

# EDITORIAL

## A Challenge

As information seeps down about the incredible web of inter-connections that make up the global community, we feel more and more like insignificant cogs in the wheel. The definitions between nations are becoming less and less defined, until the global community takes on the characteristics of a nation of provinces. There is one big difference, however. While we can legitimately protest policies in our own we have no mechanism to affect change in the bigger nation, the world.

There is no guiding authority, no government to oversee negotiations between bickering nations, which inevitably results in talks breaking down; witness the rumours of imminent failure of the US/USSR arms negotiations in Geneva.

We are concerned with the events in other countries, in Poland, in South Africa, and in Vietnam. Yet when we voice our concern we must be sure that the guilt cannot be traced to ourselves. It is incredible that Canadians are actually profiting from the apartheid system in South Africa, a system which would never be tolerated in our own country. Not only do we profit from it, we proliferate it. Not many people disagree with the churches and with the blacks in South Africa, and with the torture victims in Chile, that we should not finance the governments at whose hands injustice is meted. But from that point on, there are a million excuses drummed up so that investments can remain where they grow so nicely. "If we don't someone else will. If we withdraw the money, the blacks will suffer as well as the whites. We are effecting change from the inside."

Excuses are excuses, and if everyone uses them to protect their little piece of pie, then of course all nations, all banks and all companies can continue to do what they're doing and express their regrets at the sad state of affairs at the same time.

Are there no leaders in the world?

The Gazette challenges institutions to take the lead and show excuses for what they are. We challenge the Dalhousie student union to take its \$210,000 out of the Royal Bank. We challenge the university to seek other locations for its money that companies such as Noranda, owner of enslaving copper mines in Chile, and in the banks, or at least become a voice to alter those banks' investment policies.

The Gazette, for one, keeps its account with the Halifax credit union, whose investments are all Canadian. We boycott advertising from four major Canadian banks. The Gazette recognizes banks as not the only offenders, but as major representatives of the Canadian economic structure, and its connections to these countries. Likewise, for other companies that advertise in the Gazette with questionable policies, a staff committee is currently collecting information that will help develop a consistent boycott policy.

We recognize it isn't a clear-cut question of policy for the banks either. Investment in South Africa is only one example of questionable recipients of Canadian money. However, we encourage the direction of the Toronto Dominion Bank which has declared that under the present conditions it will not consider loans to the South African government and its subsidiaries. It's a step, and we do not boycott TD ads for this reason.

Harvard University has instituted a committee to evaluate its investment policies, and subsequently removed money from a particular bank for negotiating a loan to South Africa. Dawson College in Montreal has an arrangement whereby the National Bank will notify its Board of Governors of any impending loans to South Africa.

There may never be an end to hypocrisy, but rather than use this as an excuse, we should make steps towards rectifying it, and put money where our mouths are.

## The economy

by Michael McCarthy

Many financial observers feel Canadian Currency has taken a real bath on the market lately. This has led to a severe case of ring around the dollar. That's really being taken to the cleaners! Probably a result of politicians' demands for laundered money.

The English currency has taken quite a **pounding** as well. The Mexican attitude to overdue loans

is "Well, we can't **pay**, so? The French law profession refuses to give even one **sou**.

If investing in metals, your best bet is with the new issue of **Hiyo silver**.

Why am I doing this, you may ask? Well, let me be **franc** with you. I have a strong **yen** to make a **mark** in the world. To **coin** a phrase. Please, have an after dinner **mint**.



## LETTERS

### No such thing as 24 hour Helpline

To the Editor;

We, as currently inactive Help Line Volunteers, are much concerned with a potentially misleading article headlined: "Help Line - N.S.'s only distress centre operational 24 hours a day," **The Mail Star**, Saturday, 2 January, 1982.

One could easily infer and be consoled by the idea that callers to the Line may always connect with another person. However, since at least as far back as September, this has not been the case.

It may be all well and good for Co-ordinator Art MacNeil to declare that Help Line is operational on a 24 hour basis. Similarly, one might obtain comfort from Assistant Co-ordinator Willa Cartledge's (sic) statement that Lineworkers try to convince individuals not to commit suicide, should they threaten to do so. However, if there is no Lineworker to answer the telephone between midnight and 9:00 a.m., as is frequently the case, the potentially suicidal person connects with a tape recorded message that says: "This is Help Line; I'm sorry but there isn't a person here to take your call just now. After nine in the morning somebody should be here to answer the phone. In the meantime, here are a list of numbers..."

Traditionally, it has been mandatory to have a Lineworker on the back-shift to give immediate response to emergency situations, and to provide ongoing support to the many people troubled by loneliness.

Loss of consistent service coincides with a serious rift within the agency over the issue of Lineworker input into policy decisions. This became apparent when a staff person who was competent, loved and highly respected was dismissed.

To raise the issue of the firing, a majority of Lineworkers followed all conventional avenues,

including telephone calls and letters to the Board of Directors. Since then, volunteer Lineworkers have found themselves in the unique position of being fired for voicing their concerns.

The seriousness of the situation is underlined by the fact that matters relating to this issue are presently before the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia for the second time.

It is a paradox that such a series of events could occur at Help Line, a community based agency whose original aim was to foster human dignity.

Gary E. Tanner  
Donald Goss  
Karen Oulton  
Angela Snide  
Dianne Ferguson  
Waltraud Morstatt  
H. Patricia Robitaille  
Linda Roberts  
Mary Lou Ferguson  
Jeunne Schoales  
Ursula M. Thomas

### Here's looking at you

Dear Bandit;

Yes, this is to you, the thieving bandit who took my wallet, my money and my ID. How you can steal money from a fellow student (or from anyone for that matter) is beyond my comprehension. The money you so calculatingly took was a week's worth of eating, drinking and entertainment. I hope you're proud of yourself for so cleverly stalking the aisles of the Killam Library, waiting for some poor fool to go to the bathroom so you could make your move and gain a substantial amount of money for your Friday night drinking. But my dear fellow, no need to worry. As I suffer during the next long week without food, no one will know of your tricks and you can once again rob yet another unsuspecting student. I promise that I will not one of your trade, and my fellow students who can so easily identify you will do likewise. So feel free to roam the campus in your blue and red jacket with your dark hair and beard, but I must warn you, my friend, the next time you may not be so lucky.

Signed,

A student who had to use the washroom (and got more relief than she bargained for)

### Creeping Sexism

To the Editor:

Sexism, according to our old friend Webster, may be defined as "prejudice or discrimination based on sex." This is further elaborated upon to mean "especially discrimination against women." Please note that this does not mean it is a problem unique to the female gender. As a form of stereotyping, sexism's insidious effects upon our perceptions is such that it is able to slip unobtrusively into the sexual harassment survey

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