

you were saying

CKDU; is there hope ?

To the Editor:

If I am going to pay an extra \$6.50 in student union dues for a Dal radio station I don't think I should have to strain my ears in order to hear it. So far the only thing I've heard is background static. Just once I could hear the D.J.'s full sentence, when I was alone in the Green Room and the heat was off.

Is it that CKDU is afraid to be heard? Does CKDU want to continue its passive voice and not commit itself to the students, let alone the Halifax-Dartmouth area?

I would think a University radio station should speak loud and be progressive in order to represent the spirit and voice of the students. What a great way to have a student voice in the community. CKDU is just another example of the apathy and lack of university spirit at Dal. There is no better way to create spirit than a football team and a D.J. rubbing in the victory. We don't have the football team but we've got the D.J. and nobody can hear him. So jumpin'! Turn it up! Maybe then we'll respond and say "Rah Rah Root Root"!

Sincerely,
John MacNeil

For the elite

To the Editor:

Far be it for a King's student such as myself to tell the Dalhousie Student Union how best to allocate its scarce resources. However, I feel that Dalhousie Students' attention ought to be drawn to certain geographical realities of the Dalhousie Campus, with reference to the proposed "Tupper Lounge."

Lower Campus students allegedly find the SUB facilities inconvenient to use. This is odd, inasmuch as the Tupper building lies a scant 350m away from the SUB. One is forced to conclude that the Faculties of Health Professions share a common paranoia of crossing busy streets.

To place the proximity of the Tupper building in perspective, most of the Life Sciences Centre, together with all buildings along Oxford Street (including Shirref Hall) are 400m away, as the crow flies, from the SUB. Maybe more in need of refreshment are the residences of Fenwick and Ardmore, 1000m and 1500m away respectively.

Not, of course, that one is attempting to imply either that the Council is attempting to provide unnecessary facilities for Medical students, or that these students are too lazy to walk the equivalent of the distance from the A



& A Building to the Arts Centre for luncheon. The Council is merely grooming this elite group for their proper place in society; after all, there can be little value in walking 350m just to associate with other members of the University community.

Yours sincerely,
Peter F. Dawson

Polls flawed?

To the Editor:

Congratulations on making an effort to provide us with coverage of the coming student elections here at Dalhousie. This is certainly an area worthy of accurate reporting by the Gazette.

I cannot understand, however, your purpose in polling a small interest group of highly partisan student politicians. Every other political poll I've seen has sought to present the opinions of a representative sample of the electorate. The poll you printed represents the collective opinion of those who stand to lose credibility if they don't support the team of candidates who are currently their peers in student politics. "These informed people", as you call them, obviously wouldn't support any candidate who would do anything but support the current direction of student politics, which they have orchestrated. Surely you're aware that polls can influence voters: but you weren't trying to influence anybody were you? No, of course not.

But if not, Editor, then why wouldn't you direct yourself and your staff to conduct a proper poll - one of a representative sample of Dal students?

Don't you know that your unfair poll could seriously weaken the chances of the candidates who may perhaps be the best men for the job? Please record my strong objection, adding my name to Janine Saulnier's, the one student councilor whom you said strongly felt that this survey was an inappropriate way to establish how people were reacting to the election.

I am reserving my ballot for the candidates who will oversee a purge of the Gazette, allowing a restoration of the credibility and prestige that should be the hallmark of our newspaper. If the partisan poll you printed is allowed to influence the outcome of our revered elections, then in 1984, we are all *Doomed*; and in the long run: we are *Still Doomed*.

Glad to be graduating,
Hugh Paton

Ed. Note: A quick check showed a full student poll to be beyond our resources. The poll we ran took us over a week to compile. We realize its flaws, but we also explained them.

commentary

by R.F. MacDonald

Anatoly Levitin-Krasnov gave a lecture March 1 in the MacInnes Room in the SUB. The lecture was presented by the Dalhousie Russian Students Association, who provided translation for Mr Levitin.

The subject of the lecture, which was followed by a question session, was the dissident Sakharov and his World View. Mr Levitin, a friend and associate of Sakharov in the indigenous human rights groups in the Soviet Union in the early 1970's, described Sakharov as a man of deep convictions and profound influence. Awarded the highest prize of "Hero of Socialist Labour" three times, Sakharov's contribution to the Soviet people can not be underestimated. Though some have attempted to discredit him as the father of the Russian Hydrogen bomb, it must be remembered that Stalin was

only awarded the same prize twice, while Krushchev and Brezhnev never received the prize.

Mr Levitin spoke of Sakharov's great courage in his human rights stands, and of his great generosity for other dissidents. In recounting how Sakharov sat through eleven hours of Levitin's own trial, the speaker spelled out just how far the dissident would go for other dissidents.

Though the lecture was delivered in Russian, you could not help but notice that Mr Levitin is a man of lively wit and great courage. An expert on the Russian Orthodox church, he is also an important voice in the human rights struggle. Yet he, like Sakharov, exudes the same paradoxical grace; as dissidents, they are the living conscience of a nation. They remained dedicated patriots who are ultimately concerned with the fate of the Russian people, the eventual redemption of all mankind. The exile both men

share is probably the highest possible price they could be made to pay.

Mr Levitin is living testament to human rights abuses in the Soviet Union. His lecture was a good example of the difficulty the West has in dealing with cases like his and in dealing with the Soviets in general. We are constantly reminded that we must deal with the Soviets in a realistic way; they must not be treated like criminals but rather as the legitimate governing body of the Russian people. Yet Mr Levitin is clearly a man of great moral integrity, and he was prosecuted as a criminal, and finally exiled. This miscarriage of justice must be overlooked in the cause of Realpolitik. The sad fact that Liberal internationalism, which attempts to have ideals for all men, stops at the Iron Curtain does not bring any comfort. Hypocrisy is one thing, and resolving suffering is another. Unfortunately Levitin's mes-

sage is lost on the West. We are no longer interested in hearing messages of moral import; we are only interested in expediency and what makes us more comfortable. To think that criminals have their finger on the button is disturbing indeed, and although Mr Levitin never used language to suggest this, one could only come to that conclusion after a little thinking.

Exiles, therefore, are interpreted by the West as disenfranchised doomsayers. Forget they may be Cassandras. What we hear is the broken record syndrome, exiles and activists constantly harping on how awful the Kremlin leaders are. It is to our discredit that we would rather think of Ronald Reagan as a criminal than the Soviets. While there is little basis in fact for this, we find the rhetoric more comforting. We obviously have difficulty recognizing and reconciling interests and evil. It takes someone like Anatoly Levitin-

Krasnov to remind us just how much we don't want to see.

The broken record syndrome ultimately works against the exiles. Since they are exiles, we tend to drop our Liberal internationalism so, since they are Russians, we don't have to consider them our conscience. Thus an external conscience becomes a bit of a nag, eventually we project our annoyance onto them. Perhaps they are criminals after all. They certainly aren't helping East-West relations any. They aren't making things more comfortable and in the West, that's the ultimate crime and exactly how the Soviet government wants exiles to be viewed. *A fait accompli*, I'm afraid.

Anatoly Levitin-Krasnov has an uphill battle ahead of him, and while I do not envy him, I do admire his courage, humility and Christian understanding. It is through him that the Russian people have a conscience, and the West has a hope.