

Letters

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returning next year may wish to think whether the bad reputation means some students will instead go to other universities. Treat the frosh as humans, or treat them like dogs, but realize that less students like dogs means less money for the university to give you the quality of education you deserve. Think about it.

Comment from students, faculty and administration at Dalhousie is welcomed by this writer.

Sincerely
Andy Hueton
Toronto, Ontario

Profound

To the Editor:

I owe an apology to Heather

Logan. I did not realize that you had submitted articles to the Gazette. I understood your complaint. Perhaps you could have made this more clear. I was wrong to address you personally. I understood how you must have felt when I read the letter from P. Flinn.

Flinn automatically thought I was male. I found this quite amusing. Unfortunately, I am not.

Flinn's letter is full of contradictions, misjudgement, hypocrisy and blatant lies. Apparently in your five years of university you must have dabbled in Misinterpretation.

You state that I had a valid complaint and then you attack the way it is stated. Yes I did "soar to pretentious and sink to the profane" but it was only an attempt at humour — a trait you are in dire need of.

Nowhere in my letter did I state that I felt that "being a student requires one to hold unpopular opinions." Nowhere did I say that this was "the essence of university" I said, to repeat, that university is a place to enlighten yourself. It may or may not mean becoming an activist.

Did I write anything about expressing extremist views? What kind of kick are you on? Just because I believe that racism, sexism and equality are important does not mean that I am an extremist. I hope that extreme is not the word you would use to describe these issues. And yes, Flinn, I have a mind of my own even if you believe that I have "conformed to prefabricated viewpoints". Are "prefabricated viewpoints" cheap? Can you tell me where I can buy one?

You state that I am "no longer rebelling against injustice, I am simply rebelling." Well, unless you called in a psychic to analyze my letter, you have gone a little too deep into the subtext. Perhaps you read the wrong letter? I wrote a letter expressing my feelings on the abuse the Gazette has been receiving lately, not a Manifesto on the Domination of the Capitalist World.

You gravely insult the Gazette by suggesting that they used my letter as a tool. Come on, my letter wasn't that good. If the Gazette wanted a tool, I'm sure that they could present a better case than I did.

In one major contradiction you state that the Gazette "continually assaults us with unpopular opinions". Then, further along you write "It is too bad that the editorial section is the only part of the paper that I find opinions I can agree with." Boy, this sure makes sense to me. The editorial section is the only place where opinion is allowed/or should be in a paper. Therefore, after assaulting the Gazette for their "unpopular opinions", you state that you agree with them! Are you perhaps a pseudo-conformist?

Believe you me, Flinn baby, I will not "yuppify" upon graduation. Most likely because I'll probably never graduate. If you didn't get that, I was being sarcastic, pretentious, witty, etc. . .

Oh, are you an Arts student? Well, congratulations. I'm really glad that Arts students are just as narrow-minded as everyone else. I couldn't care less if you think El Salvador is the name of a new car or sexism the name of a porno magazine. I couldn't care less how extremist non-extremist you are. I don't really want to know what you think "unpopular opinion" is. You're entitled to your opinions, ideas or whatever. Just don't try and tell me or whoever else you were talking to that just because their opinions are not yours, they are not real opinions. Because people hold "unpopular opinions", you think you can dismiss them by saying "They're just doing that to be different, they're not serious, they don't really care."

We are not all just reading SPY. We're not all just listening to D.C. rap and saying "cool". We're not all ordering a capuccino and pretending to enjoy it. We're all looking for different ways to conform. Just looking for a different way to do it. A different way to conform to this silly, pretentious, profane world. I must stop before I get sentimental. . .

Yours sincerely,
Carol MacIlhosa

Strained quality

To the Editor:

I turn to the Gazette in a last ditch attempt to resolve a very silly and frustrating problem that exists between the Dalhousie Administration, the DFA, and a professor. Of course the students involved are caught in the middle and have ultimately suffered from a situation that has gone on for three months too long.

This concerns a geology class that was the topic of an editorial in the Gazette. (December 8th, "The quality of education is strained.") Because the strike interfered with classes and exams, my class was to receive a blanket grade. This was brought to the

attention of the Vice-President of Academics, who then asked the Dean of Science to deal with it. A take-home exam was assigned and, to make a long story short, most students received an A grade. Because it seemed a peculiarly high grade distribution, the grades are being held by the Registrar on recommendation by the Vice-President, until there is a satisfactory explanation for the grades. Essentially, all that is needed is for the professor to allow his exams to be re-examined by an impartial party, to justify the grade distribution.

But that won't happen unless the Vice-President releases the grades first. So all that needs to happen is for the Vice-President to release the grades, then we can resolve the problem. But that won't happen until the professor allows the exams to be re-examined.

It gets even deeper than this when the DFA's grievance procedures and legal technicalities get involved. All I want is to graduate in June. At this pace I will not, I was getting frustrated by the whole mess — just looking for a fast way to resolve the issue. Then it occurred to me: the administration's main concern seems to be that this problem is properly administered and dealt with through the proper channels. The professor and the DFA worried about academic freedom and whether the administration can push around the professors. Both are ignoring the welfare of the students.

Neither party's primary concern is to get this resolved, quickly, for the benefit of the students. Students seem to be forgotten in this malaise of principles. Which makes sense from an outsider's view, as I too have an all-consuming principle. My primary concern is that I get my grade and graduate; I don't really care about all this academic principle or administrative caution. No one in either camp appears to be willing to make any compromises to resolve this dispute. What is a university set up for anyway? Does it not exist primarily for students? Come on, guys!

Brian Parsons

Lessons in vulgarity

To the Editor:

My letter is a response to an article on "Sex Tips" in the Gazette March 30th. I would like to add my brick to the complaints on the quality of the Gazette. Firstly, I would like to make clear what kind of complaint I am making. I do not question the contents, but the language.

I am aware of the importance of the AIDS issue and of the importance of bringing sexual awareness to people. Therefore I find worthy any article preventing people from getting the plague of our century. But there are different ways to do it. One way is the one chosen by Gazette editors — insulting and embarrassing to

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