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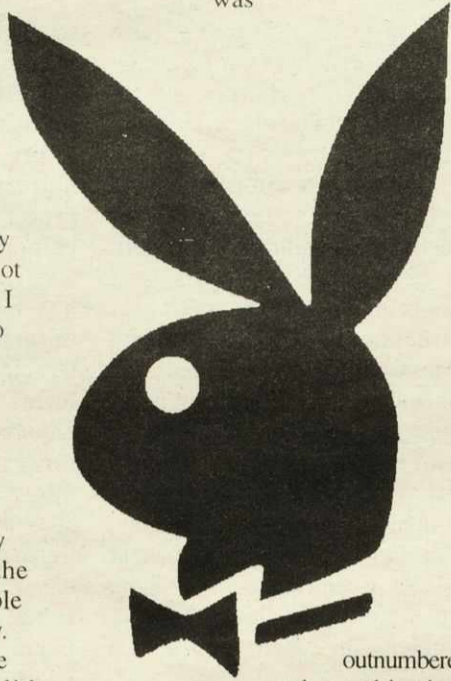
# Taking back the night from *Playboy*

I can't help but laugh. Really, you must be joking. Right there on page three, "Bunny boys promote *Playboy* at Dal" directly above "Take Back the Night 'about power'". Both articles contained some false information, so let me share.

First, Take Back the Night. Lisa LaChance states, "either 250 angry women or 250 empowered women in solidarity..." Guess what? We were angry and empowered. These are not mutually exclusive. In fact, I suggest they're unlikely to happen independently. Next point — "reactions ranged from silence to shows of support". There were shows of support — there was also violence. My girlfriend was assaulted by some drunk assholes at the rally, right in front of a couple of cops and a camera crew. Bet you didn't see that in the news. Neither group did anything — I pulled the guy off my girlfriend while she disentangled herself and her sign. He was shouting "love!" Sorry dude, not for you. The same guy showed up later along the march route,

hollering something incomprehensible, but angry. The organizers tried talking to him, but when that didn't work they resorted to chasing him away with a dog.

Good thing he was



was outnumbered, at least this time. Later, on the way to the car, my girlfriend, myself and another friend were harassed by another drunk asshole who got in our faces about "what the picket signs are for." Since he wouldn't

leave us alone, we got in the car and left — he was still talking, explaining to us that we should be less hostile.

So let's talk about *Playboy*. Yip and Wildsmith (*Playboy* reps on campus) say that *Playboy* is not demeaning to women. Right, guys. Have you read the magazine lately? Better yet, have you read anything lately? *Playboy* promotes a skinny, white, able-bodied standard of "beauty" that oppresses practically everyone. Newsflash—women don't look like that. Even the women in the magazine don't look like that. Find out what the models pay for plastic surgery. Then find out how much *Playboy* pays for airbrushing. *Playboy* is about plastic people. Contrary to popular belief, plastic does not have a "lifestyle." Nor is it entitled to freedom of speech. Cuz guess what? Freedom of speech is legally contingent upon the obligation to tell the truth — that's why slander, libel and false advertising are illegal. With fake women, often portrayed without heads or as disconnected collections of body parts, *Playboy* is libelling women. We aren't who they say we are.

And this one: "*Playboy* has provided the largest forum for feminist thought..." (Yip and

Wildsmith, it doesn't say which. Maybe they only have one brain between them). Excuse me while I fall out laughing. Do you guys really expect anyone to believe that? heheh. Really though. The largest of what? The largest in the world? Right. If *Playboy* seemed to be on the side of feminists in the 60s because of their stance on reproductive control, think again. *Playboy* endorsed abortion because they wanted an easier lay. When women who had had abortions stopped saying yes — realizing what the hell an abortion could be — *Playboy* and its footsoldiers stopped being so concerned. In fact, they got downright hostile. In the 70s, in response to a journalistic piece submitted for publication to *Playboy*, a leaked memo from Hugh Hefner stated, "doing a piece on the pros and cons of feminism strikes me as rather pointless for *Playboy*... What I want is a devastating piece... a really expert, personal demolition job on the subject." (Steinem, see reference below.) Let's here it for journalistic integrity: this is what you really get when you "just read it for the articles."

If you care even a little, you'll read the mountains of documentation available on the

subject. This one's a no-brainer. Start with "I was a *Playboy* Bunny" by Gloria Steinem (in *Outrageous Acts and Everyday Rebellions*), progress to *Backlash* by Susan Faludi, and graduate to *Letters From A War Zone*, by Andrea Dworkin. If you can stomach it, try Dworkin's *Pornography*. Now that's hardcore.

If you won't read any of these, or anything else explaining in detail why *Playboy* sucks (you do know how to use the library, don't you?) then we'll both know the truth: you don't care to find out whether *Playboy* is hurting women because that's less important to you than getting off to a plasticized Cindy. That's your cue that *Playboy* got you too — you've been turned into a plastic person with no feeling anywhere except your dick.

And "grrls," remember this: the more we threaten the patriarchy, the more it seeks to punish us with misogyny. If that drunk was willing to attack in the midst of a crowd of hundreds, what would he have done to a woman alone? Just because the misogyny calls itself a "lifestyle" (which is true, it is) doesn't mean we owe them an explanation or an apology.

MYLENE DIPENTA  
"A GRRL"

# The difference between democrats and demagogues

A democrat believes in social equality and governing power derived from the people. A demagogue makes use of popular prejudices and false claims and promises in order to gain power.

If there is a citizen in our country who is not alarmed by the APEC scandal please pick up a copy of our Constitution and move to China. You can use it for your handkerchief after the government detains you. My friends, we are citizens who have fundamental rights under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. It is the social contract established between the Canadian citizenry and the individuals who obtain the power of our government. We are obligated to accept the legal authority of our government as long as the sovereign respects our Constitution. If Jean Chretien instructed the RCMP to arrest APEC protesters he should not be our Prime Minister. I base my views on the following ideals that are listed in our Constitution:

1. The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms guarantees the rights and freedoms set out in it subject only to such reasonable limits prescribed by law as can be demonstrably justified in a free and democratic society.
2. Everyone has the following fundamental freedoms:
  - (a) freedom of conscience and religion;
  - (b) freedom of thought, belief, opinion and expression, including freedom of the press and other media of communication;
  - (c) freedom of peaceful assembly; and
  - (d) freedom of association
3. Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of the person and the right not to be deprived thereof except in accordance with the principles of fundamental justice.
4. Everyone has the right not

to be arbitrarily detained or imprisoned

12. Everyone has the right not to be subjected to any cruel and unusual treatment or punishment.

The Prime Minister is the leader of our country and this office must defend our Constitution. Time and time again we have seen him use harsh tactics to crush dissent within his own party caucus. Now it appears he may have used the same tactics against the citizenry. If he did this we cannot tolerate his actions.

## Who runs Dalhousie anyway ?

It is unsurprising if a little bit disappointing to find out how few people really know how Dalhousie actually fits together and who has responsibility for which sections. For those of you who are curious (history has shown that's not many), I shall try to explain how things work inside the university administration.

The first thing you should know is that the university is *big* and so requires a lot of administrative structure. Managing an approximately \$150-million dollar budget and between two and three thousand employees is a task which is split up between Senate, the Board of Governors, the president and four vice-presidents, along with many other coordinators and associate vps. As I stated in my last piece, the senate handles mainly academic decisions and the board mainly financial ones, but these are mainly bodies which guide the university in long-range decisions and planning. The day-to-day management of the university is left to the president and vps.

While the president must ultimately answer to the board, all of the vps must answer to him.

The reason I place such significance on the APEC scandal is twofold. First, if the Prime Minister suppressed our legal right to peaceful assembly he will be responsible for creating a constitutional crisis. If he can rebel against the Constitution why can't the citizenry? For example, the Supreme Court of Canada recently ruled that Quebec secession must take place according to the rule of law under the Canadian Constitution. The Prime Minister and his Cabinet were quick to

demand the Parti Quebecois abide by the ruling of the court. How can the federal government justify such demands if the Prime Minister does not respect the rule of law?

Secondly, if the APEC allegations are true, the Prime Minister has challenged the Canadian public. Intentional or not, he is testing our tolerance for such actions in the future. If we do not send a clear message against the APEC affair we will be acknowledging our acceptance of similar actions in the future. How

now that he is thinking of leaving it, the position itself is being reviewed.

Some of you may have noticed that I seem to have left out a few faculties and deans. The deans of architecture, computer science and engineering live down at Daltech, and their status within Dalhousie is being reassessed. Currently, Daltech is acting as a separate college within Dal. This was designed to give a sense of collegiality and to try to change as little as possible what has worked for years at the former TUNS. Unfortunately, the reality is this also adds one more level of bureaucracy to an already thick system. The Dean of engineering, Adam Bell, is currently wearing another hat as acting principal of Daltech until this gets sorted out, hopefully to the satisfaction of all parties.

At university as like anywhere these days, money talks, and the man who holds the purse strings is vp Finance and Administration Bryan Mason. He handles the day-to-day financial management of the university and administers the budget as passed by the Board and the Senate Academic Priorities

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would you feel if the Board of Governors or Senate oppressed our protests against the Faculty Strike and Board Lockout last year? This is a serious matter and we cannot let it be swept under the carpet.

Jean Chretien was the Minister of Constitutional Affairs during the patriation of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms in 1982. The difference between a *democrat* and a *demagogue* is becoming very blurry in Canada. We need to use our Constitution to straighten the pair out.

DAVID A. COX

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