

also incorrect English. If someone would correct it is

ment — in particular our own — WESTERN INVOLVE

LETTER OF THE WEEK

Concerted response

Dear Editor:

The concept of cultural pain is rarely, if ever, discussed in our local media. The term refers to the complex mixture of negative emotions that persons can have when considering their race and culture.

Cultural pain is the outgrowth of complex historical, political, social, systemic processes of dehumanization. Where there has been a destruction of community and the loss of economic self-sufficiency, when a people have been herded into impoverished communities or scattered such that there can be no community, we can expect to see cultural pain.

Cultural pain was the cause of the Davis Inlet attempted suicides. The bewilderment and loss of the aboriginal youth was manifested in an act of self-destruction.

Inexplicably, the range of cultural pain experienced by many African-Canadian youths contributes to violence of another sort: pimping, prostitution, substance abuse and trafficking, wanton disrespect for property and authority. The departments of health, community services and education are hesitant to discuss these needs. Instead, our pain and rage is dealt with by a policing response.

African Canadians need to continue, and widen, the dialogue about cultural pain. Government officials need to be educated to this phenomenon. Politicians need to be prodded into more innovative action. The treatment of cultural pain needs a concerted response.

Robert Wright,
race relations co-ordinator
Dartmouth District School Board

Emphasize positive

Dear Editor:

I think it is time to do something about equalizing the number of

Count your blessings

Dear Editor:

'Tis the season to be jolly!

Reading the letters to the editor, which I do quite regularly, I wonder about the jolly part!

To put a little pleasantry into this season, I thought I'd like to say a few things, in a positive manner, about Halifax et al since we moved here almost seven and a half years ago.

I have been domiciled in four cities in this country and have visited every province and territory, so I feel I have a few rights of expression.

Halifax drivers are the most polite I have ever come across in Canada, or anywhere else for that matter.

The people on the street the most friendly I have ever come across in Canada or elsewhere.

The vast majority of the cars in the stores — yes, even the department stores — are the obliging I have come across in Canada.

We moved to Halifax "from away" because we had visited here many times over the years. One daughter and her family lived here, and we had grown tired of trying to fight crowd the big cities.

Halgionians, count your blessings — they are multitudinous.

C. Andrew Hersey
Halifax

active view of what really happens in schools. Also, any team unit, like a teaching staff, needs good morale to achieve its potential. The public should be cognizant of the excellent and productive work done by students and teachers.

I would suggest all media adopt a policy to publicize as many positive stories as negative. This may seem naive of me but, surely, we are not so cynical and jaded that we can't emphasize good role models and success stories.

Allen D. Hume, vice-principal
Bridgetown Regional High School

Hammer laws

Dear Editor:

With reference to the latest edict from the justice minister, I submit he has not gone far enough off his stick. I draw attention to two incidents by robbers who attacked jewelry store owners with hammers. Applying the same logic to hammers as to guns, the laws should include provision for registration

stowed at all times, with the handle locked in a metal container which is stored separate from the head of the hammer. On the death of the owner, the hammer should be confiscated by the government.

Percy Buzza
Dartmouth

Battle will continue

Dear Editor:

I hope no one is naive enough to think compulsory registration will do anything to control the weapons. I use my hunting rifle or my shotgun. I already have a slip of paper giving me permission to carry a gun, a little card that I must carry at all times when I am carrying a gun, and a permit to go hunting. One more piece of paper is not worth the expense and hassle involved in forcing it upon us.

I would also hope that no one is naive enough to think the police who hate loud noises will be content to stop with a compulsory registration program. When this