

the Dal Dispatch.

Letters in the Jan. 14 and Jan. 21 editions of the Gazette spelled my name wrong and displayed a naive lack of common sense in accusing me of discriminating against homosexuals.

The piece "Ride My Thumb" was about hitch-hiking and the ignorant behaviour exhibited by today's drivers. In its exposition, the piece described some of the problems today's meek and mild male hitch-hikers must face.

One hazard was "... a homosexual looking to score ..."

I am not the only male who has been propositioned by a male driver. I know this to be true. It is not funny. It is not supposed to be a joke. The part about the provincial politician was a joke.

I pointed out a real problem. It is not contrived. I did not discriminate.

So get a grip. If we must shield the truths of hitch-hiking to prevent treading on the toes of one group or another, I fear our concept of justice in the press is sadly maligned. I say this to our letter-writer of Jan. 14 '88, Canadian University Press' Atlantic Region Bureau Chief, Eleanor Brown. I implore her to remember the University Press' driving force: its mandate to speak the truth.

To the Gays and Lesbians of Dalhousie, whose representative chooses to go nameless, I say: It is not in the best interest of any group to pretend all their members are categorically without fault, even if the group believes society is prejudiced

against them. If true equality is to be achieved, we must realize we are equal in our wrongs, equal as human beings.

For any other victims of stereotyping: both my hairdressers are gay, I often wear a pigtail on cloudy days, and one of my best high school friends is gay. I stood by him when most everybody else, including my girlfriend, was mocking. It makes me proud.

As Kris Kristofferson said, "Most of us hate anything that we don't understand."

Thanks for the space.

**Barry Moores**

### Freedom of opinion?

**To the Editors:**

Alas, there are some misunderstandings to clear up. It would be rude for me not to respond to Brenda Beagan's letter in the Jan. 28 Gazette.

Throughout her letter, Ms. Beagan confuses "freedom of opinion" with "freedom of choice". Of course we are free to think whatever we wish, but we are not free to do whatever we wish. This is all very obvious, even trivial, but after reading Ms. Beagan's letter, it apparently needs saying.

Several questions are asked of me in her letter. These, along with my responses, follow:

"Do you have a solution to offer, or are you simply expressing a desire for a balanced academic debate?" The latter, unfortunately.

"If we ... respect the anti-choice opinion, then what? Must they, too, respect the pro-choice opinion?" Yes.

"Does that mean abolishing the existing anti-choice legislation in the interest of freedom of opinion?" No. Freedom of opinion is not restricted by any law.

"Are you suggesting we should listen objectively to both sides, then each be free to make our personal decisions on the issues?" If you are asking about freedom of opinion (to be a pro-lifer or a pro-chooser), yes. If you are asking about freedom of choice (to abort or not to abort), no. Don't misunderstand me, now; your question was worded as "Are you suggesting we should ...", not "Should we ..."

"If we are all entitled to our own opinions, why is mine against the law?" I was not aware of anyone having been arrested in Canada for being pro-choice, or indeed for being pro-anything.

**Dan Peters**

### Jade Baby top priority

**To the Editors:**

What, no Jade Baby last week? Okay, okay, so it was a small paper, but to cut something as original as Jade Baby while continuing to run a page full of boring record reviews (which I can get in *Rolling Stone* any time, thank you very much) may demonstrate something about the Gazette's priorities when it comes to local art. The Dead Kennedys *et al* get plenty of coverage in other places. Jade Baby is exclusive to your paper. If the Gazette gave the same kind of priority to local arts as it does to album reviews, the arts section might actually offer something of interest.

**Rick Janson**

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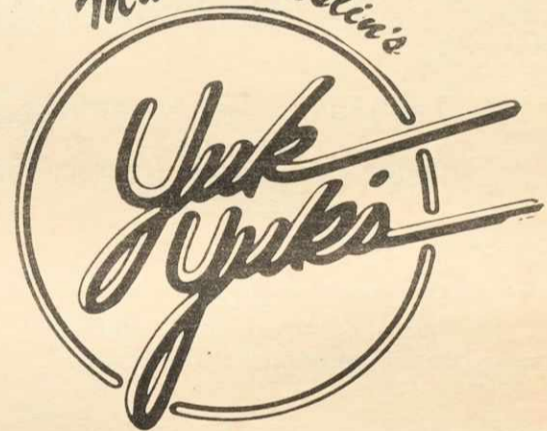
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