

Under the old system the checking had to be left until the February of a student's last year, so that only then would the student receive a letter saying that graduation was not possible in the following May (with no chance to rectify the previous errors in class selection).

I know that if I were a student, I would much prefer to be told at an early registration that there was a problem with my plans, rather than get a "No" letter in the middle of my last term at Dal.

As a member of the Committee on Studies I have slightly mixed feelings: the new system picked up so many problems that we were extremely busy at the beginning of this year. However, I am happy for the students whose problems are now being detected and rectified in good time, and I am confident that the number of problems detected just before graduation will be significantly reduced.

In my view students should see the new system as a great step forward in the service they receive.

Yours sincerely,  
D.A. Tindall  
Chairman

Committee on Studies  
Faculty of Arts and Science

## A call to rebellion?

To the editors:

I am writing this letter in reference to the illustration on the back page of the September 20 issue of *The Gazette*. The picture in question showed an exploding van with a caption referring to such an event occurring "outside a factory that produces instruments of mass murder." It surprised me to see such an illustration in a newspaper which is above ground. Such drawings are normally restricted to radical underground papers.

It is a pity that *The Gazette* is not demonstrating the same journalistic responsibility that is often legislated on radio stations. If such an idea as that expressed in this illustration were voiced on radio the station would be called to answer to the CRTC for it. It would border on being unlawful, as it approaches advocating armed rebellion.

To say this illustration is in bad taste is hardly sufficient. Its slant towards violence to prevent violence is dangerous in today's world.

Kevin Yarr  
Public Affairs Director  
CKDU-FM

## It's about time

To the editors:

Cathy McDonald's article, "Hard Choices" (*Gazette* 20 September) is a welcome start to what should be a wider scrutiny and re-examination of Dalhousie's involvement in programs with the Indonesian Government. What the article does not emphasize is the scale of the ongoing brutality and atrocities by the Indonesian Government, whose ambassador, Dalhousie University so proudly hosted recently.

The situation currently of most concern is that of East Timor which Indonesia invaded in 1975 and annexed in 1976. The Centre

MEANWHILE, AT AN ISOLATED HYDRO SUBSTATION ON VANCOUVER ISLAND...



for Defense Information (Washington, D.C.) in 1983 described this invasion as resulting in more deaths than any current war except Kampuchea and possibly Afghanistan (remember how outraged Canada was about that invasion!).

In July 1984, the U.S. magazine *Newsweek*, noted that Indonesia's actions in East Timor are "in percentage terms, probably the worst set of human rights abuses in this century."

The most recent accounts indicate that more than one third of the East Timorese have died since the Indonesian invasion as a result of continuing Indonesian actions, i.e., 225,000 people out of a population of 675,000 in 1975.

Indonesia continues to prevent the Red Cross from operating in East Timor while the Indonesian Army continues their suppression and military operations against the indigenous people. According to

Dalhousie faculty, Indonesians who criticize their government's policy disappear at the hands of the Government-condoned death squads.

Atrocities and reports of genocide in Irian Jaya have also continued since that territory was grabbed by the Indonesians. The most recent report (*Globe and Mail*, 30 August 1984) tells of Indonesian Army atrocities including decapitations and the fleeing of 11,000 of the natives to neighbouring Papua New Guinea. This follows recent murders by the Indonesians of Papuan university faculty for attempting to continue their traditions and way of life.

The denigration by Dalhousie faculty of concern about such genocide and atrocities as "armchair political motivations" should set alarm bells ringing among those who govern Dalhousie University, concerning the motives for joint programs with such murderous regimes. These issues are of wider concern to the Dalhousie community than only the few departments involved. I hope that McDonald's article provides the catalyst for a formal and open reappraisal about the "merits" of the joint Dalhousie University-Indonesian program.

Yours sincerely,  
R. Shotton

## Shearwater air show preparations for war

To the editors:

Part of the feverish preparations for imperialist war which are being carried out by the two superpowers is the increase of massive military spectacles like the Shearwater International Air Show. While such events are usually billed as "family entertainment," the real purpose is to promote militarism and war psychosis, and to line the people up behind the imperialist war preparations.

This year's spectacle to be held on the weekend will include a military band concert at the Rebecca Cohn on September 28. Like the Air Show itself this concert is opposed to the interests of Dalhousie students who demand the right to live in peace. Sponsored by the Royal Commission Airforce Association this concert will raise money for the Air Cadet League to mobilize youth as cannon fodder. Patriotic and peace-loving students should condemn the holding of the SIAS as well as the military concert at Dalhousie.

The Shearwater military base has nothing patriotic or defensive about it. Its first commander was an American officer, Lt. R.E. Byrd. It provides birthing facilities for up to 15 American nuclear submarines armed with ICBM's, and, under NORAD, it is being turned into a U.S. Air Force base. All this is a violation of Canadian sovereignty and the security of the people. This is the ugly truth which the SIAS spectacle dissembles, and shows the necessity for Canadians to take the only real patriotic and defensive stand of opposing it.

Charles Spurr

## THERE'S A PLACE FOR YOU AT THE DALHOUSIE GAZETTE.

On Thursday, Oct. 4 at 4:30 we will be electing people to the following positions:

- |                            |                           |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| News editor                | Art desk                  |
| Assignment editor          | Film desk                 |
| News/Features editor       | Arts/Features desk        |
| National affairs desk      | Television desk           |
| Provincial affairs desk    | Lifestyle desk            |
| Campus affairs desk        | Women's sports editor     |
| Women's issues coordinator | Men's sports editor       |
| Editorial page coordinator | Calendar page coordinator |
| Arts editor                | Production manager        |
| Books desk                 | Art Director              |
| Music desk                 | Copy editor/Proof reader  |
| Theatre/dance desk         |                           |

Participate in the democratic process. Screenings and voting will take place in the *Gazette* offices.

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