

EDITORIAL

Everything you wanted to know, but were afraid to ask

It's been quite an eventful week. Shareholders in the world's stockmarkets have struggled back from the brink of economic ruin; Margaret Thatcher has refused (yet again) to take sanctions against South Africa; over a ton of explosives were discovered in a farmhouse in County Tyrone, and Reagan probably dropped a ton of explosives on a couple of Iranian oil rigs in the Gulf.

Pretty depressing stuff, eh! But no real surprises. Although economic experts had been predicting this "correction" for years, no one really expected a repeat of the 1929 Wall Street crash. Still, look on the bright side. At least stockholders have a sense of humour -- albeit a rather macabre one. "If any of you are thinking of throwing yourselves out of windows", said one, "I'd like to remind you all that we're on the ground floor."

And, let's face it, no one really thought that Margaret Thatcher would do anything constructive about the situation in South Africa. Though she frequently adopts a high moral tone when discussing human rights infringements in Libya, the USSR and Afghanistan, she won't impose sanctions on a country which represents a healthy economic investment for many British businesses. Despite objections from other Commonwealth countries, Thatcher still insists that such a move would be harmful to the black majority. It seems strange that a woman who repeatedly makes stands "on principle" can tacitly support a government that stands as a monument to apartheid. Even though black leaders have appealed to the British government for help in the form of sanctions. Margaret Thatcher apparently knows what is best!

And the news that the British Army foiled a planned IRA offensive after discovering over a ton of high explosives, only served to illustrate the fact that the "troubles" are far from over. How many more people are going to be maimed or killed in a struggle that has been misrepresented for centuries? Very few North Americans -- whether they subscribe to NORAID or the Orange Order -- have any idea about the realities in Ulster. Yet these same individuals are more than willing to give their verbal and financial support to organizations that prolong the agony.

If Northern Ireland is becoming Britain's Vietnam, it looks like the Gulf has the potential of becoming another permanent arena of involvement for the U.S. military. A report prepared by Reagan's top military advisors stated that the United States is coming perilously close to being drawn into a Gulf war. Though most Senators greeted the news of Monday's air strike with approval, many voiced concern over the long-term implications of such an action. "Rambo" politics might impress the American public, but it isn't a realistic response to the situation in the Gulf. Worse, the Iraq/Iran war may be the catalyst for a conflict involving the super powers.

By MARK STEVENS



Mugwump

By ERNEST DUNPHY

Journal

Jane Arnold has successfully carried out one of her promises. She had promised entertainment and she has delivered. She also picked a good person to head up the committee in Tim Judah. Tim is the person who has been responsible for the recent concerts on campus and the FREE movies on Tuesday and Wednesday. Tim is doing a great job, but I feel that he should realize that not all criticism is critical.

Next week is engineering week, a time when all engineers party and promote comradeship between engineers. Highlights of the week will include the crash and bang of the fabulous coaster derby, and maybe, just maybe, the triumphant return of Lady Godiva.

This event would certainly anger women's groups on campus. The same groups that remained silent while male strippers appeared here.

Picture this. It's fall of 1990 and the 1985/86/87 yearbook has just arrived as promised by the Student Union. It seems that it just may be 1990 before you see the 85-87 yearbook, but at least they are working on it, which is more than you can say what the Student Union Inc. did about it.

Did you know the general membership of the Social Club, all twelve of us, elected two new directors, Paul Murray, and our advertising manager Bill Traer. One of Bill's first motions on the B.O.D. was to give senior citizen discounts, but it was thrown out after it was decided that Bill had a conflict of interest on the issue.

The AUAA's Field Hockey Championships are held there this weekend. Make it a point to get out and cheer for the Red Sticks. They are a fine team and deserve our support more than some other teams do.

Also this weekend is the big game, CHSR vs. the Brunswickan, in the annual Media Bowl. The stakes are high, one page vs. one hour of air time - we feel we're getting the short end of the stick. Both teams are taking the game seriously too, as CHSR has been seen practising basketball very hard (no one told them the game is football). We held a big team practice Wednesday night which included weightlifting (12 oz. curls).

Good news, next week I'm not going to write this column, since I will be in Halifax for an extended weekend. That means, yes, there will be verbs, adjectives and pronouns.

The Word of the Week is:
CRETINISM: a state of mental defect associated with bodily deformity or arrested growth - see CHSR staff.

P.S. - the tentative exam schedule is out.