions of 5 Ton Truck Drivers, and Special Events Coordinator. The truck drivers must have class 3 drivers license. The candidate will be responsible to deliver and merchandise ice cream products to Farmers customers, cash collections, correct billing of customers and maintain a product inventory. Positions available are based in Kentville, Bridgewater, and the Halifax-Dartmouth area. The Special Events Coordinator will be a second or third year Marketing or Public Relations Major with excellent interpersonal and organizational skills. Duties and responsibilities will be to coordinate and schedule Farmers special events, exhibition booths and assume responsibility for Farmers product donation program. More information is available at the employment centre, deadline date March 20/96.

Ocean Kayak Instructor/Guide — White Point Beach Lodge, and Mahone Bay Kayak Adventures are offering summer positions for Ocean Kayak Instructor/Guides. More information about the positions, and qualifications is available at the employment centre, application deadlines are April 13th, and April 30/96.

OASIS — The Oasis Environmental Society is offering the position of Camp co-ordinator in various locations in Nova Scotia, and one position in Ottawa, Ontario. The term of employment is 10 weeks (June 10- Aug. 30), application deadline is April 17/96. A complete listing of job descriptions, and qualifications is available at the centre.

Maritime Marlin Travel — Maritime Marlin Travel is offering a term position between April 30- August 31. A copy of the list of the job description and qualifications are available at the centre, deadline date, March 15/96.

Summer Job Opportunities in New Brunswick — Applications for Summer job opportunities with the N.B. Department of Advanced Education and Labour are now available. The jet stream program offers students an opportunity to gain valuable work experience within New Brunswick Government Departments & Agencies, municipalities, as well as within the voluntary non-profit sector for the summer. The N.B. 1996 Youth Entrepreneurship Program (YEP) package is also available at the centre. It is designed for university, community college, and high school students, 16 years of age and older. The program provides entrepreneurship training, guidance in developing a business plan, and marketing. Another governmental summer employment program being offered is the Student Venture Capital Program(SVCP). It offers interest free loans to students who wish to create a summer job for themselves while operating their own businesses. For further details, and applications, visit the employment centre.

Sojourns Database — If you are considering going to another country to study, work, volunteer- or a combination of all three- but don't know where to begin researching opportunities, take a look at Sojourns. Sojourns is a 2000- entry database that is fun to search, packed with international job possibilities, study programs, volunteer openings, and scholarship details. The program takes approximately one half to one hour to complete.

Immediate Recruitment — Several immediate positions have been posted recently, including positions with Imperial Life, Schlumberger, CityScapes, and the Discovery Centre. Visit the centre for further information on job titles, descriptions, and qualifications.