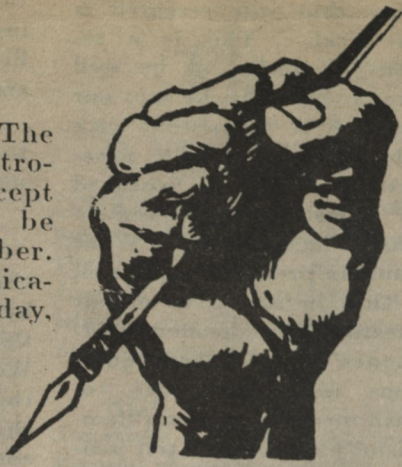


Letters...

YOUR FORUM FOR DISCUSSION. The Gem vigorously encourages dissent and controversy and prints all letters to the Editor except those of a malicious nature. Letters must be signed and include the authors phone number. However, names can be withheld from publication by request. Deadline for letters is Monday, 5:00pm.



Just My Opinion

I attended the hearing that the P.L.O. representative Abdullah Abdullah gave, and must admit, was very frustrated of the turnout. Both the speaker and some questioners afterwards had immature attitudes.

I felt the speaker was very prejudiced and was using the protest of those civilians to serve the P.L.O. reputation. He changed an honest outcry for freedom into a political weapon.

On the other hand, some questioners answered back in the same diplomatic language—maybe because some of them attended the international model U.N. conference and got contaminated in their 'rational' way of thinking. Their intention might have been to get a more objective idea of the problem, but the fact is that the speaker took one side and they asked for—or took—the other.

The sad result was that the main issue—those civilians and soldiers dying—was missed.

For those without phones...

Dear Editor:

Re: the editorial policy on submissions.

All would-be contributors must submit their names and phone numbers. Although not stated in your masthead, it seems that pseudonyms have now been banned outright. I wonder what would happen if, for instance, a contributor did not have a phone number? It would be a shame to this university if the student newspaper has been forced to take

I am not saying that political actions have no use. This is how Canada's constitution got established.

What I am saying is that we are humans and right now other humans are being killed.

The rioters think that they have a cause, just as the Israelis think they are right. But one cannot be right or wrong unless one takes sides.

Is my message getting across? I don't know how to word it. The world can be separated into countries, religions, races. And it goes on and on... All these facades sometimes fool us by hiding our indivisible humanity. Let's not fall into this trap of taking sides, or even of asking for both views on a topic. There should be no need if we don't sink into these divisions and debates, which lead to more division.

Us, students, should know better than that—let's just focus on our humanity. We all have the right to live. Can that be debated?

Mona Nasrallah

such measures for fear of being the unjust victim of pressure tactics.

Cynical

EDITOR REPLIES: We have a very flexible submissions policy. If the student doesn't have a phone then they may use their student number, or their address. The point of requiring the phone number is so that if need be The Gem can contact them and also so we can prove that someone other than Gem staff wrote the submission.

Harassment Survey

To the editor:

Regarding the "general finding" of the Sexual Harassment survey reported in a letter (in Gem, March 10), it would be rather absurd to assign any credibility to the researchers' sweeping generalization that "most students at UPEI have had some experience of sexual harassment"—for the following reasons:

1. The rationale for random sampling is to obtain a representative sample—on the basis of which generalizations can be made to the population from which the sample has been drawn. However, generalizations become more and more haz-

ardous with the loss of every single case—let alone losses greater than fifty percent. Yet, some psychologists, and ex-models like Shere Hite, seem to have not the slightest qualms about basing sweeping generalizations on totally inadequate returns—well below fifty percent.

2. Sex research respondents tend to fall into three broad groups: the genuine, the gullible, and the gossipy. The problem is that there is no foolproof mechanism for enduring the credibility of the responses given on the questionnaire. Given the loaded questions relating to most social interaction situations, finding "evidence" for rampant sexual harassment was literally guaranteed.

Conclusion: It should be obvious that the generalization that "most students at UPEI have had some experience of sexual harassment" is grossly exaggerated. In the process of objective measurement, the meaning of sexual harassment itself seems to have become completely adulterated. Ironically, such scientific surveys are themselves reflections of the same kind of objectification that seems to lie at the root of all forms of harassment—of men and women.

Psychologists would be well advised to adopt more humane approaches which do not reinforce such objectification of human beings. Meanwhile, the public may rest assured that there is no sound evidence that our small and beautiful Island University is the hotbed of sexual harassment of Miami Vice!

Mujeeb Rahman

Players not allowed?

Dear editor;

For a lounge and a student union who is concerned with the improvement of student participation, I feel the recent decision of a board not to allow two members of the AUAA hockey champs into the Panther Lounge for even one evening was an extremely bad move.

This was a poor move that concerns two aspects of university life. First, with a winning team, school spirit gets an automatic boost. There seems to be a togetherness between the team, the fans, students, professors, and members of the surrounding community (ie.

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