

you were saying . . .

Yank bashing too much

To the Members of the Gazette:

I would first like to qualify myself as a non-Rusky-hater and not pro-American. I don't like Ronald Reagan and I don't like nuclear weapons.

Now with that off my shoulders I'd like to comment on the Gazette's somewhat disproportionate, over-zealous Yankee-baiting. While I don't doubt the truth of any of your articles I am suspect of the fairness of your reporting. The two page report on the Marshall Islands is a good example. It was interesting, true and thought-provoking. Well done.

My question is does the Gazette report equally the atrocities of that other great superpower, Russia. The Gazette's comments on the Korean Air Line incident were woefully tame. In fact you ran a cartoon last week that made the Americans look reactionary when they got "angered" at the death of almost 300 people. I would hate to think what would happen if the Americans gunned down that plane. An extra issue? Certainly it would have been some time before you would have finished venting your anger on that "imperialistic, capitalist" country to the south.

How about for a little balance a story on nerve gas in Afghanistan or General Jarulzelski's boys in Warsaw.

A little advice—incessant harping on the evil of America is not logical, intellectual or thoughtful. It's like the Gazette said, "We're gonna be left-wing and we don't care what happens." That's only one thing—dumb.

Yours,
Michael Klug

Drinking important

To the Editor:

It is usually a lot of fun for a university graduate to return to a campus and feel the enthusiasm and vitality of the students who are there. Many who have been away from universities forget the dynamic qualities of that community. This is one reason why The Afternoon Show of CBC Radio agreed to broadcast from the SUB during National Universities Week. Our goal was to reintroduce the university community to our listeners. I believe we were successful in doing that.

One of the best things about our broadcast was that we let the students express their opinions. During the two hours we were on the air we talked to about 30 different students. These were not people we handpicked, they were people who were in the Green Room at the time.

It is odd that the broadcast was called a fiasco and that we are accused of damaging the image of students. Conversations about religion, the quality of professors and why students go to university can only serve to enhance the image.

Susan McIntyre is quoted as saying that we perpetuated the myth that students sit around on bar stools. Maybe things have changed drastically since I was at university, but the discussions that took place over a beer or two were an important part of that environment. That is why we spent five minutes on the show letting students tell us where the favourite drinking spots are. And if students are not going to bars and drinking, I send my sympathy.

Sincerely,
Ken Wolff
Producer
The Afternoon Show

Nuts to tree staplers

To the Editor:

My name is Charlie Chestnut and I am president of the Halifax chapter of the Wounded, Abrased, and Defaced Trees Association (W.A.D.T.A.). For the past sixty years I have been a pillar of the community, living on the corner of University Avenue across from that new library my old friend Mr. Killiam had named after him. I conduct my daily business of swaying to and fro, making your eyes happy and cooperating with the local canine population.

Lately I have noticed 8-1/2 by 11 multi-coloured bark sheets stapled to our bodies ruining our complexions and our overall good looks. My neighbor doesn't mind anymore. Men in green trucks with yellow lights came and gave him a tree labotomy. A victim of A.T.&T. genocide. A Telephone pole. How can you do this to us? First it was no parking signs and now it's Society

Announcements. Come on staple gun bandits, leave us poor trees alone. Go put them on my late cousin's bark in one of your buildings. Better yet, put those announcements on that disfigured and maimed piece of concrete down the street from me and do all of us a favour! If you don't want your campus to look like a big bulletin board then keep those awful 8-1/2 by 11 pests away from us.

Sincerely,
Charlie Chestnut
Translated from Tree Dialect
to English
by Sheldon A. Phillips

Contention baseless

To the Editor:

This is to draw your kind attention to the article published on the October 6th issue of your newspaper under the caption "Human Rights: Canada offers little shelter".

The article's contention that non-status refugees who arrived in Montreal this summer escaped imprisonment, torture, execution in Bangladesh is totally baseless and unfounded. Same is the case with the contention that people are coming to Canada because guns are pointed at their heads. The most baseless contention is that political oppression has increased in Bangladesh since Martial Law was imposed 14 months ago.

I am sure it is common knowledge for everybody that some people from Bangladesh have been seeking political refugees status in Canada under the guise of being politically oppressed in their own country. The Government of Bangladesh has no objection to anyone seeking resident status in any country but not at the cost of national prestige and honour. I am sure the Government of Canada is fully aware that there is no evidence to support the claims of these refugees.

No doubt that the country is under Martial law and it is also common knowledge that the present Government is a benevolent Government. Periodical reports coming out of recognized International Institutions on Human Rights like the Amnesty International has nowhere suggested that there is any evidence of gross human rights violation in Bangladesh. On the contrary the stage is now set to transfer power democratically to the elected representatives of the people. Local bodies election is to take place in December/January, 1984 and general election will take place in March, 1985. You may like to bring to the attention of your readers that political activity in Bangladesh is not outlawed. In fact, a number of political parties are presently active in Bangladesh and their activity receives due coverage in the National Media.

It is indeed unfortunate that your newspaper should publish such gross falsehood with regard to the social and political conditions in Bangladesh.

Shamsher M. Chowdhury
Counsellor

Boo to Trudeau

To the Editor:

Trudeau is scheduled to receive an honorary degree this Friday at Dalhousie. What has Trudeau done to deserve this? Take, for example, his contribution on the question of world peace. Has Trudeau in the past stood

for peace or is there some reason to believe that he will follow that course in the future? Of course the answer is negative.

Quite recently Trudeau has affirmed his support for the deployment of Pershing-2 and Cruise missiles in Western Europe. Despite this and other warmongering stands the attempt has been made to portray him as a "peace-maker" usually making reference to his 1978 "strategy of suffocation" speech at the United Nations First Special Session on Disarmament. At that time he declared, "What particularly concerns me is the technological impulse that continues to lie behind the development of strategic nuclear weaponry. It is, after all, in the laboratories that the arms race begins." This pseudotheory of Trudeau's is part of a theme promoted by both the USA and the USSR that war is caused by accidents, "technology out of control," or insane people in positions of power. For example, many movies such as "Dr. Strangelove—or how I learned to love the bomb," "Failsafe," or "If You Love This Planet" have come out which promote this view.

This is precisely to absolve the imperialists and social imperialists of blame for war. They regard the production and deployment of nuclear weapons as a means to realize their ambitions for world domination, not as a result of an underlying "technological impulse" as Trudeau would have us believe.

But this pseudotheory is given to convince people that technology alone decides the outcome of war, and futher, that the agreements between the superpowers respecting the development of new technology will bring peace to the world.

Although Trudeau donned the cap of "peace-maker" in 1978 this did not deter Canadian production of components of the Cruise missile by Litton Industries throughout that period. Once against Trudeau is being propped up for a "peace-maker" role on the international scale. Following Margaret Thatcher's warmongering visit to Canada, Trudeau was contrasted to her as being "soft on communism". This drama is now followed up by many statements from the government and media proposing that Canada play a role as a "neutral mediator" between US imperialism and Soviet social imperialism.

It is in this context that Dalhousie Law School will bestow an honorary degree upon Trudeau. But this warmonger deserves no honour, but condemnation by peace-loving people for his consistent warmongering on behalf of US imperialism.

Charles Spurr

Sign out too long

To the Editor:

I have a complaint. I wonder why the sign-out time is so long at the Killam. The recall system is ineffective. It takes at least 2-3 weeks to get a book via this system. I have a remedy. Why not have a sign-out time of 2 weeks which is adequate, thereby eliminating the ineffective recall system and the cost associated with it (i.e.: mailing, bookkeeping). This would make the books available to more people. It does not take one month to use a book, or at least it shouldn't. I have placed a comment on the "board", yet the senior officials feel the recall system works. I wonder how often they have handed in papers that could have been better if the sources were available.

Sandra Louuld

Don't be a pumpkinhead.

Every student at Dalhousie is a member of the Gazette Publications Society. Even if you don't write for us, you can make your statement at our annual general meeting.

We discuss financial matters, review the Gazette constitution, and sip a little brew (coffee that is).

No hocus pocus. This is your chance.

Thursday, Nov. 4

Room 410-412 SUB at 7 pm