

The truth is in here

As purveyors of information, we have cultivated an intimate understanding of how North Americans receive their news, and how it is presented to them. The news you watch on TV and read in the paper or on the internet is created and manipulated to serve the private interests of the rich and powerful.

A series of seemingly unrelated events have taken place over the last two weeks which we will reveal were part of a grand pantomime planned and orchestrated by the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS).

The CFS recently staged their *National Day of Action*, supposedly to protest high tuition fees. But theirs is a sinister agenda, centered around the spread of subversive and misleading information.

The CFS is a media agency contracted out by high-paying, high-powered customers to generate publicity around a variety of non-issues, distracting the public from the truth. They use diversionary catch-phrases like "tuition fees", "student debt", and "spending cutbacks" to distract a naive yet well-intentioned public from crucial issues like the Super Bowl, Clinton sex scandals, the Team Canada trade mission, the Pope's visit to Cuba, Iraq, Ted Turner, and Canadian bank mergers.

At the risk of great personal harm, it is our intention to expose the bizarre connections between these people and events, and the conspiracies which have kept them from you.

Super Bowl XXXII is a good place to start.

During the Pope's visit to Cuba, some of Nike's top-ranking executives paid a visit to the pontiff. Apparently the Vatican bets heavily on the event, and the Pope informed Nike that God was definitely a Denver fan.

The company had to react quickly, adjusting the planned outcome of the game to fit His wishes.

At the end of the four-hour commercial, an appreciative John Elway said, "I'd like to thank Nike, or...I mean God...along with my beautiful wife and children."

While this may sound fantastic, there is more.

Many thought the Team Canada trade mission to South America was a diplomatic venture rooted in the promotion of commerce and trade. But Nova Scotia Premier Russell MacLellan and his high-powered band of hoods were flying to Chile for other reasons. At the request of the CEOs of the Royal Bank and the Bank of Montreal (both members of the trade mission) the caravan took crates of Canadian-grown ginseng with them to trade for South American cocaine.

The cocaine was reportedly instrumental in allowing the CEOs of the two banks to hammer out their merger proposal in under a month.

"There was no way I was gonna pop those cheap Wake Up pills," said one strung-out banker.

But there's more where the Royal Bank is concerned. Coupled with Bill Clinton, they solicited the help of former White House intern, Monica Lewinsky, to create a sex scandal.

The bank's motives were simple; to divert attention away from a possibly controversial merger. However, Clinton's motives are more complex.

During his tenure as President, one thing has annoyed Clinton more than any other; the terrible TV ratings for each State of the Union Address.

Bill wanted better ratings so that he could stir the pot on the Iraq issue. Both Bill and Saddam were having trouble justifying increased military expenditures so both are eager to rekindle hostilities.

Another player in this this dastardly scheme is media mogul Ted Turner. Turner has been more than happy to publicize the Lewinsky issue, and in turn the State of the Union Address — as long as it means renewed hostilities with Iraq. Turner knows that CNN's ratings were never higher than during the Gulf War (which CNN also helped stage).

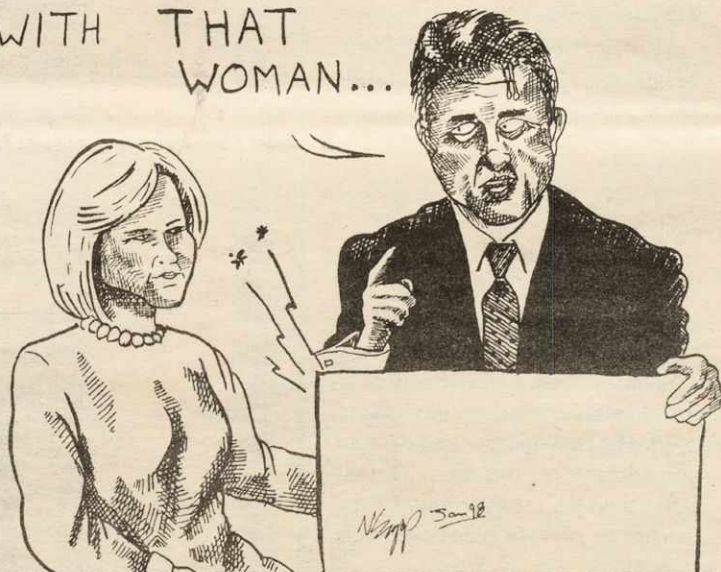
In a side deal with Turner, Saddam promised to "take care of" film director Barry Levinson as retaliation for Levinson's latest movie, *Wag the Dog*. Turner felt the film revealed too many of the TV-news industry's secrets.

These revelations may be overwhelming and even incomprehensible, but fear not; the producers of the upcoming *X-Files* movie are scrambling to work them all into a revised plot (the CFS is planning a nation-wide celluloid sabotage to protect their version of the truth).

Until the movie hits the theatres, we're going to have to make do with our own versions of the truth.

JOHN CULLEN AND
ANDREW SIMPSON

I DID NOT HAVE
SEXUAL RELATIONS
WITH THAT
WOMAN...



Letters

Survival of sexual harassment in the workplace

To the editors,

In a recent article, "New allegations of harassment in security", Susan Brousseau, the sexual harassment advisor at Dalhousie, is quoted by reporter Mark Reynolds as saying, "the university wants an environment free from sexual harassment".

Noble words.

In its own established principles, Dalhousie does not tolerate any form of sexual harassment and yet the principles established to guide this institution were in fact designed to be separate from the actual procedures pursuant to the Sexual Harassment Policy. In effect, Dalhousie provides a policy and a procedure but little else.

Under these circumstances it is little wonder that most instances of sexual harassment go unreported. Of those instances of sexual harassment actually reported to the university, 90 per cent will never reach mediation or any kind of formal hearing. The fact is, that on average, less than one case per year will ever see mediation or formal hearing through Dalhousie's Sexual Harassment Policy.

Though not atypical, this university's track record in governing sexual harassment is abominable and raises serious questions about whether the institution is fulfilling its legal responsibility to provide an environment and service free of sexual harassment. Susan Brousseau's department did not handle the case of Joy Day, a security guard forced to leave her job after allegedly being subjected to sexual harassment in the workplace.

Being that Dalhousie's Sexual Harassment Policy, according to the Board of Governors, takes a backseat to all collective agreements, Joy Day was obliged to address her concerns of sexual harassment to her union (the International Union of Operating Engineers) whose local here was noticeably absent in issuing a letter of support for the "Plan of Positive Action; the Report of the Presidential Advisory committee on Sexual Harassment".

It should also be pointed out that in refusing to address employees complaints citing issues of jurisdiction, the Board of Governors is turning away employees to bargaining units, whose collective agreements are inconsistent with Dalhousie's sexual harassment policy and furthermore that the rules of natural justice and collective agreement discipline procedures provide protection for the accused. But there are no parallel rights for the complainants (i.e. the right to be kept informed of proceedings).

Zero tolerance, indeed.

It's a shame really that Dalhousie University could not make a buck off enforcing the sexual harassment policy the way it does for establishing policy on the recycling of pop cans. We might see some concrete action, then, in the meantime Dalhousie and bargaining units such as IUOE will

continue to dodge those bullets of liability and cover their own asses when they should have been covering Joy Day's.

CRAIG HINGLEY
IUOE Member

Support, not silence

To the editors,

I am responding to the article by Daniel Clark, "The Leper Without Leprosy" in the Dalhousie Gazette on January 15, 1998. I was touched by the frankness and genuine emotion his writing conveyed.

I am not a fat person, so I have not had to experience the lack of kindness or consideration that Dan Clark describes. Even so, I agree with many of his statements. I too have noticed that our North American society has become educated and tolerant of minorities and various forms of disability (for lack of a better word), but not so toward fat people.

I too witness people smirking, scoffing or joking sarcastically about fat people. I know that fat people are ostracized. They are certainly fair game for those who write the awful sitcoms that litter the television schedule. It is shameful. I have two teenaged children, neither of whom are fat, but we have talked about prevailing attitudes toward fat people on many occasions and they are certainly aware of the prejudice.

Surely it is not so difficult to be more sensitive about this issue. Is there any person, anywhere, who has grown up without agonizing over some aspect of his/her appearance, and feeling that whatever the defect was, it practically constituted a fatal flaw? Why do we assume fat people are oblivious both to their appearance and being snubbed.

If fat people are targets for mean-spirited jokes simply because their characteristic is so visible, what does that say about our level of sophistication as humans? I do not, nor expect would Dan Clark, object to humour which may poke fun at all sorts of human traits, but is at its best when it springs from good will and a discernable depth of understanding.

We can use many factors to isolate ourselves from others — weight, age, colour, gender, religion, wealth. The fact that most of these attempts at exclusivity are ultimately futile and self-demeaning does not really help a young man looking for a full, rich life and finding himself locked out. It may be cold comfort to Dan Clark to know that a thin, middle-aged woman hopes for better times and closer friends for him, but better to offer my support than to remain silent.

DEBORA POLLOCK POST

Pharmacy responds

To the editors,

The students at the College of Pharmacy are concerned with a statement appearing on Jan. 15, 1998 in the Gazette entitled "Pharmacy Program Strapped for Cash". The following statement "The money is slated to replace retiring faculty and to offset the costs of the college's new

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All submissions must be typed double-spaced on paper, e-mailed, or on a Mac or IBM 3 1/2 inch disk, in a WP version not greater than Word 6.0 or equivalent. The deadline is Mondays at 4:30 p.m.

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