

Lawyers need knuckles rapped

The incident at the Grawood focuses on a number of phenomenon. First is the fact that the lawyers, being who they are, were let off the hook. Second is the social phenomenon of porn as an integral element of male gatherings. While tribal indications of masculine prowess have been roundly denounced as backward by our more advanced culture does it indicate the pursuit of the tail, by whatever means, in whatever form, as an indication of masculine pursuit suited only to predominantly mascho and/or exclusively male gatherings? Female gatherings, i.e. nurses, librarians, and social workers, seem to have none of these overtones. Lawyers must certainly revere women and have a healthy sexual outlook that they can sit in judgement on every rape case and incident of sexual assault. Commendation to Council for breaking ground on new outlooks to sexuality but granting lawyers immunity from reprimand is unjust.

D. Thomlinson
Halifax, N.S.

You can't keep a good country down

Having given all emotions time to cool off which should make for a sensible dialogue, we thought it appropriate at this stage to clarify a few points to our fellow students and the University's Faculty and Administration regarding the deplorable events which unfolded at the Killam Library last Tuesday, Sept. 13, 1983, leading to the suspension of the talk on Palestine by Mr. Abdullah Abdullah.

It is our sincere intent to clear any residue such an episode may have left in the eye and mind of our fellows.

Perhaps the main objective of this communiqué is to reiterate that those who provoked the incident are only a few individuals and in no way represent the whole Lebanese community.

While one may understand the emotional motives behind their actions, their resorting to violence will remain unjustified by any standards. It is only factual that such actions do not help the Lebanese cause, especially since they reflect a false image about a country which, since its inception by the Phoenicians 6000 years ago, has been a symbol of dialogue and open-mindedness. The same people who conceived the alphabet and taught the world the art of communication and trade, cannot be dismissed as oppressive. These



Chandimal Nicholas, whose parents are graduate students, enjoyed his apple-picking trip sponsored by the International Students' Co-ordinator. About 46 students went for the day-trip. In addition to picking apples and blueberries, the group learned about the interesting technology of bee-keeping.

same people, led by Maronite Christian Congregations, brought the first Arabic bookpress to the Middle East, and heralded the freedom of the press in the Arab world when their own country was under the oppression of Ottoman occupation. Now more than 164 independent publications find their way to the magazine racks of frequent corner kiosks along Lebanese streets.

Centuries old universities which train Middle East leaders in science, business and politics, were founded in an era when the mere thought of University level education was non-existent in that part of the world. It is only fit to mention that a few from Lebanon can claim to have saved the Arabic letters from dwindling, a further indication of the Lebanese love for free education.

The people who brought about such great achievements are now victims of their commitment to democracy and freedom of speech, a commitment that a decade of the bitterest conditions did not succeed in effacing. Until this instant, the Lebanese Parliament is still operative and no decisions at any level are made without the consent of the Majority.

Lebanon's free economic system, free press and free education remain unique among Middle East nations.

Dwelling any further in this respect can only make the list longer. The message, however, should be clear: the actions of a few individuals must not and will not be permitted to tarnish our long cherished traditions of commitment to democracy and freedom of speech.

It is that very commitment that is costing the Lebanese so dearly by forcing them to play host to other nations' wars, and falling victims to other peoples' violent conflicts of interests.

You cannot keep a good country down!

Ghassan Tayoun
(Dal Alumnus)
Sept. 20, 1983

Commendations all around

We would like to comment on last week's mid-term review of the President and Vice-President. We very much appreciate your reporter's positive comments on the way things are shaping up, but feel we should point out the great contribution made by persons other than ourselves. Many of the initiatives taken this year have come as a result of hard work and commitment on the part of the number of students.

The changes on the positive side made in Student Aid Regulations were a result of intensive lobbying by students from every Nova Scotia university. So too, our ultimate success in increasing the job creation programme was a result of the efforts of all members of the Students' Union of Nova Scotia.

The Student Union's orientation effort was only successful because of the time and effort put in by the Orientation Committee, residence students, staff and others. We were greatly encouraged by the spirit and sense of community displayed by the participants.

We have responded in this way to your article because we feel that in some ways it does not recognize the contribution made by the many. We truly feel that never has so much positive been said about so few because of the efforts of so many.

Sincerely,
Tim Hill & Susan McIntyre

commentary

On university life and the development of neuroses

by David G.C. McCann

"Growing up" in today's university has a peculiar tendency to cloud one's clarity of vision. Perhaps one's wit may become keener, one's tongue sharper, or one's viewpoint more "informed", but one's perception of objective reality almost inevitably becomes dull and incongruous.

After all, it is a simple matter for a discerning eye to separate new students on campus from "seasoned" upperclassmen and faculty -- most of the latter being quite obviously neurotic. In fact, after some five years' of observation, it appears that the number of neuroses an individual exhibits is directly and positively correlated with the number of years spent in university. While this hypothesis would be difficult to prove conclusively, substantial circumstantial evidence does exist to

support it. First, clarification of the term neurotic is in order. Basically, in laymen's terms, a neurosis is the inability to take a rationally objective view of life. With this definition in mind, one can proceed to observe the progressive development of neuroses in almost any Frosh throughout his/her undergraduate years (Grads students are extremely complex entities beyond the scope of this article).

Of course, the type of neurosis to which any given Frosh will be prone depends to some degree on the choice of university discipline. Science students, for example, run the risk of falling prey to empiricism. They are trained to believe that anything of value in the universe can be quantified and completely described by the careful application of the scientific method. Anything which does not readily lend itself to direct observation, measurement and thus quantifi-

cation is relegated to the nebulous, irrelevant area of metaphysics. Such a view of the universe is unquestionably neurotic. Thomas Dolby's recent hit single "Blinded by Science" speaks quite eloquently of the effects of this neurosis.

Behavioural Psychology offers another example of discipline-related neurosis. Students of this subject are often trained to think of human beings as merely a mass of conditioned reflexes. As a result, these students can easily succumb to a philosophy known as reductionism -- that is, the erroneous view that any complex system can be totally understood in terms of its isolated parts. Thus, human beings may be reduced to nothing more than higher primates with increased cerebral development and more sophisticated programming. Once again, such a misunderstanding of reality is incontrovertibly neurotic because it denies the objective reality of the intrinsic dignity and

worth of human beings.

Another dimension of university life which leads many Frosh to develop neuroses is residence life. Young, impressionable men and women in their late teens are often subjected to overwhelmingly degradative experiences at the hands of upperclassmen. Frosh see upperclassmen continually drunk throughout Orientation and come to accept and emulate this behaviour as the status quo. In fact, Frosh face rejection by their peers if they fail to "measure up" in a drinking contest. Then, of course, there is the matter of sexual ethics. What is a Frosh to think when he/she comes to university and sees the all-pervasive sexual promiscuity rampant on campus? For many of these young people, this is their first time away from home. They come equipped with moral beliefs which soon come under fire by upperclassmen as anachronistic. The Dal Student Handbook has set aside an

entire section to deal with contraception, V.D. and other related sexual matters, ostensibly for the good of Frosh. With such an emphasis on sex in an official handout, once again the Frosh is led to a neurotic way of thinking and behaving: "Since everyone is taking advantage of everyone else, shouldn't I get in on the action?"

These are just a few examples of the adverse psychological effects university can have on Frosh. A university is supposed to be an environment to nurture all that is good in its constituent members, not a place to debase and degrade young people. Perhaps it is time that the university take a more critical view of itself, in order that it may better serve its newest members. At the very least, young Frosh must be taught not to automatically accept everything they hear from professors and older fellow students. They must learn to separate wheat from chaff.