

Women-only events amiss

Dear editor:

An open response to Ms. Lara Morris' Letter in the October 4 issue of the Gazette.

In regard to Ms. Morris' letter I find myself sympathizing with her viewpoint on the truth that some women have been, and are still actively being discriminated against in our society. I do not dispute this. However, I truly believe that the exclusion of able participants based on gender is an unmistakably sexist proposition.

If the purpose of the Take Back the Night March is to raise awareness about inequality, and not people's eyebrows in disgust, then I am all for it. Once again, I find myself at odds with reality. I was at the march, and watched as it passed me by. I did not ask to be included, and neither was I rejected, but I was never asked to join. Had I been I would have been allowed that decision not afforded me: FREE CHOICE.

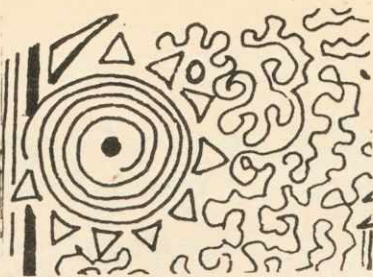
In her article Ms. Morris states that women only events are "a means to an end, not the end in itself". Unfortunately I feel that Ms. Morris has overlooked that the means do not justify the ends, in fact they disgrace them. Fight sexist behaviour with sexist behaviour, I hear the voices in my head say. I guess that is what Ms. Morris wants to do. At least it's her free choice.

Ms. Morris also makes sweeping generalizations by stating that men are predators, most women have been discriminated against sexually, and that the absence of men makes women feel less intimidated. I would make it a safe bet to say that not all women agree with Ms. Morris, but that she speaks louder than most about her feelings. "Without male access to women only events, men's power is threatened." This is bunk. How can a man have any power at a meeting he is not at. Only by the women who allow his power through them by denying their own free choice.

Ms. Morris states that there will be a time when men and women will work together, but she does not offer a timeframe. Besides, how can women and men work together when they are too busy separating themselves?

Mr. Joe Morrison, of SUB night staff, stated that he was thrown out of the Green Room after the women had come back following the march. He was just doing his job when the women decided (a free choice) to throw him out based on his sex. Sounds like a bit of sex discrimination to me, eh fellow men? Perhaps if he was minus his gonads they would have let him stay? Or is it his male brain they objected to? Whatever the reason given, it is pathetically reverse discrimination through and through.

The DSU council has a policy of not discriminating against their employees on the basis of sex. They give equal opportunity for staff to do their job at wherever they are needed. However, the people who



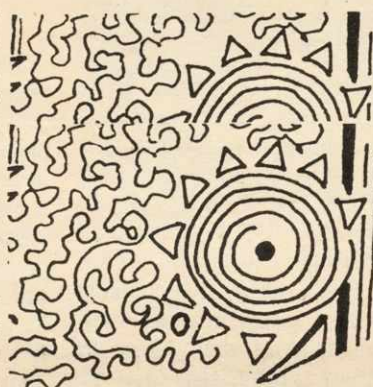
threw Mr. Morrison out decided to (knowingly?) disregard that equality rule anyway.

I regret seeing that outdoor safety for people has been associated with feminist (not equalist) support. The same thing happened at the Ecole Polytechnique remembrance marches with men being refused the 'privilege' to mourn on the basis that they have testicles.

In conclusion I would like to sum up with a quote from a friend of mine: "Get real! Since when did we ever have the night anyway?" (Miss Tricia Beckwith) And by the way, I also didn't bother to ask the lady strolling her baby around if it was a boy or a girl.

PS -> FREE CHOICE = EQUALITY

Bruce D. Gilchrist
Man at Large



Rising fees can break us

Dear editor:

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times." Even with a faculty strike in Dalhousie University's past our student population continues to grow. We have narrowly missed a second strike by the DFA and one by the DSA looms on the horizon. Despite these potential problems Dalhousie University continues to function ef-

fectively. We are, however, adding another straw to our camel's back.

University debt is nothing new. Dalhousie currently operates with a capital debt of thirty five million dollars. In an effort to decrease such debts, we the students are faced with huge tuition hikes. The way in which these tuition hikes have been calibrated is stated by policy 4 of the Tuition Fee Policy: "The undergraduate Arts and Science fees at Dalhousie University will be adjusted annually to 105% to 110% of the average of other Nova Scotia universities."

We have a potential problem. If other universities in Nova Scotia decide to establish their fees in a similar manner we would end up with a spiralling of tuition fees. Although a five hundred dollar ceiling for tuition increases has been set for 1991-1992 this limit is gone thereafter, so this spiralling may occur. Incidentally, the proposed fee for Arts is \$2100 and Science is \$2400.

In an attempt to alleviate student tension about these tuition increases (and possibly to justify it to themselves) the tuition fee policy has contained within it several tuition tables. In one of these tables it is shown how, even after these tuition increases, Dalhousie University will still not have the highest tuition rate in Nova Scotia. What this document fails to mention is the fact that the two schools that 'beat' us, Acadia and St. Francis Xavier, do not have separated Arts and Science fees. Dalhousie does. It is Dalhousie's Arts fee of \$2195 that rates us third in tuition costs. If we average Dalhousie's Arts and Science fees (which seems fair since Acadia's and St. F.X.'s cover both) the figure arrived at is \$2247.50. This will give us, the student body, the honour of paying the highest tuition in Nova Scotia.

Earning \$5 an hour, working a forty hour week, it will take two and a half months of work to pay tuition alone. Education is supposedly for all, but at this price, with loan and bursary cuts increasing, Dalhousie University will be selecting for the affluent.

I have one question. Just how much straw can our camel carry?

Paul Hodgson

LETTERS

Students Apathetic

Dear editor:

So there I was. Standing in the Sun at the Grand Parade Square on Barrington Street. I wasn't alone, mind you, there were others, students even, taking in the rays and listening to a series of people stand up and tell us we're right.

We're right, the Nova Scotia Minister for Advanced Education told us—the university system is terribly underfunded, it's sad, it's true. It's the federal government's fault. Well now, that's a shocker. It

may be true that federal cutbacks are strangling universities, but when was the last time a provincial minister actually made a big enough fuss (maybe with some of his buddies from the other provinces) to make a front page? Not recently I'll bet.

No university administration types were able to tell us that we're right but they know it. After all it's those very same funding cuts that force the university to go looking for other sources of income (read: tuition fees). Kind of a policy of passing the noose.

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ATTENTION ARTS STUDENTS

NOTICE

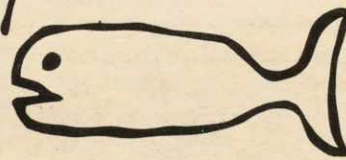
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