

plained their methods and summarized some of their findings. There were students present; there were faculty members; there were members of staff. In that

his colleagues the opportunity to make an immediate reply. Instead, he has poisoned the well in an article

he knew they could not answer for a full week. Ironic, isn't it, that he accuses his colleagues of "sneaking"?

Elizabeth R. Epperly

**Rahman replies to criticism**

To the Editor:

The psychologist Abraham Maslow once said: "If the only tool you have is a hammer, you tend to see every problem as a nail."

It is a well-known fact that the form and design of any measurement technique influences the nature of the responses and results-which need to be interpreted with extreme caution, especially when we are dealing with fairly complex intellectual-moral issues. Since the implicit-subjective definitions of researchers built into their psychological instruments (i.e. questionnaires) may very easily get reflected back in the perceptions and opinions of re-

spondants, such surveys have a tendency to become self-fulfilling prophecies. The results then show exactly what one was looking for.

Sweeping generalizations based on vague and limited information are appalling to both reason and common-sense. It is such unwarranted extrapolations and "insinuations" (i.e. most students have been sexually harassed) that many find extremely objectionable. Surely, it is not just the experts who have the right to feel objectionable. Surely, it is not just the experts who have the right to feel offended. Under such circumstances, the civility of the silent majority is also severely tested.

From time to time, therefore, it is necessary to bring back the work of experts under sharp scrutiny, especially when their work deals with sensitive moral issues. We must ask not simply whether such research is permissible, but whether it is desirable; not simply whether experts should be allowed to get away with unwarranted generalizations, but also how they ought to prevent their science from becoming sensationalism.

NOTE: The examples of poor taste and bad manners in point no.1 of the Mazer-Percival reply (March 17th) are NOT the ones given in my article "Harassment by Experts" (March 10th).

Mujeeb Rahman

Dear Editor:

Come, let us reason together! Have not two psychologists on campus made themselves slightly ridiculous? Their research findings are criticized in a straightforward manner by a colleague. Their response? An outraged, self-righteous and blistering response to poor Rahman! What a paradigm case of academics losing perspective and embracing with deathly seriousness their own

research, moral worth, and reputation!

And God forgive them for visiting on the rest of us such a weighty responsibility to grapple with the world-shaking issues involved!

Let's remind them that Islanders are busy buying, selling, socializing, splitting wood, raising children, travelling and earning a living. Academics must forever remind themselves that what

they do occupied only a tiny area on the fleeting, shifting landscape of life. To believe and to visit on the rest of us a grand delusion that the universe must halt while the serious sins of Rahman's criticism are propitiated is to trivialize U.P.E.I. by banning humor and distorting perspective.

Sincerely,  
James D. Cameron

NOTE: The following letter was omitted from last week's Gem by mistake.

Dear Editor:

I can't believe the gall of "Waiting" to question or criticize the writing staff of The Gem in their so-called "lack of action". Anyone is allowed to contribute to The Gem, so why doesn't "Waiting" (if she/he is so intent on an article) find out some information and write it!

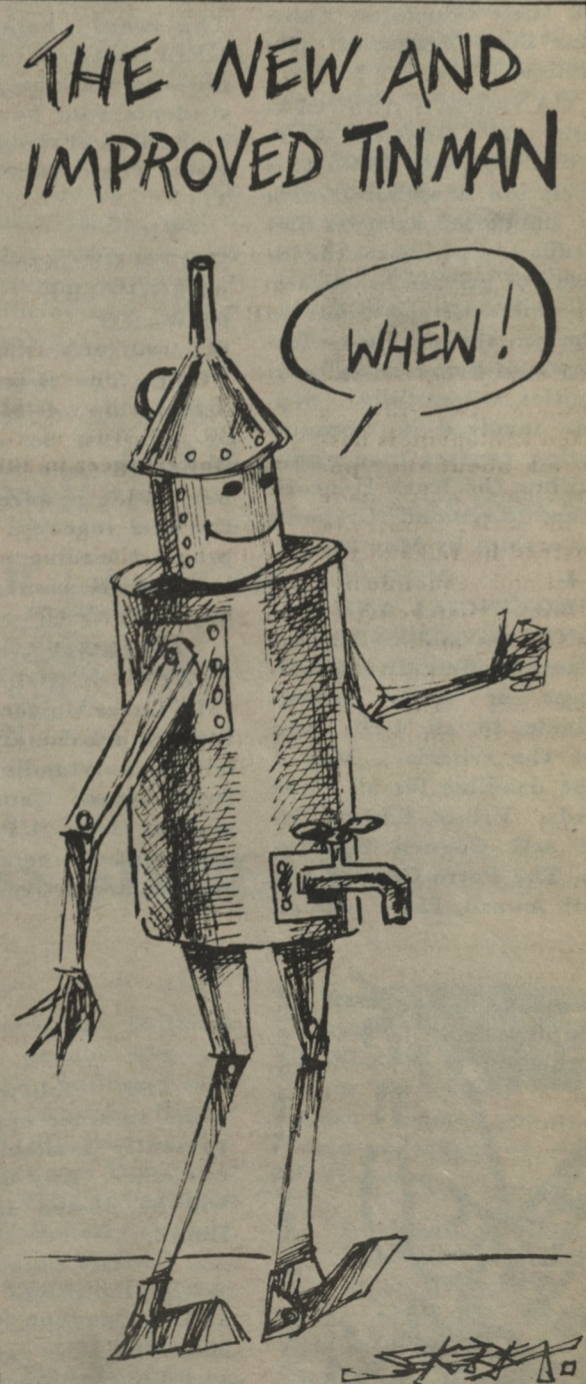
Perhaps, "Waiting" would not want to do this because it is time-consuming; or maybe there is too much

schoolwork now, coming to the end of the year; or is it because she/he would not be paid?

Well, considering the fact that there are only three Gem volunteers writing news, these reasons could be used by any of them.

Unless "Waiting" is willing to give up some of her/his time to write for The Gem, she/he has no right to complain or question the efforts of the Gem volunteers.

Michelle Cottreau  
VP Academic



The Fulcrum

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members are selling sport tickets on a draw to take place next month.

The club supplies all the necessary equipment to the fencers, both recreational and competitive, but like any equipment, it wears out after a while and must be repaired or replaced. Blades are the major part of the cost, and maintaining the weapons, uniforms and equipment make up the rest of it. Membership fees help somewhat. Competitive members pay forty dollars each while recreational fencers pay twenty-five dollars for the year. What could help is for fencers to consider buying their own equipment if they feel that they are serious about the sport, as many competitive mem-

bers already do. The cost for a full set of equipment is comparable with the cost equipment with many other sports, about two hundred and fifty dollars.

Presently, the club is preparing for the 1991 games that will be held here on the island. The new field house that will be built here is expected to have a combat room for the fencing competition. As well, the club is trying to put together a team of our younger members to represent the island then. If our results from past tournaments are any indication, the team could be a major contender in the 1991 games.

So what draws a person to fencing? One fencer asked replied, "The thing that I like most about fencing is

that fact that it is not a team sport. There is not a whole team depending on my performance. The only one that I am responsible for is myself." This seems to be a common consensus among fencers, the fact that it is a one person sport. Another person, Cora-Lee Desroches gave a number of reasons for joining and staying with it. She felt that it was a good way to get exercise, and that it was a sport in which she felt she could succeed. Judging from her record in the last tournament, she already has, and probably will succeed. For that matter, if one looks at the past history of the club, it appears that a great deal of success has come to its members, and probably will continue for years to come.