

# An academic slap in the face

by Geoff Stone

With all our troubles, we students are being overwhelmed with an increasing workload from our professors.

Inadequate loans, full-time summer jobs, part-time work during the school term and having to pay the same tuition for three and a half courses for three and a half enough.

But Dalhousie students are being pushed harder against the wall thanks to our very own loving professors.

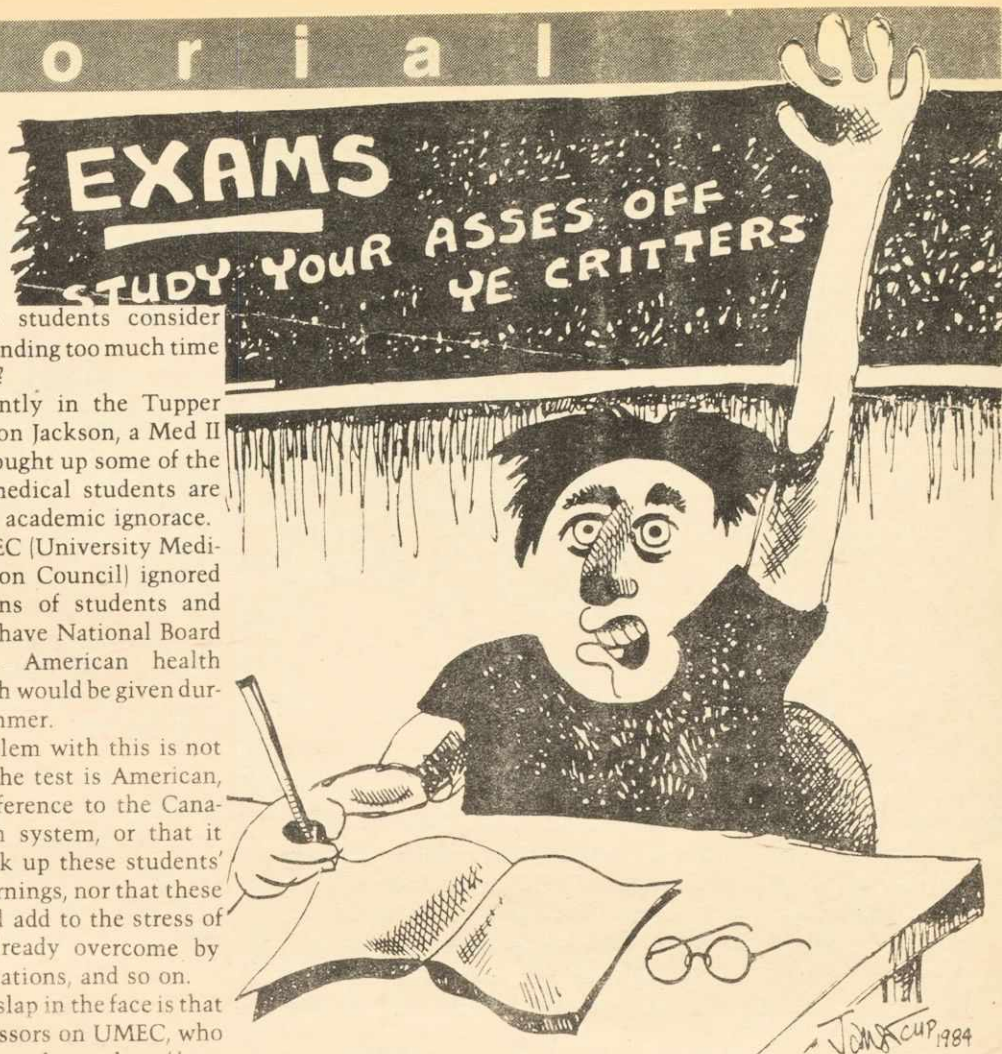
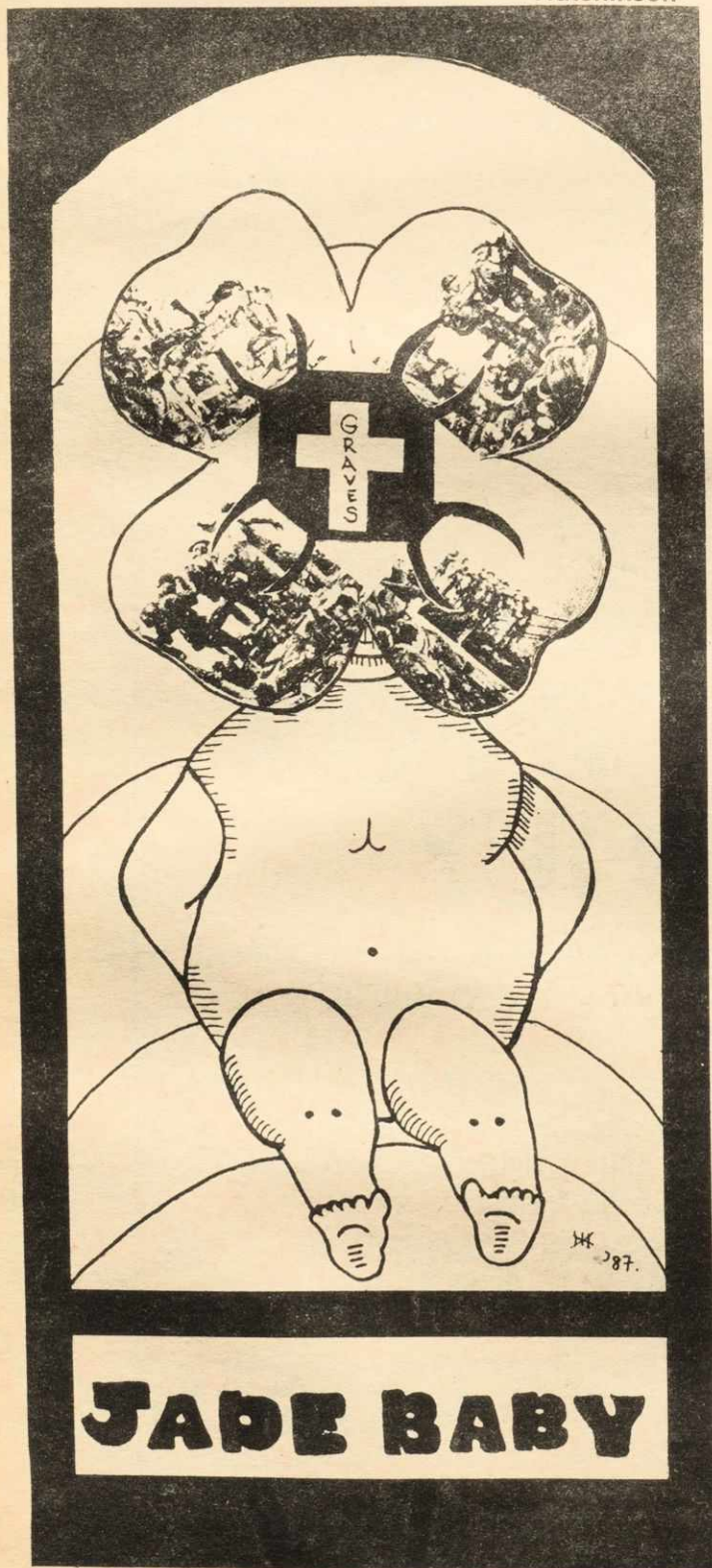
Yes, the Dal prof, also a victim in the post-secondary education nightmare created by federal and provincial governments, does not understand that students are spending more time nowadays with work to pay the rent, and have less time for doing university study.

Professors naturally want to give the most they can to students, and don't want these students to fall behind other students across the country. This is very reasonable.

But it is obvious there is less time for students to study with an increased debt load, yet professors are adding more material and going into more complex theories, and feel self-contented as students scramble to find the time.

Students are rarely asked what they think about the work load. And students are probably less likely to complain. With a tight job market, and higher fees, students will put in more hours to study in order to get a job after they graduate. Since, according to the professor, other students have passed this course, why

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should the students consider they are spending too much time doing work?

Just recently in the Tupper Times, Simon Jackson, a Med II student, brought up some of the problems medical students are facing with academic ignorance.

The UMEC (University Medical Education Council) ignored the concerns of students and decided to have National Board exams (an American health exam) which would be given during the summer.

The problem with this is not only that the test is American, with no reference to the Canadian health system, or that it would break up these students' summer earnings, nor that these tests would add to the stress of students already overcome by tests, evaluations, and so on.

The real slap in the face is that these professors on UMEC, who feel they have the students' best interests at heart, are pretending students can devote even more time to university study, rest at the family cottage (or god knows where else) for the summer months, take these tests, and get ready for the start of another year like happy little beavers.

This is wrong. Students have

large debt loads and rent that is due, and need to get decent summer jobs in order to pay for next year.

By pretending otherwise, professors are allowing only students who can afford to have a real holiday the benefit of a relaxed, thoughtful education.

And this is what professors would like students to have in the first place, isn't it?

All the real students have are five professors down their backs, who, while they understand the education crisis in theory, don't relate it to the people they are talking to in class.

## l e t t e r s

### The Commonwealth survives

To the Editors:

It is an achievement of some sort that the Commonwealth was able to survive after the Vancouver summit, despite Margaret Thatcher's opposition to the stand taken by the rest of the member states in support of the member sanctions against South Africa. As during the last Commonwealth summit at Nassau, the Prime Minister of the founder state of the Commonwealth again "chose to be wrong" to borrow from K. Kaunda, president of Zambia. This tendency was, however, neither surprising nor unique to Britain. It is therefore not too early to ask the question: what next after Vancouver?

The most important struggle to liberate South Africa from apartheid is being waged from within that country. However, South Africa's major economic partners could make a substantive contribution to this struggle by way of economic pressure. So far, there is no evidence that the USA, UK, West Germany, and collectively, the EEC have change their collaborative policy on South Africa, or that they intend to do so in the near future. The only really salutary move since Vancouver has emanated from the Third World

states, as in the case of the banning of air links between the 66 member states of Africa, the Caribbean, and the Pacific Group with the racist regime.

Meanwhile, South African military forces and its bandits such as the MNR have continued to terrorize the neighbouring Southern African states. They have carried out at least three major raids in Mozam-

bique and Angola over the last three weeks or so, resulting in deaths of hundreds of innocent people. Evidently, the racist regime also suffered major casualties in its latest so-called "pre-emptive" raid on Angola on November 2nd.

**ANC — South African Support Group Documentation Section**

### Games per team

To the Editors:

On behalf of the Microbiology/Biochemistry Broomball team, I wish to express my extreme disappointment and displeasure at the number (or lack thereof) of games per team in the intramural broomball schedule, that being three. It is ludicrous to justify a league where only three games are being played by each team over a six-month period.

Dalhousie Campus Recreation claims to be an integral part of campus life, yet in this case it severely limits the participation of students due to a lack of available facilities. It appears that the problem is the amount of availa-

ble ice time which I am assuming depends on how much of it is sold to non-university related groups. It may be naive to assume so, but should not university facilities be used primarily for students?

There is an obvious interest in broomball — witness the number of teams entered (25). Perhaps the Campus Recreation Office should either limit the numbers of teams entering (one per association or faculty), which incidentally defeats the purpose of intramurals, or, more appropriately, pursue additional ice time which is undeniable justified.

**Rachel Fernandez**