

## Male genius

To the editors,

Of course those "people whose words of wisdom most often adorn these pages . . ." are men. BE REALISTIC! MOST of the civilized world's wisdom has originated from and continues to be originated by men.

Sincerely  
Christopher C. Thurrott

## Bring back witchburning

To the editors,

. . . "witches were persecuted because man feared, and still fears, power in women".

Any logical being would fear misplaced power.

Bring back "witchburning"!

U. Nicornt

## Don't forget the ombuds

To the editors,

It's with perplexity that I have come to realize that there is never a word about the Dalhousie Ombuds. Why? They serve a refreshing and vital function in a world where apathy seldom moves to active interest unless an immediate danger presents itself. When there is no light of hope for the student to get through "red-tape" and "bureaucratic arbitrariness" the ombud is there. When in fact, a student is stonewalled from furthering himself/herself in any academic endeavor they are there.

In much the same way as Amnesty International seeks to promote justice by pointing out injustices on an international stage, the Dal Ombuds point them out on the university stage. Except of course, we never hear of it.

While matters of peace, politics and discrimination are widely reported, the ombud's peaceful politics of dialogue and battles against unfair discrimination are muted.

I'd like to suggest not only more coverage of what an ombud is but also the formation of a regular "Ombuds Corner" in your paper. Not only could current up-to-date information on financial, academic and disciplinary matters behind the scenes be reported from the top watchdog, but also a greater enhancement of the *Gazette* would result.

Whatever your decision will be, keep up the good work but don't forget our ombud.

Sincerely,  
Juha Hurstinen

## Gazette should boycott BioResources

To the editors,

We note with concern that BioResources Inc. is once again advertising on campus its offer to buy plasma. BioResources is prepared to give money for human blood plasma, and appears to aim a lot of advertising towards groups such as students, who frequently must use such sources of income to supplement insufficient government and university funding.

This would not necessarily be totally immoral, were it not for the fact that the Canadian Red Cross is urgently in need of volunteers for

its own plasmapheresis programme. The Red Cross is not a business. It does not pay its plasma donors. It cannot therefore compete with the easy money offered by firms such as BioResources. Thus, the future of a necessary life-saving programme is jeopardized by competition from commercial interests.

But beyond extending the new Canada Health Act to prohibit this trafficking in human life, what can be done? We suggest the following: (a) that University notice-boards cease to carry advertising from BioResources, through the Office Services Department; (b) that the *Gazette* refuse to publish any further BioResources advertising, and instead offer the Red Cross cheap rates to advertise voluntary donor programmes; (c) that any students presently selling their plasma to BioResources consider transferring their support to a more worthy cause.

P.F. Dawson  
A.L. Penny

## McCann defends neutrality

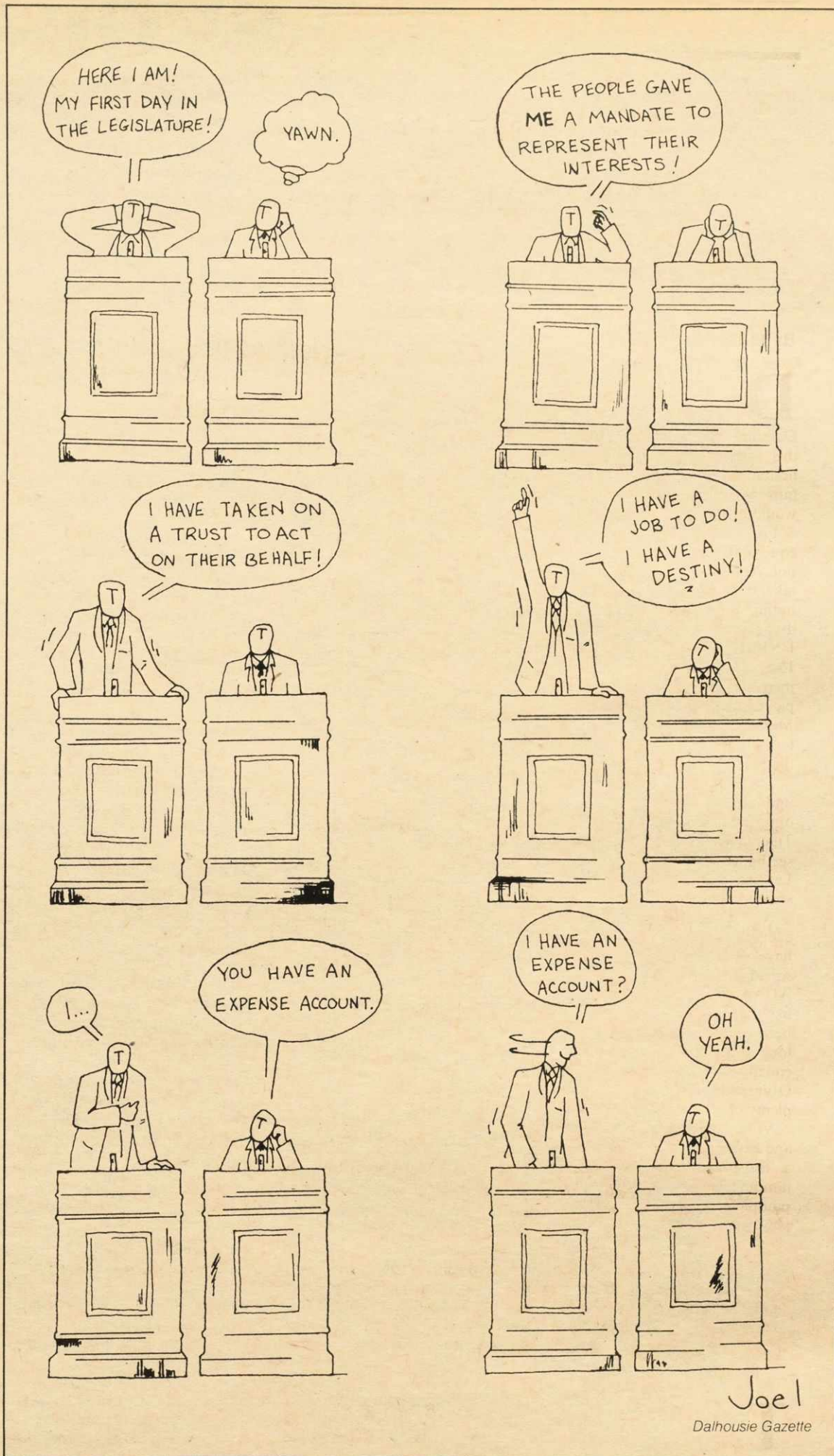
To the editors,

Having read an article, an editorial and a letter to the editor in last week's *Gazette*, all condemning the DSU position in the current Dalhousie Faculty Association-Board of Governors contract negotiations, I feel compelled to clarify what I perceive to be the relevant issues in this debate. First, let me say that what follows are strictly my own opinions and, although I am a student senator, a member of the student council and a member of the DSU executive, I cannot speak for the council or the executive in this matter. Nonetheless, I may be able to dispel some of the polemic cloud which seems to have obscured the rationale for the DSU position.

It is true that, at this point in time, the council and the executive have deemed it necessary to maintain neutrality in the negotiations, but there are good reasons for such a position which I hope to outline herein. Further, such a position does not imply that the DSU intends to maintain this neutrality should a faculty-board confrontation occur. It simply means that we are neutral at present.

What do we hope to gain by maintaining neutrality for the present? Basically, we hope to gain a fair and equitable settlement which is acceptable to both sides. How would it profit any of us in the university community if the student union were to "choose sides" now, while bargaining is still continuing? In my opinion, such an action would merely serve to further polarize an already unfortunate situation. Can two warring armies sue for peace in good faith when one side is busy digging trenches and amassing troops? I think not. To dismiss such an argument as "peace and harmony" platitudes (as the *Gazette* editorial last week seemed to imply) belies an underlying desire for confrontation rather than settlement. We in the DSU council have no time for such a ridiculous, ill-considered attitude.

Perhaps I sound like a member of the "pin-stripe set" to use a phrase coined by Mr. Rick Janson in last week's *Gazette*? And yet, anyone who attended the last student council meeting would readily



Joel  
Dalhousie Gazette

attest to the fact that there are few people on campus who support the DFA as much as I do (few non-members, I should say). I would gladly turn in my "pin-stripe bargaining suit" for a pair of "radical" jeans and a placard should the negotiations break down. Further, were council to maintain neutrality in the event of such a confrontation, I would stand behind my words at the last council meeting that we (council) would be "spineless, gutless jellyfish". However, a confrontation state does not now exist and I pray that it never will exist. Nor do I think that council would remain neutral—they have too much integrity for that.

If we are to avoid such a lamentable situation as a faculty strike, we

must choose a course of action which will help to solve the problem rather than a course which would exacerbate the situation. I believe that the DSU's carefully considered position of neutrality has, in some small way, contributed to the defusing of a potentially volatile situation. I support the DSU position, for the present.

In addition, our neutrality has allowed us to listen to both sides. Do you think that vice-president (finance & development) Robbie Shaw and Mr. Brian Crocker, legal advisor to the president's office and chief negotiator for the board of governors, would have come to the last DSU executive meeting to explain their side of the dispute had we already come out in favor of the

faculty? And yet, they did come and spoke with the executive at some length—a discussion which we found valuable. I should point out that Dr. Tom Sinclair-Faulkner of the DFA has been having regular meetings with the executive also.

Throughout this whole dilemma, the DSU has tried to do what is best for all concerned, but especially what is best for students. None of us wants to see a strike or other job action. A situation like that would be very divisive for this campus. And, in the end (which is where we always seem to get it), the students would be the losers.

David G.C. McCann  
Student Senator  
Member of the DSU Executive