

UICspeak

Governments, with their penchant for self preservation, have often times shown reservations about the unrestrained use of truth. The recent revelations that our minister of employment has ordered local manpower offices to discontinue the practice of unemployment surveys, however, indicates not only an aversion to truth but a blatant attempt to suppress it.

The fact is that unemployment is a growing problem, and that more and more Canadians are "joining the ranks of the unemployed." Suppressing or distorting the statistics that glaringly point to this fact will not ease the problem. It will ease the pressure exerted on the policy makers who have been unable to check the country's economic deterioration. The control over statistics will also make it that much more difficult for the unemployed to counter attacks that they are simply too lazy or too fussy to find work.

At the same time the government propaganda organs will continue their relentless attacks on those most affected by the economic crisis. Over the last year we've seen the federal government launch a major campaign against the UI "cheaters".

Daily bombasts from the radio, television and print media have led us to believe that huge portions of the UIC budget were going to the undeserving. It is no coincidence that the messages were timed to prepare us for the recent wholesale reductions in the availability of Unemployment Insurance benefits. The government has clearly indicated that its response to increased unemployment is to cutback the very program designed to protect those that are unemployed. Coming out of the worst summer for youth unemployment in decades the restrictions on UI benefits will mean that virtually no students will be eligible for UI next summer. They don't mean that we'll get jobs. But instead of being called "lazy" and "too demanding" and accused of taking advantage of the system, we'll just be called "lazy" and "too demanding".

We won't be alone but if Bud Cullen gets his way we won't know how many of us there are.



Letters

Engineers only improving lot?

To The Gazette:

In last week's edition of the *Gazette* there appeared an article called "Engineers Say They Don't Speak Good", in which the *Gazette* took a few quotes and built around them the story that they wanted. It brings to mind last spring, when after the *Gazette* went over budget (i.e. spent all its money) the Student Council refused to pay any more bills. The cry then was "Suppression of Freedom of the Press". What ever happened to "Responsibility of the Press"?

It may be of interest to readers just exactly what was the interview from which that article was derived. Well, the interview was about what the President of the Engineering Society had done to improve the lot of his fellow students.

The President of the Engineers, last spring, went to the administration and brought to light certain problems of the Engineering Students. The administration then responded with smaller class sizes (no class section over 50 students), office hours for 16 part time profs, looser scheduling of labs to enable students to get to their lab on time, an Engineering society house, and a quota on visa students starting the Engineering program.

It is interesting to note that the same interview was given to CKDU (campus radio) and their response was that the Engineers had gone to the administration and got results

in record time. CKDU made an effort to promote this to the students, to point out that the administration is interested in the students of this campus and is willing to respond to their needs.

What ever happened to the *Gazette*? Don't they believe that students should try to improve their lot? Shouldn't the *Gazette* be responsible for promotion of student activity?

Or perhaps it's the old grudge of the Engineers stealing the *Gazette* every fall, and the *Gazette* Editor thought he'd get revenge. A low blow. David Bolivar, President, Dalhousie Engineering Society.

Editor's note:

The Gazette does not bear a grudge against the Engineering Society but it does attempt to present its readers with accurate information. We believe the article in question accurately described your position on visa students.

Weekend fever kills plants

To the Gazette:

Recently, a number of plants were bogarted from the SUB cafeteria. As expected, this caused an outcry from individuals which had worked long hours and spent an undisclosed amount of money in redoing the cafeteria into the semi-tropical maze it is now. However, after witnessing several weekend functions in the SUB, namely the Disco's, I question if indeed they care at all about their

investment. The abuse that the students displayed towards the plants was to say the least, disheartening. Cigarettes were extinguished in the soil, litter disposed of in the planters, and the general trampling from flailing limbs and falling bodies, broke stems and leveled leaves to the degree that many have limited life expectancy.

The blame lies not in the negligence of the student body rather, the poor planning of such interior decoration. A room which must serve such diverse programs should be not only attractive, but also functional. Plants just can't survive in the environment created on Friday and Saturday nights.

Unless provisions are made to protect the plants from the people, (be they glass or plastic divisions which still allow us to enjoy their beauty) the only plants which will be alive by the coming year will be the ones which have been bogarted.

Leigh Morrow

Conformist committee insecure?

To the Gazette:

The recent executive action of the SUB operations in removing the right of political and religious groups to set up literature booths in the S.U.B. is inherently contradictory and conformist. A number of complaints were voiced by students concerning the presence of these booths. These students refuse to consider alternatives in their rush to conform to the materialistic values of the late '70's. SUB operations being only responsible to themselves and hearing the cries of people like them, banned literature booths of the offending groups. At the same time,

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the Dalhousie
Gazette

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Editor: Marc Allain

News Co-ordinators: Danièle Gauvin and Alan Adams

Entertainment Co-ordinators: Sheena Maason and Greg Larson

Sports Co-ordinator:

Advertising and Business Manager: Matthew Adamson

Circulation Manager: Joe Wilson

This issue was brought to you by:

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