

# EDITORIAL

## Bombs do not necessarily win a war

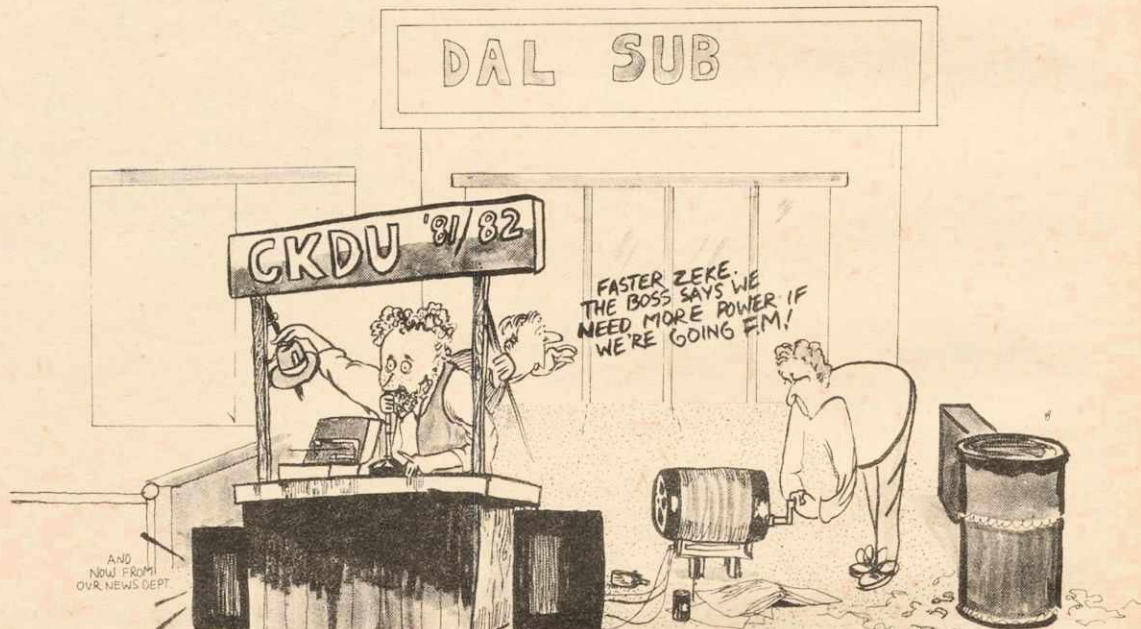
This week in Halifax there was a march. Several hundred, mostly young people, gathered in the Grand Parade to protest American involvement in El Salvador. Marching to Cogswell Towers at Scotia Square, where the American Consulate is located, they chanted slogans like "No more guns, no more war, U.S. out of El Salvador". If the whole scene was reminiscent of the late 60's and early 70's, it could only underscore the seriousness of the present crisis in Central America.

### U.S. recently earmarked \$25 million in aid for the junta

El Salvador is the scene of a bloody struggle in which over 15,000 people, mostly innocent victims, have died in the last 18 months. Conditions in the country for the majority of people are abysmal, while a small minority of rich land owners control government and economy. The present struggle can only be seen as a liberation movement from those conditions. Therefore, it is particularly ironic that the United States, which prides itself on its support for human rights, has chosen to throw its considerable power behind the established oligarchy. Citing communist support for the rebels, U.S. president Reagan and his Secretary of State have chartered a hard line course, and recently earmarked another \$25 million in military aid for the junta. As in so many other internal struggles, like Angola and Chile, U.S. policy seems to be missing the point to the struggles, and compromising the ideals that the American republic itself is based upon.

### Fifteen thousand have died in 18 months

The problem with Reagan and Haig is that they view the world in power blocs, and the idea of a justified national liberation movement takes second place to the larger struggle between Moscow and Washington. Thus, a genuine struggle against oppression, such as the one in Vietnam, was built up by U.S. official propaganda as being essentially inspired from outside the country, i.e. (in those days) Peking and Moscow itself. Despite an unprecedented American expenditure in manpower and money, that war was lost. The lesson was clear: mere numbers of bombs and soldiers by a majority will not necessarily win a war, especially one in which the opposing side enjoys such widespread popularity. It is a tragedy that once again American might is supporting yet another military junta, and will most likely prolong a bloody struggle that has already taken a tragic toll. The crowd at the Grand Parade heard moving and eloquent stories of the atrocities committed against the El Salvadoran people by their government and military, but made clear that the struggle will continue as long as the present conditions exist in that country. It is hoped that more and more people will join protests this summer and help move the American government to a more moderate, and perhaps mediating, position.



## All the news we won't print

It's unfortunate, but some of the most important news of the year will not appear in our student paper. Next Sunday Student Council will carry the Union's six figure budget once more to the scaffold, dangling a noose around the neck of any department they deem dispensable. Whether they will tighten the rope or pardon the guilty and stick the student body with a 13 dollar a head student fee increase is an eventuality the Gazette won't be around to report.

Whether CKDU's funding will bite the dust is also indeterminate for the nonce. Last weekend the council executive was determined to sacrifice our radio station for the sake of keeping fees down. Council members rallied against them, however, and voted to fund CKDU's operating and capital expenses for next year. But while their passion for a campus radio station was high, when the treasurer's calculators had ceased their humming and councillors were confronted with the whopping student fee increase, attitudes seemed to change. How much they have changed won't be clear until next Sunday.

Regardless of what our fearless councillor does, a few (somewhat contradictory points) have come to light: the abolition of CKDU would only result in a four dollars - not a 13 dollar-reduction in Student Union fees; CKDU is an important - and has potential through expansion of its transmission sites to be a more important student service; until a mutually agreeable consultant looks at CKDU's equipment no-one will really know how much it will cost to maintain and expand the station's facilities; the DSU has to look at other means for revenue generation besides student fees; these means can only become clear after a thorough study has been undertaken and an effective strategy has been developed by interested councillors and outside advisors; Student Union fee increases would hurt students and would discredit students attempts to keep down tuition; there are other sacred cows besides CKDU; despite all its evils, a hike in DSU fees may be the best short term remedy for the Union's ails.

There's more news that won't hit the streets: what in our holy saviour's name are the Logans planning on doing with the Student Union next year. As secretive as the leaders of our own provincial government they're refusing all interviews with the press. John Logan has become so publicity shy that he now has an answering service responding to calls in his home! We can only interpret this as fear on their part — fear about the jobs they have ahead of them, the work they'll have to do and the experience they'll never have a chance to acquire. Let's only hope their secrecy isn't a sign of things to come.

It's too bad we have to leave our readers on a cliff's edge about all this, but thus are the ways of the student press. This is our 25th and last issue of the academic year. After this it's final exams, summer jobs and even graduation for some of us. As editor of the paper I'd like to thank everyone on staff for their support in making it a satisfying and enjoyable year. The students, faculty and staff at Dalhousie should also be thanked for their support of Canada's oldest student newspaper. With so much happening around here in the upcoming months we can only encourage you to tune into us next year for all the juicy details.

## the Dalhousie Gazette

The Dalhousie Gazette, Canada's oldest college newspaper, is the weekly publication of the Dalhousie Student Union members, and is a founding member of Canadian University Press.

The views expressed in the Dalhousie Gazette are not necessarily those of the Dalhousie Student Union, the editor, or the collective staff. We reserve the right to edit material for reasons of space, legality, grammar or good taste.

The deadline for articles and letters-to-the editor is noon on Monday.

No unsigned material will be accepted, but anonymity may be granted on request. Letters should not exceed 500 words and must be typed on a 64-character line and double spaced.

Local Advertising is handled by DAL-ADS—the advertising department of Dalhousie Student Union: Tel. 424-6532. Ad copy must be submitted by the Friday preceding publication.

Our office is located on the third floor of the Dalhousie Student Union Building. Our mailing address is the Dalhousie Gazette, Dalhousie University, Halifax, N.S. You can reach us by telephone at (902) 424-2507.

The subscription rate is \$10. per year (26 issues) and our ISSN number is 0011-5819.

EDITORS: CATHY MCDONALD AND GLENN WALTON

NEWS EDITOR: PAUL CREELMAN

PRODUCTION MANAGER: MAURA GREEN

ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR: GLENN WALTON

SPORTS EDITOR: SANDY SMITH

MUSIC MAIDEN: TOM OZERE

COPY EDITOR: MARLENE PEINSZNSKI

CUP EDITOR: NANCY ROSS

PHOTO EDITOR: CHRIS HARTT

OFFICE MANAGER: ARNOLD MOSHER

CIRCULATION MANAGER: JOE WILSON

ADVERTISING AND BUSINESS MANAGER: SANDY MacDONALD Tel. 424-6532

GRAPHICS EDITOR: PAUL WITHERS

STAFF MEMBERS: GREG DENNIS, FRANK MCGINN, JOHN CAIRNS, SUSAN HAYES, GISELE MARIE BAXTER, ANDREW SINCLAIR, ALAN CHRISTENSEN, CATHY MCDONALD, MICHAEL MCCARTHY, ELAINE FRAMPTON, MARTIN SULLIVAN, FLORA MacLEOD, IAN HOLLOWAY, SYLVIA KAPTEIN, KEN FOGARTY, ELLIOTT RICHMAN, GRETCHEN POHLKAMP, P.J. McMANUS, KIM MARCHANT, JOHN DOBBS, PINA DIPIERRO, ROBERT STANLEY, DON PERRY (mascot), and JANINE ROY PAUL CLARK (deposed and lingering student dictator)