

# More than one reason for peace

The only thing we know for sure is that no one knows what will have happened or will be happening as you read this.

The events in the Gulf over the past week have created a situation that is so volatile we can hardly begin to imagine the possibilities and repercussions of what may happen there.

What we do know is many people who read this will be between the ages of 17 and 22. Most of these will be students.

As students it is important to realize that it is people of our age who will be fighting in a war in the Gulf.

People just like you, people with the same desires, goals, and hopes will be carrying guns and driving tanks. People, who just a few months ago, were looking forward to going to colleges and universities, were thinking of careers and their future, will now have their lives used as tools for war.

These people are not monsters or war machines, they are human beings.

These people also worry about their next date, what clothes to wear, and how their hair should look. Can you imagine adding to the list of your everyday concerns "will I die tomorrow".

What will happen, and how many will die in the Gulf no one really knows. It could be 1000, it could be 100 000. No matter how many die, many will be innocent civilians who had no part of any of the decisions that have led to war.

The possibilities for escalation and destruction are endless. War could lead to the destruction of major oil fields, driving the cost of oil (one of the justifications for this war) through the roof.

Israel could become involved and the entire region, from Turkey, to Iran, to the Suez Canal, could be drawn into the conflict.

Canada could send ground troops to the region. The Globe and Mail quoted a military spokesperson on Saturday who said such emergency plans do exist.

Chemical and biological weapons could be released, and even though no one wishes it, nuclear weapons could be set off.

This is not idle speculation. Conservative estimates say there are over 1000 nuclear weapons and power sources in the Gulf.

Any stray missile, accidental explosion, or military slip-up could lead to horrific consequences.

Many people feel this conflict can not and will not affect them, but can they be so sure?

Will it take young men and women returning to North America wrapped in body bags to convince people that this war will touch us all.

To bring this closer to home imagine this. Your family is offered a stock pile of oil in exchange for your death. Would your family accept such an offer? How much oil would they have to be offered before they would agree? Is it fair to ask others to do this?

As students, we have a special role to play during this crisis. As members of the university community we have many advantages and we have an obligation to use those for the benefit of others.

Many of us have more free time than people who work 9-5. We have the opportunity to meet in small or large groups. We have access to tremendous amounts of information and resources.

In the United States thousands have marched for peace, blocking roads and entrances to legislatures.

Although we do not hear about it on the news, hundreds of American soldiers have declared themselves conscientious objectors and have either left the military or are working in only passive roles (contrary to popular belief C.O.s are not sent to prison).

People power can and does make a difference. You only have to think back to 1985.

When Brian Mulroney de-indexed old age pensions people responded with action. Many people with fewer resources and bigger hurdles to face took to the streets. They got on the phones, they wrote letters, they signed petitions. Mulroney backed down and pensions were re-indexed.

More impressive and inspirational was the civil rights movement of the 1960's.

January 15 was not only a war deadline, but it was Martin Luther King's birthday. Here was a man who stood for peace.

It was pointed out on Saturday at a Hali-

to the Gulf); to an enforcer of U.N. sanctions (placing our navy in the middle of the Gulf); to an active participant in offensive action (placing our navy in a war).

The government will neither deny or confirm that at some point Canadian aircraft will provide cover for U.S. B52's on bombing missions. All the while maintaining Canada is only operating in a defensive role.

The Conservative government has not allowed the real issue to be debated in parliament - "should Canada go to war", nor have they allowed a free vote, without party interference, in the House.

We must get to the government. We must let the people in charge know we are not only opposed to their decisions, but that we will take action.

We can not wait for the democratic process to work here. There is no time to wait for an election to voice your displeasure with government policy. **Take action now.**

Here are some of the things you can do. Phone your M.P., phone your M.P.P., even better phone the Prime Minister at (613) 992-4211.

If you don't want to phone, write to the government. All mail addressed to 'Parliament Hill, Ottawa, K1A 0A6' is free.

Also, get involved in community and campus peace groups. The Dalhousie peace group meets most Wednesdays in the Student Union Building.

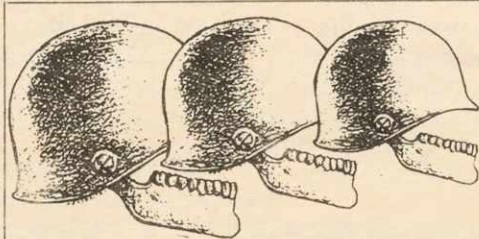
Call the Metro Peace Action Network at 435-6165. Don't forget to keep your eyes and ears open for upcoming protests and teach-ins.

Why not stop by the Halifax regional library around noon and join the Voice of Women in the daily peace vigil.

Most importantly talk about what is happening. Talk at the dinner table, in classes, or at a bar. Talk to everyone and anyone. Talk anywhere and any time you feel like it, don't just wait for the 'appropriate' time...speak out now.

We don't know what will happen over the next couple of days. If war isn't averted we must work to end it as soon as possible. Lets work together to make a difference.

Peace, the Gazette



**STOP THE WAR  
IN THE  
GULF!**

Regardless of where we stand on the issue we, as students, have an obligation to be informed, and moreover to take action.

Action is needed and contrary to what many say it does make a difference.

A single person often feels their voice is unheard and their actions useless. But, if a massive movement of people can make a difference, we must understand that every group is made up of individuals.

In Berlin 60 000 individuals marched against a war. In London 42 000, in Barcelona 35 000, and in Istanbul 30 000.

It is estimated that already over 25 000 people, in 32 cities across Canada have walked for peace.

fax peace march that King was killed not long after he started to speak out against the war in Vietnam.

But let us not forget, King was an individual who he made a difference and all the individuals who listened to him and took action made change possible.

We can effect change, we can reach our government.

We must recognize that the Canadian government has not played the role in this crisis that many Canadians expect it to.

Our government has said publicly that with or without the United Nations' agreement Canada would be supporting U.S. actions.

# Will students have to strike next?

by John Spencer

S.O.S. will soon stand for "students on strike". Time for a new approach - a real perspective on what's happening, how students should react, and how future occurrences may be prevented.

The Reality:

Students are already financially abused, by excessive tuition fees, overpriced textbooks (including the dreaded GST), a new (proposed) 3 per cent tax on student loans, a declining number of summer jobs and a drop in available funds for not only Dalhousie scholarships and bursaries but Canada Student Loans as well — not to mention the extreme cost of just living.

Although it is claimed that a portion of the money accumulated by the raised tuition fees will go into the Bursary fund, the administration does not say how much was initially absconded by the government due to extensive cut-backs.

In addition, the students will now inevitably absorb all major, detrimental repercussions resulting from a strike.

The Lies:

The responses from the Office of the Vice-President are ambiguous and misleading. Vague statements like, "The university is committed to maintaining its academic programmes and services as far as possible, and to minimizing the disruptive effects on students" are empty words spoken from a supposedly unbiased source. This kind of declaration lets the administration "off the hook" no matter what happens.

I'm sure they will lack as much providence and diligence now as they did when faced with a similar confrontation two years ago!

The Unnoticed:

People overlook the fact that students feel anxiety, frustration,

uneasiness and instability even at the mere mention of a strike. fears compounded with the normal pressures of student life force students to carry a heavy burden - especially for those who have previously endured such cataclysms.

The Truth:

Students are the future. Yet they are used merely as pawns, as a malleable rope in a tug of war, for the political and mischievous games of the monetary elite. If there were no students then the DSA, the DFA, the administration and numerous others would be jobless!

The Reponse:

If a full strike occurs, or even if these 'mini strikes' do not cease, then there should be massive protests from the entire student population — the students should strike. At least, scream, storm offices, rally, appeal to the public via the media and demand settlement now! Come

out of your shells and "Stand Up For Your Rights".

The Prevention:

Upon registration, a contract between the administration, the DSA, the DFA and the students should be signed by a representative from each party. Clauses must include many student safeguards. For example, have the DSA and the DFA agree to do their utmost to settle disputes outside of the regular school session.

Set up an elected student body to decide, if the occasion arises, whether a particular group has reasonable grounds to strike during the regular school year, and have all groups agree that this body's permission be legally required in order for a strike to occur.

Furthermore, if a strike does occur, the administration should ensure that either the students will not be hindered in any way — which seems practically impossible — or

else guarantee a full refund of all tuition fees, book costs, travel expenses, rental payments and food months.

With an agreement of this nature students could feel that future strikes would be improbable; either due to a hasty settlement or by an initial refusal from the elected student body.

The Conclusion:

It is time for the Dalhousie administration to stop feeding off its deceptive reputation and begin to implement the proper measures necessary for ensuring and stabilizing the rightful and deserving welfare of all the university's members in a moral, just and democratic fashion.