

## Cutbacks

You will notice throughout this issue extensive coverage of how governments are treating post-secondary education in this region and across the country. You will notice also the energy with which students everywhere are organizing to respond to the direction being taken by the governments.

It takes little research or analytical investigation before it becomes quite clear that there is a monolithic crisis facing the nature of our education, its accessibility and its future.

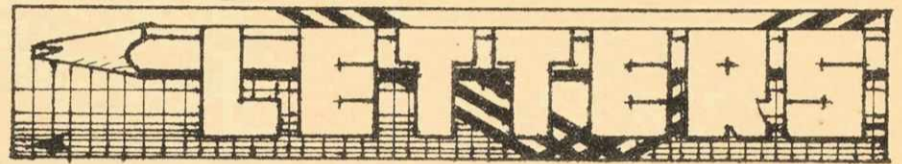
The foreboding severity of the crisis, as expressed at an AFS meeting amidst a call to organize, poses an implication we cannot ignore. The trend taking place across the country that we in the Atlantic are experiencing for the second year points undeniably to conditions that demand increased mobilization and dynamic opposition.

We have heard from governments and we have seen their commitment to misdirected restraint and irresponsible priorities. Last year students refused to accept government cutbacks. And they did so loud and clear with a 2,000 strong display of protest. The government then immediately found extra funds to keep tuition hikes at a minimum.

Students in the Atlantic have been somewhat ahead of others in the rest of the country because we have experienced massive cutbacks and the necessity to respond once before—exactly this time last year. The fact that students here, as a result of last year's organizing, have been more prepared to monitor and respond to government activities is our greatest mobilizing tool.

We cannot afford to lose our momentum. Our commitment to active opposition must not be dissipated by government rhetoric. Our education is being eroded and put out of reach for many of us. The responsibility to respond with creative energy and strength is again upon us.

Yes, a protest rally is the next logical step. It is time to get on it.



## An affair to remember

To the Gazette:

On behalf of the International Students Association, may we take this opportunity to thank the people who have helped us during the year and also for organizing our annual event "A Global Affair".

We thank Dean Marriott for taking a keen interest in the affairs of the international students. Harvey MacKinnon, the Overseas Students Coordinator, has been very helpful to us. We are grateful to Valerie Mansour and the entire staff of the **Dalhousie Gazette** for helping us publicize our activities and for championing the cause of international students. We thank Mike Wile and the CKDU staff for helping us run an International Variety Show.

The highly successful "A Global Affair" would not have been possible but for the hard work and expert guidance of Fiona Perina. We are indeed very grateful to her. We thank Debbie Rakos for helping us in many ways. We are thankful to the Student Union and the SUB staff for their help.

A number of international students have worked very hard during the year. These include: Raj Sauara, Mustapha Basso, Negasa Tumra, Chiyomi Mizuno, Spencer Lai, Maria Beecher and Kamal Chopra. We are indeed very grateful to all of them.

Yours sincerely,  
Uday Jain  
Masahiro Ieki  
Assefa Desta

## Propaganda?

To the Gazette:

The announcement in the March 9 **Gazette** that Mr. Abdullah Abdullah, Director of the Palestine Section of Ottawa's Arab Information Centre, would "explain" the problem of Palestinian-Israeli relations before the Dalhousie community on March 16 initially prompted this letter. The latest terrorist raid in Israel by the

self-proclaimed "freedom fighters" of the Palestine Liberation Organization, which he apparently supports, compelled it.

Several times in recent months **Gazette** readers have been privileged to read long letters and summaries of speeches by Dr. Ismail Zayid of the Dalhousie faculty purportedly providing serious, not to say objective, accounts of Israel's decades-long oppression of Palestinian Arabs. Some of these letters have been answered by informed persons. I myself have considered replying but could not compose a sufficiently brief letter to answer the numerous distortions of fact in Dr. Zayid's analyses. Nor do I feel the letters column of the **Gazette** or any other newspaper to be an appropriate forum for settling complicated historical issues. Suffice it to say here that those persons sufficiently concerned to read truly serious histories of Palestinian-Israeli relations will reach conclusions considerably different from those offered by Dr. Zayid and, based on the March 9 **Gazette** article, Mr. Abdullah.

The fact that other uninformed persons in the Halifax area will nevertheless continue to imbibe the crudest kind of propaganda from apologists for the PLO reflects the pervasive ignorance throughout North America of the real history of Palestinian-Israeli relations. Perhaps, however, the PLO's latest and most impressive military conquest of unarmed men, women, and children will suggest to at least some of them that the issues involved are considerably more complex than Dr. Zayid and Mr. Abdullah would have us believe.

Howard P. Segal  
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## Evans is odd

To the Gazette:

I was amused by Mr. Evans' article in the last issue of the **Gazette**. It seemed at first unnecessary to respond to Mr. Evans'

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## the dalhousie gazette

The **Dalhousie Gazette** is the weekly publication of the Dalhousie Student Union. The views expressed in the paper are not necessarily those of the Student Union, the editor or staff. We reserve the right to edit material submitted for space or legal reasons, or if considered offensive to our readers.

The deadline for advertising is the Friday noon preceding publication. Articles and letters are due Monday noon. No unsigned material will be accepted, but anonymity, if necessary, will be granted. Letters should not exceed 600 words, and must be typed if more than 100 words.

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