

Editorial/Opinion

A call for responsibility

It's the end of the school year. That's one of those times when you look for some kind of direction - a thread that will trail through the summer to be picked up next fall. And nowhere are the messages more confusing than in the student movement today.

Certainly the advent of CFS on these shores is reason to be more than quietly optimistic for the future. But how useful that added political clout will be, remains to be seen, especially when SUNS (Student Unions of Nova Scotia) was as disorganized as it was this year. The recent incident where SUNS failed to even nominate someone to serve on the student aid Higher Appeals Board is a case in point. CFS-SUNS is going to have to get its act together, and that means lots of hard work, for both student politicians and the ordinary student worrying about having their education yanked out from under them.

But we needn't go as far as SUNS to see an organization where students need to get their act together. A more local organization - the Dalhousie Student Council - comes to mind.

Plain and simple, some of our student politicians have already become politicians in the worst connotation of that word. They don't give a shit about the students who elected them to that wonderful resume-sweetener that is council, and can't be bothered to pay lip service to words such as "responsibility".

It's important that students, when they've run for council and won, fulfill their responsibilities. That means not only attending meetings of council, Senate, and the Board of Governors, but getting involved in the various committees that make the place run. And of course attending isn't enough - students have to be informed, and speak up.

But you can't speak up if you don't show up. One student senator this year, who recently won re-election (but shall remain nameless) not only missed 40 per cent of the Senate meetings, but also half of the Academic Planning

Committee meetings. The Academic Planning Committee is the Senate's most important Committee for students. That's four out of eight attendance, a crummy record in any book, but deplorable for someone elected to office on the trust of the students.

Hopefully next year, students will take a more active role in checking up on their elected representatives, what with performance so crucial these cutback-ridden days. Then, and only then, we might be able to get somewhere, assured that our elected representatives are doing their jobs.

Of course, it eventually comes down to the responsibility of all students to get involved, with the welfare of so many at stake - not only present students, but also future ones. We owe it to us, but we owe it to them as well.

No slur intended

An editorial cartoon which appeared in the December 3 issue of the Dalhousie Gazette last term caused considerable adverse reaction amongst the Muslim community in Halifax and the National Muslim Students Association.

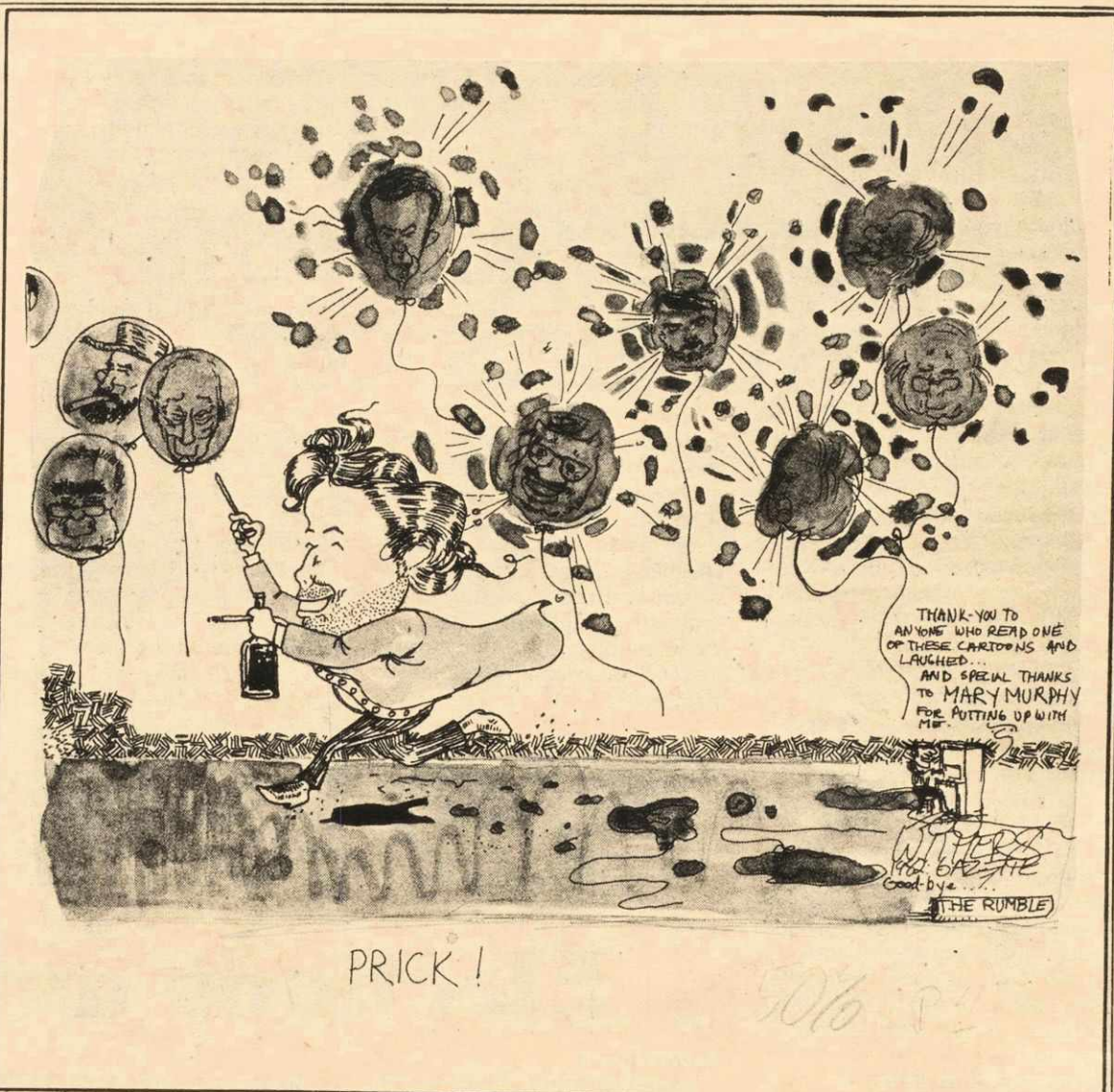
Objections to what was perceived as racist stereotyping of the Muslim people and a slur on the Muslim religion have continued to be expressed, therefore the Gazette would like to clarify its position.

The cartoon portrayed Yasser Arafat, leader of the Palestinian Liberation Organization, and Moammar Khadafi, President of Libya. The cartoonist, Paul Withers, was expressing an objection to terrorism and the actions of these two specific

political figures. During this period there was evidence of a Libyan 'hit-squad' in the United States, whose intent was to assassinate U.S. President Reagan. Also, Arafat had responded to the assassination of Anwar el Sadat, President of Egypt, in a favourable manner.

Arafat says in the cartoon "So after Sadat gets greased, the colonel here decides he's goin' to get Reagan. I say let's wipe out all the Jews on the Gaza strip. Allah be praised. This is the stuff dreams are made of."

The Gazette regrets the fact some people were offended by the religious connotations. A slur on the Muslim people as a whole, or their religion, was not intended.



PRICK!

THANK-YOU TO ANYONE WHO READ ONE OF THESE CARTOONS AND LAUGHED... AND SPECIAL THANKS TO MARY MURPHY FOR PUTTING UP WITH ME.

WITHERS
THE RUMBLE
Good-bye...

Letters

Tone deaf

To the Editor:

I frequently listen to CKDU, and have a hard time getting any pleasure listening to the station. After I've seen some of the CKDU staff around the S.U.B., I find that you have to be a member of the "SUB Nazi Party" to be served by CKDU. I understand that they don't consider themselves as a commercial station, but rather as a station which tries to provide a wide variety of music. But it seems to be a variety of punk alone, and if it isn't punk, it sounds like the soundtrack from "Quest for Fire."

Maybe there is something to their music, but the lack of a safety pin through my ear restricts me from picking up the right frequency.

signed,

A Pinless Ear

Spurred to comment

To the Editor:

The ill-written ravings of Mr. Charles Spurr given such prominence in the last four issues of the Gazette are so beyond rea-

son it seems ridiculous to respond.

However, Spurr's most recent barrage (*Zen and the fine art of cannon fodder*, April 1, 1982) contains such outrageous inaccuracies concerning the federal youth program Katimavik I am compelled to write in its defence.

Katimavik is a unique and imaginative opportunity for young Canadians to step outside the traditional educational system and learn something of life.

For nine months participants live cooperatively with others from all corners of the country, attempting the fine art of peaceful co-existence. Time is spent in both anglophone and franco-phone communities, giving participants an unparalleled opportunity to learn a second language.

Projects performed by Katimavik participants include renovation of historic sites, reforestation, environmental clean-up, and working with people in hospitals, rest homes and schools. Emphasis is on sharing and a conserver lifestyle.

Participants come out of the program with new friends, useful job skills, and, if they choose, a second language. Having lived in three distinct regions of Canada and experimented with many sorts of work, these people are in a better position than most their age to decide how best to build a

satisfying life. They also have \$1000 in their pockets to help ease their way to self-sufficiency.

Anyone interested in the spirit of Katimavik is directed to *Have Them Build a Tower Together* by Katimavik co-founder Jacques Hébert. No-one can read this book without sharing the author's excitement and appreciating his vision of young people actively building a better world.

"...What is needed is not 1,500 Katimavik participants per year but rather 15,000, 50,000, even 100,000 if we were to be bold enough to follow through to the limit of our resources, to the limit of our faith in the young people of this country. And if we go that far...Canada would be a country profoundly different from all others - and from what it is today. It would be a land of love and peace and, in spite of itself, the conscience of the rich countries which, gradually, would agree to be less rich so that other countries could have more. And the North-South dialogue in which we are timid participants might cease to be a dialogue of the deaf."

Romantic, perhaps. But "part and parcel of the state's and monopoly bourgeoisie's preparations for aggressive inter-imperialist war"? "Fascist", Mr. Spurr?

Surely you jest.

M.L. Hendry