

# Return to CUP : Radical protest syndrome

by Paul Creelman

As someone who is completing the first stages of an academic career, I feel at home in the campus environment. As someone who worked on student newspapers for a couple of years, I'm completely amazed at how little change there has been in the university press over four years. Despite the attitude of some sectors of the city population in general, the flaws in the Canadian University Press organization have largely gone without notice.

A lot of people criticize the Gazette for being too socialistic, too left-leaning, too irresponsible. In some years this criticism is openly voiced in the university community. A few articles by Marxists and an International Features supplement will cause a backlash by conservatives. The student union on campus will complain, the commerce students will complain, and pressure will be brought to bear on the newspaper. Some years this pressure succeeds in bringing the newspaper to heel, and

sometimes the staff on the newspaper are bright enough to learn political and legal tactics to protect themselves.

But this is only half of the story—Canadian University Press (CUP) provides the other half. CUP is dedicated to the spirit of the alternative press. Not only are the kind of stories written by ordinary newspapers ignored, but they are deliberately suppressed. You will hardly ever see a story about a corporate merger in a CUP newspaper. Not only does every single staff member hate Ronald Reagan, but most new staffers who like Ronald Reagan a lot leave the newspaper staff pretty quickly. Most never join the newspaper at all.



So what can be said about CUP in general? Most people who work in CUP and on newspapers are extremely good at understanding and expressing ideas. The standard of journalism is without a doubt extremely high, yet only a tiny range of stories are covered. The ability of the staff to doubletalk their way into good interviews and write stories is unsurpassed. How then can the self-imposed limitations of sticking to obscure minority groups be explained?

There is still lots of capitalism and thoughtless authoritarianism even inside the university. This is worth spending some time and effort to represent or criticize in the student press.

CUP is not well understood in the campus and in the city because it is very complicated. Firm belief is that Canadian University Press and the senior newspaper staff on university papers are the intellectual disaffected.

"Disaffected" is a word with a special meaning in political science. It refers to an alienated segment of a society which

displays symptoms of radical protest with a high rate of authoritarianism. It was used by Machael Stein to examine the rise of right wing groups such as the Creditistes in Quebec.

The words "radical protest syndrome" sound psychological. They are. Stein attempted to explain the rise of a new political party by looking at the poor and disaffected and trying to determine if they displayed authoritarianism. A lot of them did.

This is the danger which I see in CUP. The intellectual and social skills the newspaper staff learn on the job are useful. However, someone who has gone to a national CUP conference and seen the national staff go to organizational meetings starting at 3 a.m. has to

start wondering. I did, realizing full well most could not keep up with their pace. I wondered a lot more when the strong values of democracy held by CUP did not prevent political manipulation by CUP executive members.

I especially wondered when conservative libertarian newspapers from the west who did not want to be either alternative newspapers or agents of social change left the conference abruptly.

It is true that CUP is one of the firmest proponents of democracy I know of. When *Chevron* (University of Waterloo, Ontario) was taken over by a communist group who enforced their own ideology of socialism, the *Chevron* was promptly booted

out of CUP. In my view, the standard of journalism and analysis CUP does is unsurpassed. But this is still no excuse for authoritarian intellectuals who impose their own views of liberal socialism on others.

## Reflections

continued from on page 4

mothers have the choice of either keeping their babies or giving them up for adoption. Surely, this is a better way to deal with the problem than killing the baby. Society ought to put more money into such projects instead of using its resources to kill human beings.

It has often been said of the Pro-Life Movement that its proponents suffer from a "holier-

than-thou" attitude. But, really, who is the more guilty of such an attitude: pro-lifers who would see the life of the unborn baby spared, or pro-abortionists who claim that the mother's "rights" outweigh those of the baby? Since this is Pro-Life month in Nova Scotia, may each of us re-examine our views in order that society may rid itself of the madness of legalized abortion.

Written by David G. C. McCann  
6th Year Dal student

### GOING TO A HALLOWE'EN BASH??

\* HATS \* SNAKES \* BLOOD \* BATS \*  
\* RUBBER MASKS \* WIGS \* BALDIES \*  
BEARDS \* MOUSTACHES \* MAKE-UP  
NOSES \* HANDS \* ACCESSORIES  
PUNK WIGS \* GLASSES & LOTS MORE



HOLLIS SPECIALTY  
1532 Hollis St.  
(corner Hollis/Salter)  
OPEN EVERY NITE  
'TIL 9:30



422-4576

CABBAGETOWN LOUNGE  
DOWNSTAIRS

Two room layout with  
dancing & special  
video programming

Students  
with  
ID no  
cover

**PEPE'S CAFE & GRILL**

PEPE'S  
UPSTAIRS

Fine Italian Cuisine

Featuring Live Jazz

Jazz line 425-3331