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as "rape," was not that at all. If you had been watching, you would have noticed that Polly emerged from the scrum fully clothed, albeit differently. The flinging off of her previous attire was symbolic of the rejection of the archaic views of women as slaves and concubines. Your interpretation of this scene as rape is solely a fabrication of minds obsessed with insulting the medical community. Such an interpretation was never intended by the writers, directors, producers, or performers.

The play ends with the queen announcing that she has learned that being a woman and having a career are not mutually exclusive, and the curtain falls on a land where men and women, and hetero and homosexuals live together in happiness and harmony.

It is painfully obvious that you had preconceived ideas of what the show was to be like before you even saw it and this pathological bias rendered it impossible for you to report accurately on the performances. That is not what I call objective journalism, that is not what I call an open mind.

Furthermore, your insinuation that we may be dangerous to patients because we tell bawdy jokes is disgusting and absolutely inexcusable. I suggest that you read up on the laws of defamation, it may stand in your good stead.

Christina Tanner
Medicine II

Disgust with 'cheap journalism'

To the editors,

As president of the Dalhousie Medical Students' Society, the organization responsible for the production of *Euphoria '85*, I must express my disgust with the cheap 'journalism' practised by you and by your reviewer of the show, Ms Mackey. Meritous aspects of *Euphoria* were conveniently ignored and others were exaggerated for political purposes.

It is not my intent to contest the accusation of sexism. I am certain that the students of Dalhousie appreciate your zealous efforts to root out the revanchist elements of sexism among us, as demonstrated by your recent expose of that most vile and invidious tabloid, the *Tupper Times*. Similarly, the issue of 'professional snobbery' is not worthy of debate. Students of professional schools always have been and always will be accused of snobbery by undergraduates — it is part of student folklore. I recall several occasions on which, as an idealistic young *Gazette* writer, I and other staff members complained about the 'snobs' in the Weldon and Tupper buildings without real cause. Your accusation of racism is unfounded.

I do object to the lamentable lack of objectivity and balance in your reporting, and to your blatant distortion of reality. From your description a reader might conclude that a graphic rape scene was enacted upon the stage. The writers and producers of the

Med II skit, women as it happens, and the woman who played Polyarthritis, the alleged victim, expressed astonishment and anger regarding your editorial. Do you seriously expect your readers to believe that highly intelligent young women should write, let alone participate in a production which treats rape as a joke? Fortunately the truth has been preserved on videotape.

Mackey implied that we made light of "a host of debilitating diseases." What did happen was that the names of disorders and other medical terms were used as puns, and as the names of characters, in an amusing fashion for those who understood the terminology. (Euphoria is written for and attended by a primarily medical/health professions audience). Mackey was also deaf to the loud chorus of boos and catcalls from medical students in the audience in response to the comments about nurses in the Med II skit.

Why was there no mention of the excellent performances by the Tupper Band and the Tupper Chorale, or for the many other fine musical and dance numbers which made up 60 per cent of the show?? The rest of the production consisted of the three skits by the Med I, II and III classes, all directed and produced by female medical students. The show was MC'd by women for the first time in its long history — was this not worthy of comment? If the performance was indeed offensive one must wonder why nearly 1,000 "brave and foolish" people cheered and applauded enthusiastically throughout the 4h hour performance.

My harshest criticism of Ms Mackey's review is reserved for her despicable insinuation that the four judges of the show, all respected members of the Dalhousie Faculty of Medicine, condone the rape and degradation of women. Dr. Sonia Salisbury has participated in conferences on the role of women in medicine and is respected for her calm reasoned approach to women's problems — a welcome respite from the pedantic, fanatic, anti-male approach which has unfortunately come to be associated with the feminist movement.

As editors you bear full responsibility for this libelous defamation of character. You are advised to issue a public apology to Drs. Clattenbury, Holland, McCormick and Salisbury. *The Gazette* has cried 'wolf' once too often.

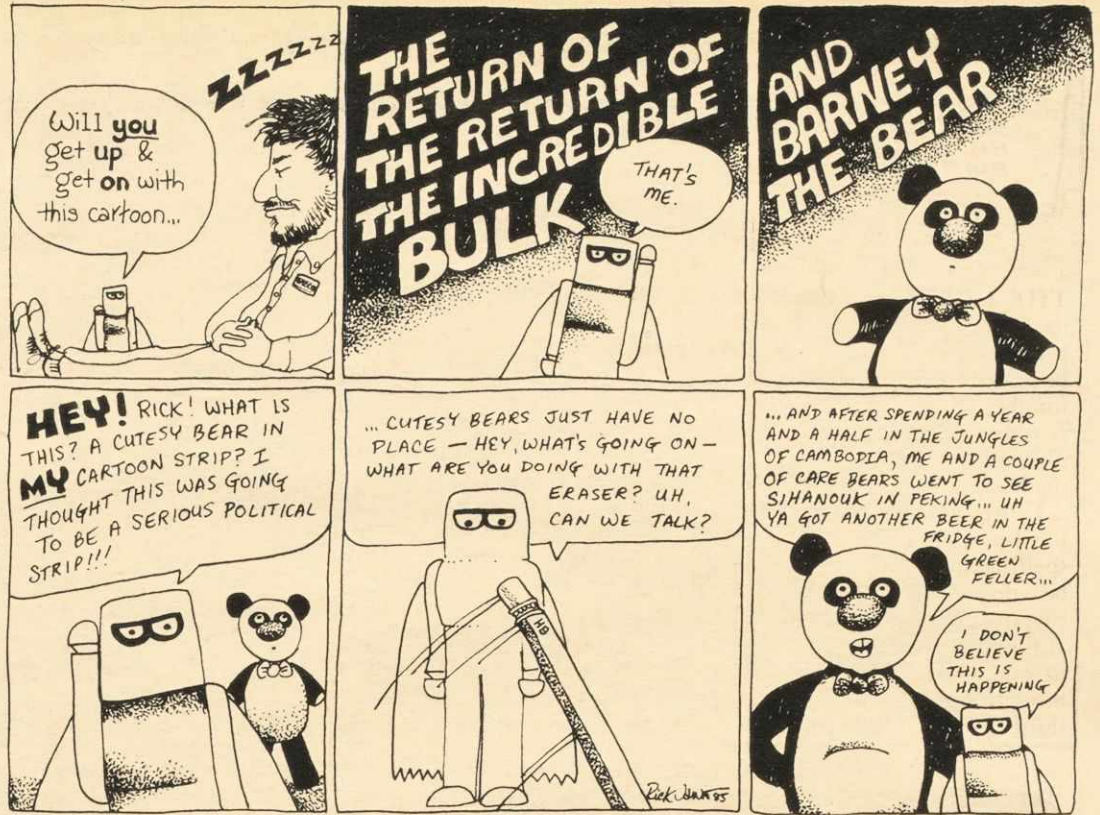
Robert A. Pottle
President, DMSS

Unwarranted attack on medical students...

To the editors,

Recent articles and letters in the *Gazette* have mounted to what I think is an unwarranted attack on the medical students of this university. The most recent being an article and editorial on the medical students' variety show "Euphoria". The reports cited the show as being "racist, sexist and homophobic" and found the Med II class skit particularly guilty.

The return of the Incredible Bulk



Several points must be made in response. First, most people who were there would agree the Med II skit was not done in a mean or hateful way and from audience response it was generally not perceived as such. As your own editorial exclaimed, "Euphoria hits all bases". That is to say, we poked fun at everyone; nurses, lawyers, dentists, doctors, homosexuals, heterosexuals and ourselves as medical students. Because we really do believe "laughter is the best medicine."

However, to quote a *Gazette* editorial apology for a racist cartoon published in this bastion of righteousness, "Evidently a number of people did not read the message of the cartoon in the same way. Once again our apologies." To the people we have offended, our apologies.

As for a "rape scene", this must have been dreamed up at the *Gazette* because that is not what happened in the scene described.

Finally, it was obvious to most people there, the whole point of the skit was not to put down career orientated women, as reported, but to show times have changed since "days of olde", and rightfully so. Career orientated women are intelligent and fun-loving people who have a necessary and rightful place at the forefront of all aspects of our society. To most who saw the skit the intent was self-evident.

The remainder of *Euphoria* which was "inexplicably" unreported also featured very talented people: The Tupper Band, Tupper Chorale, Jazz Revue and numerous singers and dancers, who all lent their terrific talents to a good cause, the Mary Koncovy Trust Fund. This fund was set up in memory of Mary Koncovy, a member of the class of '86 who was tragically killed in an automobile crash. The fund is used to buy much-needed books for the Kellogg Library.

In closing, I must commend the *Gazette's* campaign for human rights but warn them not to be overzealous, it serves only to turn people away from a good cause.

I hope you will be as generous in your coverage of the Dalhousie

Medical Student Society charity auction 7:00 p.m., Feb. 13 in the Tupper Cafeteria. All proceeds will go to the St. Vincent de Paul Society, a non-profit non-denominational organization dedicated to feeding and clothing the poor and destitute of Halifax. Last year the auction raised over \$5,000 for the Victorian Order of Nurses to help them continue their noble crusade. With your support the auction might be able to do as well this year.

Yours sincerely,
David Nunn,
Med II

Med students raise bucks for needy

To the editors,

Every year the Dalhousie Medical Students' Society holds a charity auction in support of a local organization. This year the medical students have chosen to donate all money raised in the auction to the St. Vincent de Paul society, a world-wide organization that works at a community level. Here in Halifax, the society runs Hope Cottage on Gottigen Street providing hot meals for the needy. As well, they run a clothes depot providing free clothes.

They provide counselling services both in the community and at correctional centres. Finally they help to send deprived children to camps during the summer. The organization is in desperate need of finances to keep its programmes going.

Donations to the auction are made by the business and retail community, physicians, and any other interested persons. The auction will be held on Wednesday, Feb 13th at 7:00 pm and is open to everyone.

Enquiries can be made at the DMSS Office (424-3744) between 12:30pm and 2:00 pm Monday to Friday.

Sincerely,
John Anderson
Vice-president
Medicine II

Didn't know we had a rape scene

To the editors,

Call me naive. I didn't know we had a rape scene. Nor did the other people in the much attacked skit "Comelot." Looking back, of course, it is easy to see that this could have been interpreted as a rape scene (albeit a seven-second rape) by anyone who wished to do so — so call me naive!

Sexist are we? If you bother to analyze the plot of our skit, you find that women are freed from their traditional roles and discover that they can, and should, do whatever they like with their lives. To boot (watch out, this is the risky part), they can enjoy themselves and have fun at the same time. Things get even more alarming when Sir Lancelot is liberated from his stereotyped role. Even the knights begin to see at the end that change isn't so bad, and only the king is left with no understanding of the changing times. Shocking stuff, isn't it?

If anything in the skit serves apology, it is the crack about nurses. I sincerely hope that none of my colleagues could hold such a dim-witted view of nurses, just as I really doubt that nurses view female meds as jelly brain sex objects (*Gazette*, Nov 22, 1984).

In short, I find your pseudo-review of *Euphoria*, which mentioned none of the extremely talented singers, dancers, and actors not only highly offensive but remarkably unintelligent.

For those who have chosen to be offended, I refer you to the words of one much more malicious than myself:

*If we shadows have offended
Think but this, and all is mended:
That you have but slumbered here
While these visions did appear
And this weak and idle theme
No more yielding but a dream,
Gentles, do not reprehend,
If you pardon, we will mend!
(Puck, A Midsummer Night's Dream)*

Marjorie Robb
Med II