

ED/OP

(swimming pool of brown/green water, bedsheets never changed, toilet paper shortage...) but you must be getting the point.

The icing on the cake is the fact that our "resort" was a campground. Had we known this, we would have either gone prepared or booked another vacation. This was not a vacation; this was a test. Had we wanted to be tested we would have stayed home and studied for mid-terms.

Chip and Cleg

Positive Cuba visit

To the editors:

Piotr Trela's letter to the editor (Feb. 27), "Death Please," epitomizes the shallow commentary offered by reactionaries too comfortable to be critically concerned with frivolities like justice or equality.

In Trela's patronizing critique of my article on Cuba's current crisis, he sarcastically suggests a lack of credibility, "because [I] visited a communist country, while [he] only lived in one." Well, Castro is no Jaruzelski and Poland is no Cuba!

Stalin imposed communism on an unreceptive, war-torn Poland while Cuba's homegrown, popular revolution of '59 independently embraced communism in '61 because of a U.S.-imposed embargo. If it is Trela's experience under a self-interested puppet dictatorship in Eastern Europe which gives him the credibility to comment on Castro's benevolent dictatorship in the Caribbean; then, in capitalist, elite-ruled Canada I am an expert on say Paraguay... or Burundi.

I didn't and won't profess to be a Cubalogist. Moreover, I don't buy that conservative academics have a monopoly on interpreting the world as they see it. My impressions as a layperson are based on independent research and humble experience.

I am confident I was critical enough in Cuba to detect the "aparatchiks" he spoke of. In Canada, I know I can identify most unofficial guardians of the status quo—Trela must be commended on his successful assimilation.

In Cuba I was painfully aware of the privileges bestowed upon me as a guest. I also know as white, straight, middle-class guys Piotr Trela and I are granted certain privileges in Canada.

I'll go further than he to say Soviet interest in Cuba was rooted in opportunities to deploy troops in the U.S.'s backyard and proliferate communism throughout Latin America. Cuba's achievements in health, education and technology should not however, be slighted because of Soviet assistance.

Per capita, the West has pumped far more assistance into the South. The vast majority of which is "security supporting," debt payments, or "conditional" in that it must be invested in the West. Essentially this political aid has precipitated economic stagnation, social strife and environmental degradation throughout the region. I unhappily speculate Eastern Europe will be Latin Americanized as these economic (aid) programs are extended to Trela's former home.

I also stated in reference to incarcerated human rights activists, Cuba fails to acknowledge freedom of assembly and freedom of speech. I am concerned about their slow democratisation. I am equally frustrated with our own bourgeois system in

which servile Canadians, once every several years, passively elect political masters who are willingly controlled by corporate interests. By 1959, Cubans were already aware of this phenomenon booing Castro when he offered a return to parliamentary democracy.

I'll have to guess this is the system—which is capitalist—to which Trela opts for wealth when he says, "One has to decide: justice or wealth—you can't have them both (though you can have neither)." As 1000 Canadians a day lose their jobs and three-quarters of the capitalist world lives in poverty, I suggest we, collectively, have neither. As Trela may be mesmerised by a big scholarship in one of Dalhousie's wealthier departments his selective reality may not concur.

I urge him to free his mind from left/right politics, grasp for some objectivity and explore new options based on justice and equality. Trela may be correct to accuse me of being "idealistic," yet I am realistic enough to know such an option won't be achieved in my lifetime partially because of uncritical mindsets like his.

Although Cuba is not my Utopia and has many flaws, it offers hope to many people and countries who want to build something better. Presently, its independence is threatened by stepped up U.S. aggression. I would think most Poles know from experience this sort of intervention sucks.

Alex Boston

Trees lose election

To the editors:

"Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves." (Matthew 7:15)

Could someone please enlighten me on the meaning of the heralded Recycling motive gracing all the candidates' signs? Now, I'll assume, out of pure speculation, that after the elections, the paper used, so liberally, for the campaigns will be collected and maybe even, picked up by the resident recycler. This, however, does not validate the token environmental pretension of slapping on the Recycle sym-

bol, to the smiling mugs that litter the campus walls, of late. The gallons of photocopy fluid enlisted in this, oh so exciting, election campaign would have been better spent quenching the thirst of a legion of gas-swilling junkies, this fine nation over. Not to suggest that the candidates are hypocrites, but perhaps a little too reliant on false pretense and band-wagon politics.

The emphasis should lie with public forum, albeit a few took place, and not on wasteful, tree slaying posters. As integral as they may be to the success of future politicians, the eyesore propaganda that plasters our fair walls, is not

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worth the paper it's printed on, or the subsequent land-rape that ensues. I highly doubt the transition from one lame duck to the next will shudder the foundation of the DSU or the apathetic policies that typify the Student Union. So, impress me with some 'new deal' ideas, and I might even crawl outside to register my vote with the least offensive candidate on the pond. If democracy is the cult of mediocrity, then Dalhousie leads the pack, with some very mediocre politics and politicians, no less. I'd run myself, but prior convictions and a fierce crack habit have seen to that, maybe after the Clinic. Till then, we, the voters, should entertain ourselves with higher aspirations, and attempt to elect a team with an edge, sharp enough to slice away the bland, dull coma, leadership at Dalhousie has seemingly descended towards. If the recent representatives happened to be opium eaters, then the prevailing apathy would have been understandable, if not excusable. Alas, we live in Halifax not Xanadu, and the closets pleasure dome decree is the Grawood! So, having assumed that we have opium free statespeople, what the hell seems to be the problem? Perhaps, not enough of the stuff!

W. Loman

Oh, Lord

To the editors:

The intent of this letter is to set the record straight concerning the cause of the recently perceived rash of bicycle parking problems on the campus. The problem, as interpreted by Mr. Lord, Director of Physical Plant (and Planning!), is illegal parking of bicycles as a result of poor bicycle etiquette. The cause, as interpreted by the Campus Environmental Action Group, however, is a lack of parking facilities for the bicycle. Mr. Lord then followed this rebuttal by parrying with the standard budget cry as a means to evade the instigated retaliation.

What good is more bike racks going to be if they are buried under snow Mr. Lord? You say that you are a frequent bicycle commuter yourself. If this is true then you must park your bicycle in your office in order for you to be so blind to the real cause of this recently noticed problem: the existing bike racks are not efficient at this time due to problems with accessibility, for both locational and design reasons (the current addition to this problem being the large amounts of snow which has made the racks even less accessible). Why is the cause of this problem seen to be the ignorance of the cyclist rather than a lag between physical facilities and the

realities of demand? Yes, there may be a problem with cyclists on footpaths as Mr. Lord suggests, but this is in itself no reason to separate the two modes of travel. If your son picks on your daughter, do you disallow interaction? I think not, you impress upon them the need to develop a peaceful relationship.

The beauty of the situation is that the bicycle is very versatile. The cyclist has the potential to coexist with both the pedestrian and the automobile, and hence one of the reasons for its appeal and proliferation. Your logic for disallowance of bicycles on the footpath could very well be applied to the street, but I hardly think you are an advocate of a complete and separate system for bicycles. We must take advantage of our potentials rather than confining ourselves with costly limits.

At this moment there is no firm and fast physical solution, it is more a question of attitude. Regardless of the pro and con arguments, in relative terms cycling is the fastest growing mode of transportation in most cities in the western world. The "bike" is no longer a recreational toy. It is here and should be considered in the decision making process in a manner that is integrated and well beyond that of placation.

The immediate issue at hand is bicy-

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