

# the Dalhousie Gazette

**Staff this week:**

A.D. Wright  
Elias Letelier-Ruz  
Ginger Ellison  
Geoff Martin  
Ralph English  
Martin Tomlinson  
Chris Morash  
Brenda Newman  
Brian Cox

David Lutes  
Rusty and Dave  
Julie Rosenberg  
Stew Murray  
David Olie  
Peter Robert Jarvis  
Scott Orr  
J. Watson for ckdu  
Moira Matthews

**Editor**  
**Advertising/  
Business Manager**  
**News Editors**  
  
**CUP Editor**  
**Arts Editor**  
**Sports Editors**  
  
**Copy Editor**  
**Gazette/Dal Photo  
Liason**  
**Production  
Managers**  
**Office Manager**

**Catherine Ricketts**  
**Steve McGregor**  
  
**Samantha Brennan**  
**Ken Burke**  
**Bob Morrison**  
**Bryan Fantie**  
**Lisa Timpf**  
**Mark Alberstat**  
**Sibhien MacRae**  
**Peter Kitsihts**  
  
**Elizabeth Donovan**  
**Mark Walker**  
**Judy Steele**

The Dalhousie Gazette is Canada's oldest college newspaper. Published weekly through the Dalhousie Student Union, which also comprises its membership, the Gazette has a circulation of 10,000.

As a founding member of Canadian University Press, the Gazette adheres to the CUP Statement of Principles and reserves the right to refuse any material submitted of a libelous, sexist or racist nature. Deadline for commentary, letters to the editor and announcements is noon on Monday. Submissions may be left at the SUB Enquiry Desk c/o Dal Gazette.

Commentary should not exceed 700 words, letters should not exceed 300 words. No unsigned material will be accepted, but anonymity may be granted on request.

Advertising copy deadline is noon Friday before publication. The Gazette offices are located on the 3rd Floor S1B. Come up and have a coffee and tell us what's going on.

The views expressed in the Gazette are not necessarily those of the Student Union, the editor or the collective staff.

Subscription rates are \$15 per year (25 issues) and our ISSN number is 0011-5816. The Gazette's mailing address is 6136 University Avenue, Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3H 4J2, telephone (902) 424-2507 or (902) 424-2055. The business office may be reached at (902) 424-6532.

## Trick or tricked?

The most interesting thing about Hallowe'en as we know it is the masquerading that goes on at parties, in the bars, in the streets. Hallowe'en is just about the only time of year when it's acceptable to get dressed up as your favourite fantasy. Then, forging forth incognito, you're free to behave according to the dictates of the costume.

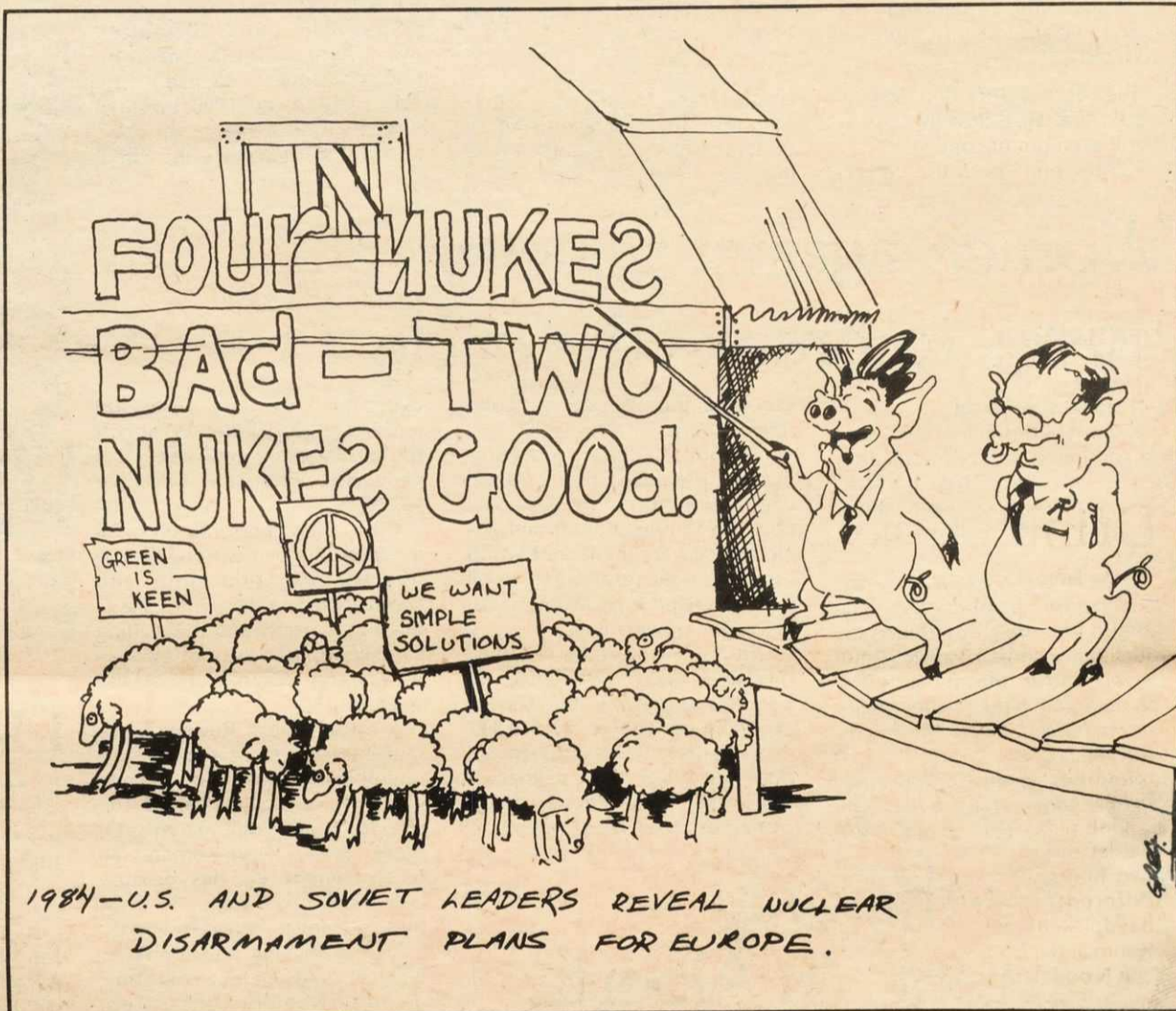
Put on a uniform and assume a sense of authority, adventure. Act the part. Play war games. That's what some students at Carleton University did earlier this year—you can read about it on the centre spread. These guys really got caught up in the spirit of going into the woods and hunting each other down with paint bullets. They're not the only ones who get a kick out of this kind of sport—witness the popularity of assassination games in universities across the continent. Boy, are they fun.

The sad part is this kind of charade spills over into everyday life. You get the big boys in fancy outfits fooling around with big toys and props to promote the military power fantasy. The pins and badges they stick on their uniformed breasts improve the costume and reinforce their behaviour. Real live military manoeuvres are played like a board game. "Let's take over Grenada and Afghanistan." Stats on over-kill are mere points to be tallied. Upon consultation, the team decides, "We can live with 20 million nuclear casualties."

When the peace movement tells the superpowers it's time to disarm, all they're saying is it's time to end the ghoulish charade.

Hallowe'en comes once a year. Take off the military costumes and put away the props before we all become ghosts haunting a perpetual All Saint's Eve.

C.R.



## commentary

# Ethical Reflections on the right to life

Human life has a God-given, intrinsic dignity and worth which must neither be legislated away nor compromised in any society which considers itself civilized. Because of this intrinsic dignity and worth, it follows that all human beings have an inalienable right to life. It is the belief in the human right to life that compels all sane men and women to utterly reject acts of murder. Our judicial system is designed to deal swiftly with those who choose to deprive others of their right to life. In designing such a system, our society has made it clear that the right to life is absolutely inviolate. Yet, is it really respected in practice?

In North America today, one

of the greatest threats to the universal concept of right to life exists in the horror of legalized abortion. Put simply, legalized abortion represents the lawful mass murder of hundreds of thousands of silent, innocent babies. Unlike all other forms of killing, the victims are completely helpless, completely powerless, totally dependent on others for their very survival. They can offer no cry of terror when they are brutally murdered. There is no funeral service in their memory. They are forced from this world before they are even born.

Some pro-abortionists claim that abortion is not murder because the baby is not human until it is born. Yet, this claim is obviously false in light of modern

biology. Dr. Jérôme Lejeune, a world famous geneticist and discoverer of the biological basis for Down's Syndrome, has said, "Genetics shows us that the characteristics of each being, particular traits, the shape of one's face, the colour of one's skin and hair are very precisely defined by the primitive writing contained in the fertilized egg." Human life exists, then, right from the moment of conception. All that the child will ever be is encoded in his genes at the time of fertilization. All that is needed is an environment in which the child can grow—the child's genes will do the rest. The mother's uterus provides the shelter and food, no more.

But what of the unfortunate

women who find themselves in situations where it seems to them that abortion is the only answer. Certainly, society cannot and must not overlook their needs. Neither, however, can society give a *carte blanche* to these women to procure abortions. Yet, that is what has been done. This results are obvious—many thousands of babies have been slaughtered while the mothers face grave physical and psychological repercussions. Sterilization and increased frequency of miscarriages are very real possibilities for women who procure abortions, not to mention the possibility of hemorrhaging and other post-operative complications. Right here on campus, Student Health

acts as an abortion referral agency (according to the Dal Student Handbook) for women in the Dalhousie community. This is hardly serving the best interests of the university community and it does a great disservice to the mothers whom it seeks to help. We do not pay our student fees to help fund an organization which condones and assists in the slaughter of innocent babies.

What, then, can be done for women who are in a position where they cannot support a child? The Home of the Guardian Angels is one solution. It offers a place for unwed mothers to live until they deliver their babies. Subsequently, the

continued from on page 5