

# the Dalhousie Gazette

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The Dalhousie Gazette is Canada's oldest college newspaper. Published weekly through the Dalhousie Student Union, which also comprises its membership, the Gazette has a circulation of 10,000.

As a founding member of Canadian University Press, the Gazette adheres to the CUP Statement of Principles and reserves the right to refuse any material submitted of a libelous, sexist or racist nature. Deadline for commentary, letters to the editor and announcements is noon on Monday. Submissions may be left at the SUB Enquiry Desk c/o Dal Gazette.

Commentary should not exceed 700 words, letters should not exceed 300 words. No unsigned material will be accepted, but anonymity may be granted on request.

Advertising copy deadline is noon Friday before publication. The Gazette offices are located on the 3rd Floor SUB. Come up and have a coffee and tell us what's going on.

The views expressed in the Gazette are not necessarily those of the Student Union, the editor or the collective staff.

Subscription rates are \$15 per year (25 issues) and our ISSN number is 0011-5816. The Gazette's mailing address is 6136 University Avenue, Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3H 4J2, telephone (902) 424-2507 or (902) 424-2055. The business office may be reached at (902) 424-6532.

## editorial

# Should we send them all home?

Racism is an ugly word. It's harsh, disgusting, and conjures up images that don't mix too well with the idea of a civilized society. But unlike its trademark image of the Klansman or the Aryan supremacist, the racism we contend with most of the time is a more subtle, but equally vicious type. And that type was in full flower recently--both at Dal and outside.

When an angry mob of Lebanese people violently clashed with Palestinians in the Killam library, that was race-hatred. It was ugly, violent, and inexcusable. But the reactions of a good number of Dalhousie students to the incident brought out the simple fact that racism rules O.K. over our "educated" masses as well.

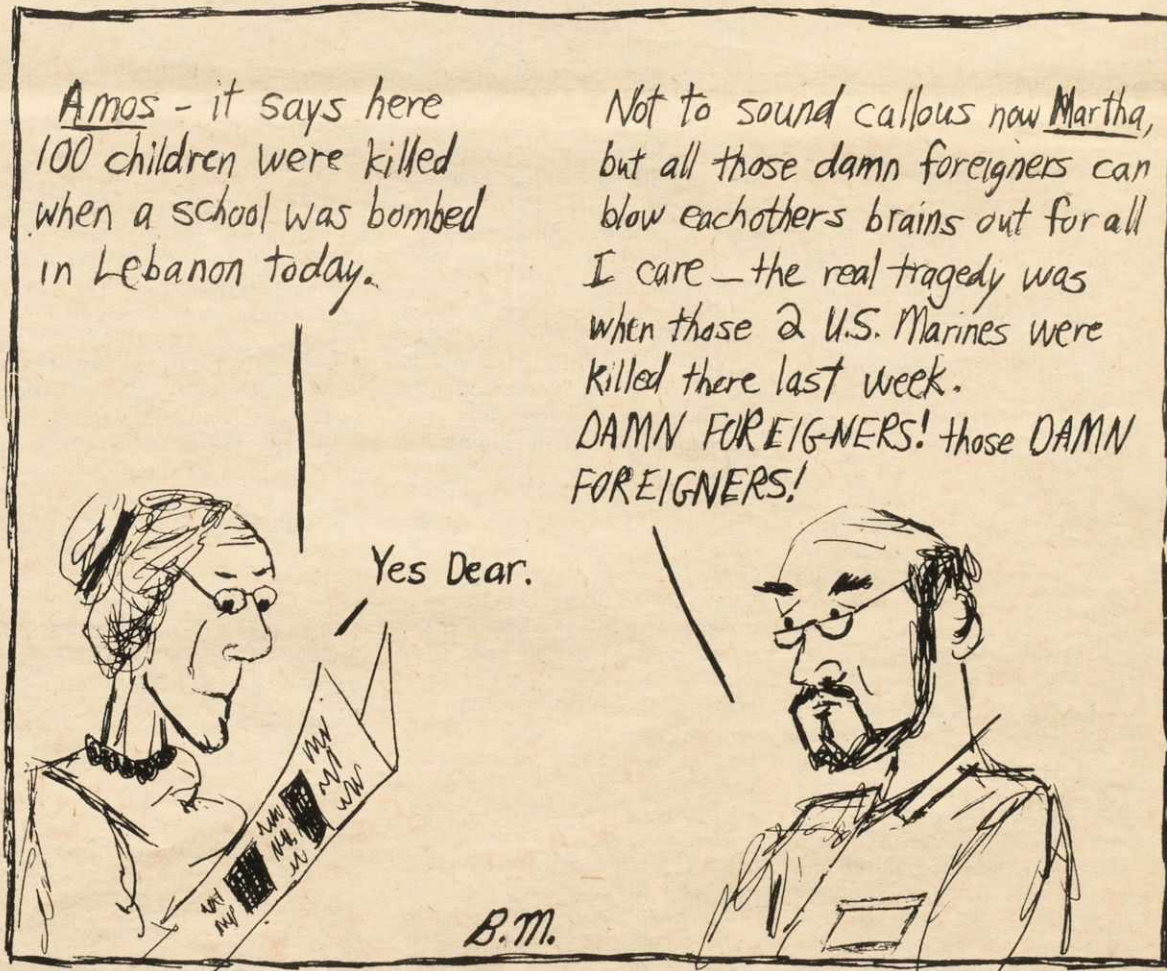
"Why do they have to bring that here?" was a typical reaction overheard by Gazette staff on campus this week. The shock wasn't directed at the violence, race-hatred, and stupidity of the affair, but the fact that these savages would dare to interrupt our tranquil society. "Let them kill each other all they want," one student sneered, "As long as they do it over there."

This disgustingly smug, self-centred superiority isn't limited to Dal by any means. Look once, look twice and you may find yourself among the legions in our trendy society ascribing primitive, immoral, devious, and evil tag-lines to Russians of any sort after the downing of the Korean Jet Liner last week. From crushing brand-new Lada cars to pouring out bottles of Russian Vodka to burning the flag, the yahoos were out in full force. Premier Buchanan banned the Moscow Circus from performing in Nova Scotia and he won't stop spraying herbicide that is banned in other provinces over Nova Scotia families. Hooray for the good guys.

Over and over and over the racist sentiment verbally piled up like the sickening beach goo from an oil spill. "What can you expect from those Russians?" "You can't ever trust those bastards." Or an eight-year old school kid looking at a news story on the cancelling of the Circus and muttering, "Damn Russians." When you want to whip people up, stuff like what really happened with airliner and how the Russian (or American) governments are not THE PEOPLE OF THE COUNTRY kind of get lost in the shuffle.

This is all the more sickening in light of the reaction of Americans to the deaths of thousands of Afghans when the Soviets marched militarily into the country--a far more premeditated, dangerous, and politically important move. Indifference was the rule except for whatever sanctions Carter took at the time. The Americans couldn't get excited. It was foreigners dying. They couldn't picture them. They didn't hail from Illinois, Georgia, Wisconsin, New Hampshire, or Arizona. The rebels had no names, and when they did have names, they were long. And weird.

Perhaps it wasn't good material for a "Real People" show. I don't know. But it seems to me as if this grand western society of ours isn't going to proceed one step further until we react with abhorrence at ALL murders, ALL wars, and ALL injustices without first cynically looking to see where we stand in the picture. A little humanity, please?



**Gazette General Meeting**  
7:30 p.m. Thurs. Sept. 29  
Room 100 SUB

Be there or be square