

## Zen and the fine art of cannon fodder

### To the Editor:

With every issue of possible mass outrage the state organizes its "loyal opposition" which then does everything possible to mystify that issue and to mislead the people. Thus the blows justly directed at the bourgeois state are felt mildly, if they are felt at all. An example of this is the issue of imperialist war and war preparations.

A newly-formed "Coalition against nuclear war" has emerged, the ranks of which contain church groups and such state-funded organizations as the para-military "Katimavik" youth corps. Through Katimavik or the quasi-federal Canada World Youth, this new coalition has direct and visible links with the Canadian state that it serves as "loyal opposition."

Katimavik allegedly creates work for young people but aside from exploiting the youth as cheap labour on various government projects, only paying a dollar per day, its main purpose is to mobilize the youth as a paramilitary force for fascism and war. Under this programme the Canadian state indoctrinates a section of youth into military life, a section is given military training, and so on. The programme is part and parcel of the state's and

monopoly bourgeoisie's preparations for aggressive inter-imperialist war.

There is a passive resistance amongst the youth to being recruited as cannon fodder. Youth have rejected and denounced the war preparations of the imperialists and social imperialists and Canada's participation in the aggressive warmongering activity of U.S. imperialism. The youth have rejected Katimavik as a solution to any of their problems such as the mass unemployment under the rule of capital. When the programme was first introduced in by "Defence" minister Barney Danson in 1977, it was denounced widely as "Barney's brown-shirts," a fascist youth service corps, modelled after Hitler's brown shirt storm troopers.

The rich in Canada are on the path of fascism and war as their solution to their crisis, but they are doing so under such slogans as "peace through strength," "guns for peace" and so on. But as Trudeau told Saskatchewan students recently, they are "talking disarmament" while "preparing to match the USSR gun for gun if necessary." And such is their hypocrisy because these weapons are never intended to be decorations. They have no solution whatsoever to offer the youth but have directed widescale propaganda and funds to recruit the youth as cannon fodder for their armed forces. All the youth should intensify their opposition to the fascist Katimavik programme and others like it in order not to fall prey to the designs of the millionaires and be turned into gun bearers. We must also see through these various "left" coalitions which con-

tain such organizations as part of the phony "loyal opposition."

Charles Spurr

## Many thanks from Dal Tigers

### To the Dalhousie Tiger Fans:

The Dalhousie Tigers have completed an outstanding year of success.

The support given all Tiger teams this year was excellent and was most appreciated.

It was exciting to hear the chant "Here We Go Tigers" encouraging the athletes to perform even better for their supporters.

One CIAU title, six AUA championships and many individual honors were collected by the Tigers.

You, the fans, were instrumental in those successes.

Thank you again, most sincerely, for your support.

Dalhousie Tiger athletes, coaches and administrators

## Like, it was a learning experience

### To the Editor:

We would like to publicly

express a debt of gratitude to those people who supported us during the recent Presidential and Vice-Presidential election. It was truly a beneficial and educational experience for both of us and we shall not soon forget the various Dalhousians we came into contact with.

We also would like to wish Peter Rans and John Russell all the best in the upcoming year, for their victories shall be our victories, their losses our losses. Also to inform Dalhousie students that we all have an obligation to give these two men our support, but also a piece of our minds whenever necessary and to keep abreast of their actions so that they constantly work towards the betterment of student life at Dalhousie.

Yours sincerely,

Bill Harvey  
Nicholas P. Katsepointes

## Thirst for truth and meaning and Daloramas

### Dear Dalhousie Gazette Staff:

We have gone through the past three papers without a Dalorama. The only thing that keeps us going is the thought of getting our Friday paper and doing the Dalorama. The thought of intense competition among ourselves to complete

the Dalorama first fills us with bliss and glee of the highest level. We therefore suggest that the last issue of the paper contain a Dalorama to beat all Daloramas.

Thank you for your time,

Allan Warren  
Debbie Haines  
Dave Stevens  
Kenna Dalrymple  
Helen Dawe  
Kevin Brown  
Andrew Pothier  
S.P. Maclean  
Andrew Flemming  
Frank Killem  
John Patterson  
Stephen K. Hurst  
Lynn MacLeod  
David Chaffey  
Lynn Cavanagh  
Chris Lane  
Janice Walsh

*The Gazette apologizes for not being able to decipher all of the signatures on the above letter.*

### Correction

*The Gazette erred in a recap of the election results last week in claiming a Debbie Graves was elected to the position of Law Representative. The correct name is Debbie Smith, and her running opponent was Jason Gavras, not Jason Graves.*

# Commentary

## El Salvador - a different perspective

by Glen Johnson

This weekend (I am writing this article on Sunday, March 28) the long-awaited and much-maligned El Salvadorian elections are being held. This article is not concerned with commenting on the validity of the elections or the course of action that should be followed by the West in the post-election period. One can write on such matters only after the balloting is completed. Instead, the subject of this commentary is the lack of objectivity with which many (especially on this campus) view the El Salvadorian situation and, more importantly, how the opponents of the Duarte regime hold to their opinions without examining the alternative - the guerrilla leadership.

During the past month there have been innumerable meetings concerning the El Salvadorian question. Invariably, the speakers at these meetings hold to the "progressive", pro-guerrilla viewpoint; for example, Warren Allmand's speech at the Halifax Library. In addition, one of the university houses has held a "coffee house" in support of "the people of El Salvador" - meaning the insurgents. One

has yet to see a demonstration in favour of the Duarte government or of American policy.

When asked why they sympathize with the guerrillas, their supporters uniformly respond that "the guerrillas are trying to overthrow an oppressive regime". There is no question that the situation in El Salvador is disgusting. Each day one is treated to a steady diet of the day's atrocities in that unfortunate country, and there is no question that the "right" is responsible for many, if not the majority, of the killings. The guerrillas also commit murders, but they are more selective in their choice of victims, the press does not have freedom of movement in guerrilla-occupied areas, and the guerrillas take pains not to leave tell-tale bodies lying about.

One has to make a further distinction between the "right" - the defenders of the old regime and the death squads - and the government of El Salvador. Most of the visible atrocities are committed by the right-wing death squads - groups that both the American and El Salvadorian governments are opposed to. A situation exists where the

government is trying to hold elections while the extreme left and right try to disrupt them. Unfortunately, the "pro-guerrilla" people make the mistake of lumping the right-wing death squads, the United States, and the Duarte government together. The logical extension of this mistake is support for the guerrillas because they are the most "decent" political group in the country.

This assertion is wrong. The senior guerrilla leader, Salvador Carpiro, has connections with the Cuban Communist party extending back more than thirty years. Shafeck Handel, another guerrilla, has ties to the P.L.O., the Cuban Communists and he holds a high position in the pro-Moscow El Salvadorian Communist Party. Another, Joaquin Villalobos, murdered his chief intra-group political rival. These leaders, all of whom believe in violence and are killers, are not the sort of people upon which to build a democratic society. On the other hand, they are doctrinaire Marxists. Finally, these leaders formed the FMLN (the common front) only recently, and only at the insistence of Castro; therefore, even



if they do win, there is a high risk of continued civil war between the leftist factions. A more telling point: when one group, the FARN, tried to leave the Castro common front, its leader Ernesto Sovel was murdered. This faction soon rejoined the common front. One can justifiably ask who really controls the guerrilla movement.

On the other side is the government lead by Duarte. His democratic credentials are impeccable. He was elected president in 1972 and was forced to flee the country by the right-wing dictatorship. Some claim that Duarte is a mere puppet of the old regime. This is untrue. Although he does not have firm control over the coun-

try (who does in a civil war?) he has accomplished his two main goals: land reform and free elections. For those who support democracy, Duarte is the best choice.

Even if Major D'Aubusson's (a former right-wing killer) faction wins today's elections and takes over the government, the government would still have a greater moral claim to rule than the guerrillas because it would be an elected regime. The guerrillas, on the other hand, demand power without the benefit of an election. Canadians would never support a government based on bullets rather than ballots. There is no reason why we should expect others to.