

LETTERS

Premature?

To the editor:

The Gazette wrote an article in its last issue (Nov. 15) concerning the Dalhousie Student Union and the Canadian Federation of Students called "DSU out of CFS?". There are a few points that need to be made in reference to this article. Peter Pottier, Treasurer of the DSU and Lynn MacMichael, V.P. External went to Ottawa for a Canadian Federation of Students conference and while away the DSU announced that we (DSU Council) may be considering pulling out of CFS. This was a premature announcement considering the fact that Council had no knowledge of the reports from the conference. The reports will be discussed at the Council meeting on November 17 (which will already taken place as of this letter). It will be at this time that Canadian Federation of Stu-

dents membership will be discussed.

The article also stated that MacMichael would not "...divulge how actively [she] would lobby for a pullout." To speak in my own defense, my feelings are quite the opposite. I intend to actively lobby for Dalhousie to remain as members of Canadian Federation of Students, as I feel that CFS is an important student lobby organization working on behalf of 400,000 students across Canada. The issues that we work on are student aid, government underfunding, research and development and other issues affecting students. To deny that CFS performs an important function is to deny the importance of these issues for students.

There are two other points that I would like to make, contrary to what the article hypothesizes. St. F.X. is not holding a "pullout of CFS" campaign. What is happening at St. F.X. is actually a "Reaffirmation" campaign which means

that they are reviewing CFS as a body, focussing on areas in which CFS functioning might be improved. Acadia is NOT holding a pullout campaign as was stated in the article. They are not considering pulling out of CFS at all. The only fact that can be accurately stated at this point is that the universities of Nova Scotia are reviewing their relationship with CFS. Like any well-functioning institution, CFS needs to be reviewed and reevaluated in order that it continue to function well and to realize the possibility of improving its performance.

We might conclude that the general impression of disillusionment with CFS that was conveyed in the article is incorrect on most counts, particularly in its cited examples. We must not let ourselves base conclusions on anything less than factual information. Hopefully it has been made clear in this article what the facts are, conferred by someone who is in a position to know, and that these facts lead to quite a different conclusion than the previous article portrayed. We must wait in anticipation for the outcome of the Council meeting on Sunday.

Lynn MacMichael
V.P. External



MacDisneyworld

Dear Editor,

This is written in response to Kevin McDonald's letter of November 15/90. In his critique of the Gazette's cartoon-placement, McDonald was so bold as to describe the paper as an "ideological organ for the elite few." An ideology can be defined as a set of ideas that legitimate, mystify and console; you Kevin, are suffering from an ideological frame of reference. The Gazette is open to all Dalhousie students, the idea that it is closed to an elite few is both ridiculous and absurd.

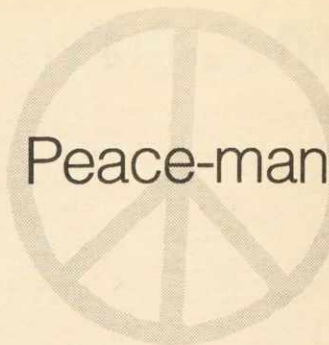
McDonald went on to say that cartoons are a "great medium for making fun of the author's point," but that his opinion piece was the first to receive such treatment this year. The vacuity of such a juvenile complaint is obvious; did McDonald ever stop to think that perhaps this is the first opinion that was thought to be politically incorrect. Sure, its O.K. to poke fun at the "GST, tuition hikes, faculty strikes etc.," but not at the serious-minded Kevin McDonald.

He complains about the way the cartoon portrays Uncle Sam as a "carefree warmonger," uhh... dude, where ya been since 1812. In his opinion piece, McDonald suggested that readers might hum the Internationale while perusing our school paper. We didn't actually know it, so we called CKDU and requested it in your name; Billy Brag does a pretty cool version if anyone's interested.

This fear of communists in the closets that seems to be plaguing McDonald is the same dread that took Nixon and his old pal Kissinger into places like Chile, Nicaragua and El Salvador. The funny thing is that those two had American multi-nationals riding their backs; why are you living in Disneyworld Kevin? To quote G. B. Trudeau: "you're with the CIA, aren't you?"

To get back to the point, while "myopia" is a big word Kevin, it just doesn't apply. Burton never suggested that Canada should not be in the Gulf (even though if we were to double our numbers in the zone Canadian forces would still not amount to a piddly one percent of the US forces present), he was simply suggesting the need for some sober second thought on the situation. The fact that hundreds of thousands of people across the continent are protesting military actions in the Gulf denies any small-mindedness on the part of Gazette editorial staff.

Chris Lambie



To the editor:

My first response after reading Tiffany Balir's letter (Gazette, Nov. 8) was that this time last year I could have easily signed my name to that letter. I admit this with a slight embarrassment for today my views are much different. Oppression is a cruel and harsh reality that slaps women in the face daily — however we are doing an injustice to ourselves and the world as a whole if we view violence against women as a product of violent male tendencies (ie. 'male power').

To be a woman and to examine your oppression in terms of patriarchy is to deny the oppression of all other minorities. When a gay man is beaten because he chooses to love someone of the same sex, is this violence from the bowels of patriarchy? When a black man is lynched because of his the colour of his skin, does this originate from 'male power'?

These problems struck me as very complex, yet I knew that there must be an underlying problem to all oppression. This gave me a much different definition of myself — I am not defined by being a woman, I am first and foremost a human and the struggle for liberation must start at this point, for all humanity.

The truth is that oppression does not originate from the penis; it is a product of the state, class politics and our brutal free-market system. I am sorry, but I feel no sense of sisterhood with Margaret Thatcher — we may have a womb, but the relationship stops there. It is a dangerous myth to believe that violence is a product of (male) human nature, for if it were then emancipation for women could never be a reality. We need not look any further than the economy to see where the seeds of inequality were planted.

What kind of world do we want to create? A society where women fight for women's rights, gays fight for gay rights and blacks fight for black rights? Man versus woman, black versus white, gay versus straight, and still the war continues.

In a just society we can love who we want, reproduce when we choose and walk the streets without fear. This can only become a reality when we link hands with all oppressed peoples. I am not saying that we should invite our "rapists, batterers, abusers and murderers" to join us, but instead to fight the common struggle with our native fathers, gay brothers and black lovers and together we will give rise to a better world for our future sons and daughters.

Paula Clarke

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