

Innu spirit is under attack by NATO base

This is a dangerous point in the history of the Innu as well as our history.

Innu means "the people". The Innu are made up of the Naskapi Indians who inhabit most of Labrador, except for the coastline, which is populated by Inuit. Their story reflects directly back at us and shows ourselves.

This is not simply a story about being scared by low-flying aircraft and whether one could get used to that or not. It is a story about the survival of a people. After being pushed aside and shuffled onto reserves, these people have little spirit left of

any kind.

"Every community is welfare-supported to some extent and government housing makes up most of the living quarters. The suicide rate is five times the national average," says Hannah Cowen of the Nova Scotians in Solidarity with Native Peoples.

This is where the conflict lies. The Innu cannot return to some of the old way of life if the land they need is expropriated without much concern for ecology or peace in the world.

The government is not without reason in this issue. Goose Bay is not only strategically feasi-

ble; it is the most practical refuel stop on the ways to Europe as well as inbound from Europe.

We have to face it: the arms race is not likely to lessen very much in the near future despite summits between the superpowers. It is no secret that the Canadian government is lobbying hard to get the NATO base, and the latest earthquake at the competing Turkish site is good news to our government.

Labrador is in dire need of jobs and money, and this project would most assuredly supply relatively generous amounts of both, while at the same time ful-

filling our NATO commitment.

I spent some time in Goose Bay a while back working at the airport briefing pilots of all sorts about the latest weather conditions and what they could expect to encounter enroute.

At the time I wasn't aware of the impact a NATO base could have on the community, but I did notice the insensitivity the government showed in dealing with the Innu. These are people without a strong voice or much organization, and because of this they easily go unnoticed, let alone heard while a British-made Tornado GR1 is flying directly

overhead.

The NSSNP protested Atlantic Insight's choice of Claris Rudkowski as the Innovator of the Year last Thursday because of Rudkowski's support of the expansion of the Canadian Forces Base where NATO pilots practice low-level flights.

The NSSNP in protesting this Innovators award were responding to pleas from the native community, which probably needs all the help it can get while fighting for its rights.

This is not to get what the Innu want, but what they deserve. — **Martin Doucette**

l e t t e r s

"Frenglish" causes blushing

To the Editors:

Every few years, the same old thing happens again: some good soul decides that, for the otherwise quite respectable purpose of national brotherhood, the Gazette readers must try and decipher articles written in a more or less unintelligible and ungrammatical Frenglish humoristically labelled as "French". These texts always provoke sweet hilarity among the numerous francophones on campus (they are usually too diplomatic to intervene), and, possibly, blushing among the faculty of the French Department, who perhaps don't enjoy this misleading publicity about their meritorious teaching efforts. Usually, after each such exertion, the Gazette Frenglish vein dies off for the rest of the year (from exhaustion, I presume). However, the least three weeks have brought us no less than two such heroic attempts by Paul Creelman, whose relentless courage threatens to put Dal francophones in stitches for three more months. In order to explain the problem, once and for all, to all Gazette editors and writers past, present, and future, by means of an example rather than through a dry theoretical disquisition, let me serve an almost unexaggerated dollop of the mirror recipe of the Gazette's usual "French" sauce.

I not have none objection at it that of the students of Dalhousie utilizes this diary for publish in french, at end of promote friendship, national and international. I am equally o'accord that the students who writes of suches articles be the plus often anglophones, at end that these articles them aids at practice their french. But if they desire do laugh their readers, that they it do with of the caricatures, step with one grammar pseudo-french. A diary such that the Gazette not should play the role of a notebook o'exercises no correcteds. It there is several

hundreds of francophones at the campus, among the whom it must be facile of find of the volunteers who would aid at correct yours articles in french. You hall of redaction has physiological necessity of a one enormous poster permanent with th'inscription (in letters giants): "NOT STEP PUBLISH O'ARTICLE IN FRENCH WITHOUT IT DO CORRECT BEFOREHAND BY SOMEONE WHO TALKS CURRENTLY THE FRENCH". Is-it that you would like see the diaries studentical french canadian publish of the articles occasional in THIS sort-here o'english, eh?

Got it? Oh, and please spare me the worn excuse of "typographic errors". Some of the errors wer typos indeed, but most of them were quite obviously not. I meant no real offense here to the Gazette or to Paul Creelman (who kindly provided me with a good chuckling time), but, as one says in French, the best jokes are the shortest ones.

Georges Merinfeld
Dept. of Oceanography

Abortion argument too emotional?

To the Editors:

I don't understand all the debate about abortion. It's not that I don't care, or that the issue is too complex: It's just that I can't understand how members of a university community can let their emotions hijack their brains.

When you cut through all the hyperbole, the whole issue comes down to whether or not the foetus is a human life. If it is not, then no thinking person can oppose abortion. Why should a woman have to continue pregnancy to protect a mass of cells with no human qualities? If there is no life inside the womb of the pregnant woman, then abortion is no more an ethical matter than any other simple medical procedure.

If, on the other hand, the foetus really is a human life, can anyone seriously suggest in a

one human's right to choice should supersede another's right to existence? If the foetus is in fact human life, abortion is no less abhorrent than closing the doors to our hospitals, homes for special care, and old age homes. After all, these institutions are full of people who must also depend on the care of others to sustain their lives, as must the foetus on her mother.

So the question, then, is not one of viability or potential life, or any other peripheral issue, but instead boils down to when human life begins. If it begins at conception, as most scientists believe, abortion cannot be tolerated in a civilized culture any more than the killing of other marginalized members of society. If human life begins at birth, there can be no serious opposition to abortion. Let's address the real issue in this debate — when life begins — and then get on with protecting all human life once it has begun. As a law student, I appreciate the significance of the Supreme Court's decision. However, if a foetus is a human life, the opinions of neither a group of judges nor a mother nor anyone else can alter that fact.

Patti Towler
2nd Year Law

Science society wants house

To the Editors:

I would like to address this open letter to all undergraduate science students. The Dalhousie Science Society, or D.S.S., has proposed the establishment of a fund to be used exclusively for the purchase and operation of a Science house. This house would perform much the same function as other A society houses on campus, and service the membership of the largest society at Dalhousie.

The primary purposes of such a house have been set down as follows:

1) Centre of Activities — Activities of an academic and/or organizational nature for the D.S.S., its constituent B societies, and all science students in

free and democratic society (to quote our Charter of Rights) that general, will have an established and readily accessible home.

2) Information and Counseling — information regarding graduate studies, career employment, and opportunities in science will be made available to students by seminars, consulting interviews, and such personal contact, together with the traditional written compilations;

3) Parties — As well, the Science House would take its duty in providing social and recreational activities for its members.

The proposed fund would arise from a \$10 tuition increase in Science Society fees, which are paid with tuition, from the current \$5 per year per student to \$15. All of this increase in fees would be placed directly by the Student Union in a special account for the sole purpose of the Science House. Once enough money had been raised for a down payment, the house would be purchased. The time frame for this is roughly 4-5 years. The \$10 would then be used to service the mortgage and pay for the maintenance and operation of the house.

I believe this enterprise would be a worthwhile one for the Science Society to undertake. But I'm just one voice. The students themselves will decide in a referendum, to be held on Wednesday, February 17. Anyone having any questions or concerns should attend one of the four forums planned for February 8-11 inclusive. Watch for the posters telling the time and the place. Or simply contact a representative of the D.S.S.

I encourage all science students to participate in the discussion of this proposal, and most importantly to make their opinions known in the referendum on the 17th, whether it is for or against. It is crucial that the general sentiment concerning this matter be made known so the officers of the society can act responsibly on behalf of the

science students.

Please vote on February 17th!
Bill Power
Chair, House Committee
Dal Science Society

Has it only been a year?

To the Editors:

Thank you for publishing my recent letter regarding President Clark's support of the Physical Plant. However, an error in transcription resulted in a somewhat misleading statement, the correction of which would be much appreciated.

Although it occasionally feels like twelve years, I have in fact been Director of Physical Plant and Planning for the past twelve months only.

W.H. Lord

Liberal attitudes more prevalent

An open letter to the audience of 'The Black and Gold Revue'

It isn't often that we, as a group, as able to express thanks to a large group of people. In this case, thanks are indeed in order.

As a few of our members were staffing the concession stand at 'The Black and Gold Revue', it was difficult to ignore the homophobic and misogynist humour of contestant Mike Farrell. Your reaction, or rather lack of reaction, to this type of humour was most appreciated. In the comedian's own words, "you were too liberal for him".

Thanks, again. With liberal attitudes like the ones expressed there, maybe you and "we" aren't nearly as different as some believe.

GLAD
Gays and Lesbians at Dal

Thumbs down to discrimination

To the Editors:

I was disappointed to see to very negative letters in the Gazette concerning my opinion piece in the Dec. '87 edition of