

Editorial Page

Junk tops in marketplace next year

Dalhousie's most infamous business consultants have arrived at their investment recommendations for 1981-82. Buy junk. That's right. Junk. It's the most salable commodity on the market today. Chocolate bars, hair dryers for men, light beere, nukes, vallium, the National Enquirer, whoopee cushions, nose warmers, make-up, ban, TM, Chrysler, Loughheed on energy, twinkies, Save Your Life Diets, psychiatry, Donahue, hostages, etc. etc. Junk is the stuff that life in idle and overprivileged society is made of.

The best performer on the market in 1980 was political junk. And among political garbagemen Ronald Reagan of course was king of the trash heap. His greatest success was to take two ideas as polar as rotten egg and apple pie and sell them under one program. Help for the poor and the working classes sold very well with the dismantling of government if they were repeated in the same sentence with Reagan's "America." But everyone knows already about the Reagan travelling monkey show. We're interested in talking about a less publicized brand of political refuse: the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC).

Like Reagan the MPHEC has also tried to sell us apples and oranges in one basket. Like Reagan's product also, the apples are rotten, very rotten.

In a glossy, 60 page French/English report released last week the MPHEC told us how sick higher education was in Nova Scotia. Afterward, they gave us a place to cure it.

The stats, studies and observations they presented us were staggering. They began by citing the Buchanan bible — Atlantic Vision-1990—to pinpoint certain necessary elements in a development strategy for the region. These included the spread of technological knowledge; Research and Development; management training; and labour education. They then showed that a strong post-secondary educational system was the source of these desiderata. Strength in post-secondary education, the implicit conclusion was, is the road to a region.

Next, they showed just how weak is the support structure for Nova Scotia's colleges and universities. While there has been some federal increase in Research and Development funding, provincial funding has declined in real terms in the last four years. Per capita funding for Atlantic institutions is the lowest in Canada. Atlantic university funding has dropped so much in real terms now that tuitions have been jacked up to the highest in Canada while faculty salaries have been held down to the lowest.

The figures sputtered out in this woeful dissection of higher education's malnourished body would make even William F. Buckley cry. There are of course some omissions: first, their view of education was just a bit too industrial. Nowhere is there acknowledgement of education as a vehicle of culture, of personal development, an experience which makes us better human beings. Second, the plight of the student seems to have been forgotten in the report. A participation rate among Atlantic youth in post-secondary education that has dropped to 17% shows that many prospective students simply can't afford to continue their education. Nevertheless, by the time the MPHEC got around to explaining their funding recommendations it had become clear Atlantic universities had more of a case for money than does the average Ugandan desert refugee tribe for water.

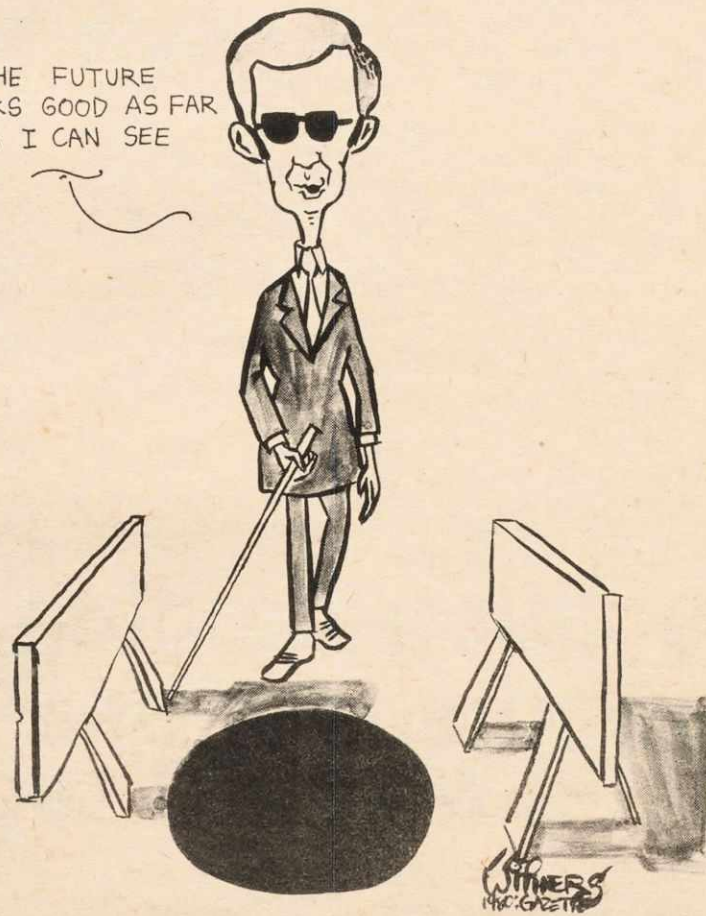
Then a funny thing happened.

As SUNS chairperson Loretta Mullen puts it the MPHEC "wimped out." The MPHEC presented funding recommendations which at the most (and this is very arguable at that) will allow universities to maintain their same position on the death bed... provided they deliver another wounding blow to student pocket books by increasing tuition.

What happened? Did Education Minister Terry Donahoe tell the MPHEC chairman (she apparently doesn't like "chairperson") Catherine Wallace how much to suggest? Or was the MPHEC just too timid to make a recommendation that wouldn't fit in with the government's preconceived political priorities? This question could become more of a subject of public gossip than "Who shot J.R.?"

When all the smoke settles, however, it becomes clear that the MPHEC's junk won't sell the way Ronnie's has. The administrations won't buy it. The faculty won't buy it. Students won't buy it. The public, when they find out, won't buy it. No, not even Dalhousie's business consultants will recommend this kind of junk.

THE FUTURE
LOOKS GOOD AS FAR
AS I CAN SEE



CORRECTION

The second place finisher in the *Gazette's* Annual Poetry Contest was Joyce Rankin, not Joyce Ronkin, as was erroneously printed in last week's *Dalhousie Gazette*.

The *Gazette* wishes to thank Gaelen Gordon of the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design for the two photographs he provided last week to accompany the prize winning poems for the *Gazette* Second Annual Poetry Contest.

VOICES VOICES VOICES

"I now see that Canadian ways are not the only ways and that we can learn so much from another culture if we open our mind and hearts."

—Canada World Youth participant

Some 2,300 Canadians earning more than \$50,000 paid no income tax in 1978, according to statistics Canada. Of these, 96 earned more than \$200,000.

—NDP News Service

In this self-proclaimed enlightened society there still exist some barbaric customs, throwbacks to early times when man was superstitious and largely dependent on an *ad hoc* form of reasoning.

Bad habits are hard to break. Hence we find, in institutions of higher learning, a term of diligent work culminates in rites (writes) of an ancient, albeit misunderstood ritual.

Exams.

—from the Imprint, the University of Waterloo's student newspaper

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.

Editor: Paul Clark

News Editor: Paul Creelman

Production Manager:

Entertainment Editor: Glenn Walton

Sports Editor: Sandy Smith

Features Editor:

Copy Editors: Deirdre Dwyer and 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, S.J. Hayes, Bruce Rae, Gisele Marie Baxter, Andrew Sinclair, Alan Christensen, Judy Pelham, Cathy McDonald, Michael McCarthy, Elaine Frampton, Paul Withers, Martin Sullivan, Flora MacLeod, Ian Holloway, Sylvia Kaptein, Maura Green, Peter McDonald, Ken Fogarty, Elliott Richman, Jenn MacLeod, Margaret Little, Mike Marshall, Gretchen Pohkamp and Chris Young.