

# No more jobs this year

It's time to start thinking about landing a job for the summer. Panic doesn't usually set in until the end of April: after three months of applying for every job you can, you're still unemployed and all that's left are the government grant jobs through Challenge '88. If you had a grant job last summer and plan on it again you can also plan on another student loan. It seems the federal minister of youth, Jean Charest, doesn't have much sympathy.

Charest recently announced that funding for the Challenge '88 Youth Employment Program will remain the same as last year (\$180 million) due to what he calls a healthy economy and low unemployment.

Criticizing this zero per cent increase in Challenge '88, Cana-

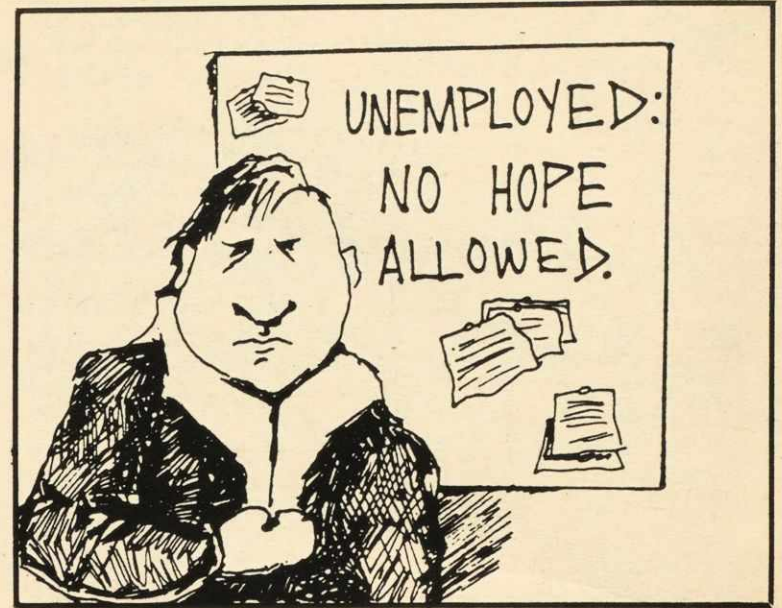
dian Federation of Students (CFS) and the Students' Union of Nova Scotia (SUNS) had a few suggestions for the minister which didn't meet his approval. The idea of a student advisory committee was suggested to help evaluate and improve Challenge '88. Charest's response was, "the last thing Ottawa needs is another committee".

Charest seems to think student organizations are asking too much, and he explained the program was not to provide students with enough money to return to school but "to create jobs that wouldn't otherwise exist".

Another thing about this year's funding of Challenge '88 is more emphasis on potential high school drop-outs (\$4 million more than last year specifically

for the high school component of the program). Charest said since college and university students only account for 6 per cent of the total unemployed, more money should go to the Work Orientation Workshops (WOW) for high school students. This unemployment statistic is misleading since, as Robin Hamilton of SUNS pointed out, to be considered "employed" you only have to work for one day.

Charest said emphasis on WOW is because Canada needs more skilled labour. It's frightening to think that for this reason the Minister of Youth is discouraging higher education. Sure, not everyone should, or even wants to, go to college or university but it's not a choice when you don't have the financial means.



Graphic: Marie Clifford

Including tuition, books, rent, etc., a year at university runs about \$6000. The average grant job last summer was worth \$2141, so to make up the differ-

ence you can either tack on another chunk to your student debt or . . .

Ellen Reynolds

## l e t t e r s

### "Warm Wind in China"

To the Editors and Readers:

I recommend that no one miss Kent Stetson's *Warm Wind in China*.

... Not because it is the powerful new work of a local playwright; nor because the first-class performances are as supple and intense as the theme itself . . . Not just because the play is one of the rare, compassionate explorations of the human consequences of AIDS . . .

But because *Warm Wind in China* is about love.

Stetson's writing is, unmistakably, an act of love.

*Warm Wind in China* told me more about life than I had expected from a story that deals with death. Seeing it is a must for anyone who desires the courage to love and to live.

Nancy Minard

### "Abortion"

"Black and white"

To the Editors:

Abortion is a difficult issue. After reading the article "Forced flight of Newfoundland women to Montreal for safe abortions" in the Jan. 14 Gazette, one might be given the impression that it is not an issue at all but an obvious black-and-white question which has already been resolved, with everyone except a few crackpots firmly on the pro-choice side. By substituting the term "anti-choice" for "pro-life" (which is no more correct than substituting "anti-life" for "pro-choice") the pro-lifers are portrayed as people whose sole motivation is to make life tough for pregnant women.

The pro-life view follows naturally from the beliefs that there is an intrinsic value to all human life and that human life begins from the moment of conception. You might not agree with these, but why should they fill anyone with a "sense of revulsion"?

In any difficult issue, we ought to have some respect for the opinions of others, even when we disagree. Tu Thanh Ha does quite the opposite by refusing to acknowledge the legitimacy of the pro-lifers' way of thinking, as if to say, "You don't have to think any more; it's already been decided."

Dan Peters

### "Warships off Haiti"

To the Editorial Board:

The media have reported that on January 17, last Sunday, an "election" took place in the Caribbean country of Haiti. This is an election which many Haitians have condemned as a fraud in favour of the clique that has governed Haiti for decades.

The past two years have seen an unprecedented uprising among the Haitian people. The fascist dictator "Baby Doc" Duvalier was forced to flee with the help of the U.S. Now the people are being confronted with an "election" in which only those approved by the military are able to run. Therefore, the opposition groups have called for a boycott.

In the midst this, Canadian warships have been sent into the Caribbean, allegedly for exercises but with a well-known contingency plan for intervention in Haiti should there be any trouble for the U.S.-backed regime. The same thing took place two

years ago when two Canadian warships and 35 American warships were stationed off the coast of Haiti during the uprising which forced Duvalier out.

The issue for us is not whether these warships are there for exercises or intervention, by why they are there at all. If the Canadian navy is supposed to be for the defence of our territorial waters, then it should be conducting all of its activities within our waters. The presence of these warships in the Caribbean can only be for the intimidation of those peoples struggling for freedom and progress. The warships must get out.

Charles Spurr

### "Not fair"

To the Editors of the *Dal Dispatch*:

Our club, Gays and Lesbians at Dalhousie, was dismayed at the article by Barry Moore entitled *Ride my Thumb* and its accompanying article that appeared in the last issue of *The Dispatch*.

Firstly, the gays and lesbians at Dalhousie are full-fledged, tuition-paying members of the student community and should not be subjected to tasteless attempts at humour at their expense.

Secondly, apart from the offensive quality of the subject matter, the actual portrayal of homosexuality in an overtly negative manner can hardly be considered desirable or healthy, either for the homosexual or heterosexual population. The perpetuation of stereotypes only serves to undermine serious attempts made to foster a more realistic understanding of homosexuality.

Please try to maintain a more reasonable social attitude in the future when you decide on what you will print.

GLAD  
Gays and Lesbians at Dalhousie

## o p i n i o n

### FOR SALE: Dalhousie student and faculty loyalty

PRICE: \$2

by K. Edward Renner  
Department of Psychology

Clearly hard times have come to universities and with them the temptation to gain revenue in any way possible. The danger, like making a pact with the devil, is of exchanging something of great value in the long run for an immediate profit. I have recently discovered Dalhousie will exchange its student and faculty loyalty for exactly \$2.

This term I wished to use a new book for my Psychology 202 course. The list price of \$45 was too much when added to the cost of the four other required books.

However, the publisher was anxious for adoption and agreed to sell it to the bookstore for \$20.

The usual discount given to a bookstore for textbooks is 20 per cent off the list price, which should have resulted in a \$25 price for my students. In addition, at the request of the bookstore, I negotiated with the publisher to provide in writing return rights for the bookstore for any unsold copies, thus eliminating any special features of this order except the special price.

The bookstore which is under administrative pressure to earn a

profit, sold the book for \$27. One hundred students were taken for \$2 each. Most university bookstores with a captive clientele give students a discount on the list price and are still able to break even: most are regarded as a service and are not expected to use their exclusive control of the market to make a profit by charging a premium.

At about the same time I requested a temporary parking sticker for one day. My car was unexpectedly kept overnight by the garage for repairs and I had neglected to remove my parking permit from the car.

continued on page 7