

efficient, they are only damaging the quality of post-secondary education — irreparably if the cutbacks continue.

The current issues in the strike debate are largely matters of principle for the DFA, the real problem is the provincial government's attitude towards this university and post-secondary education in general. Whether or not there is a strike, we must support the DFA now because to support the faculty is a step in the direction of changing the administration's diplomatic tact with the provincial government, of changing the way the board conducts itself, and in changing the government's attitude towards the necessity of adequately funding accessible quality post-secondary education.

President McKay must abandon his quiet diplomacy, his policy of appeasement, and must go to the people of Nova Scotia and present the university's case. He must seek public support to make the government aware that it cannot ruin higher education as we know it in Nova Scotia and survive politically. He must do this or step down and make way for someone who will. The government will change its priorities if it is aware that there is popular support for maintaining Nova Scotia's universities. This is why we must now support the DFA. Our future depends on it.

Martin Tomlinson

Injustice close to home

To the editors,

In the past year and a half of publication, the *Dalhousie Gazette* has featured numerous stories dealing with the abuse of civil and human rights in countries all over the world. While these concerns are admirable, students may feel extremely detached from events which are geographically distant. There is, however, a situation of injustice which Dalhousie and, in fact, all Canadian students are close to and can affect a great deal. The situation involves Bruce Curtis, a Middleton, Nova Scotia student who is presently serving a twenty-year sentence in a New Jersey youth detention centre for aggravated manslaughter.

Curtis was convicted after a shooting incident in the home of a friend with whom he was staying in the summer of 1982. The home in question, that of Scott Franz, his mother and stepfather, was described in the court proceedings as a "tinderbox". The stepfather was a man of violent temper who beat his wife and had fired a shot at Franz during the time that Curtis was staying there. The two young men armed themselves for protection and were planning to leave the home. Curtis, an honours student who hated guns and had never used one before, must have been extremely traumatized by such circumstances.

The morning of the day on which the two were planning to leave, Curtis awoke on hearing

shots from the upstairs, ran for the door to flee the house but met the mother in the kitchen. The gun Curtis was carrying discharged, as he claims, accidentally (something it did again during the court proceedings) fatally wounding the mother.

During initial investigations, Scott Franz corroborated Bruce's story and also stated that he, Scott Franz, had shot his stepfather in self-defence. During the trial, however, when it had been discovered that this latter account was untrue and Franz had murdered his step-father, Franz turned State's evidence against Curtis claiming that Curtis had masterminded the killings. This turnabout was accompanied by a successful plea-bargaining for a reduced sentence for Franz by his lawyers. The court refused to hear the arguments of certain points in Bruce's lawyers' arguments, and sentenced him to the maximum twenty-year sentence for a first-time offender. Two subsequent appeals have been refused by the courts of New Jersey and the only option left is a costly appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court. Not only are the American officials unwilling to reconsider the case but, also, Canada's government refuses to aid Curtis, citing international agreements of non-interference as reasons.

Bruce Curtis was registered to be a student in the faculty of Arts and Sciences at Dalhousie but is now forced to pursue his education by mail and through a community college, all the while living in the shadow of what many consider to be a grossly unfair sentence. Any student who has ever felt outraged at an abuse of an individual's rights internationally can now think of a Canadian, Nova Scotian and Dalhousie student who is suffering injustice at the hands of the New Jersey judicial system. Such organizations as the Student Union of Nova Scotia and Canadian Federation of Students as well as students in general should take it upon themselves to make their concerns known to both Canadian and American officials concerned. More information can be acquired by writing to the Bruce Curtis Defence Committee, P.O. Box 1396, Middleton, N.S., B0S 1P0. If a potentially powerful force such as the university students of Nova Scotia and Canada shows that it is dissatisfied with flagrant abuses of civil rights, Bruce Curtis may get the justice which he has not yet received.

Hans Budgey,
2nd year BSc.

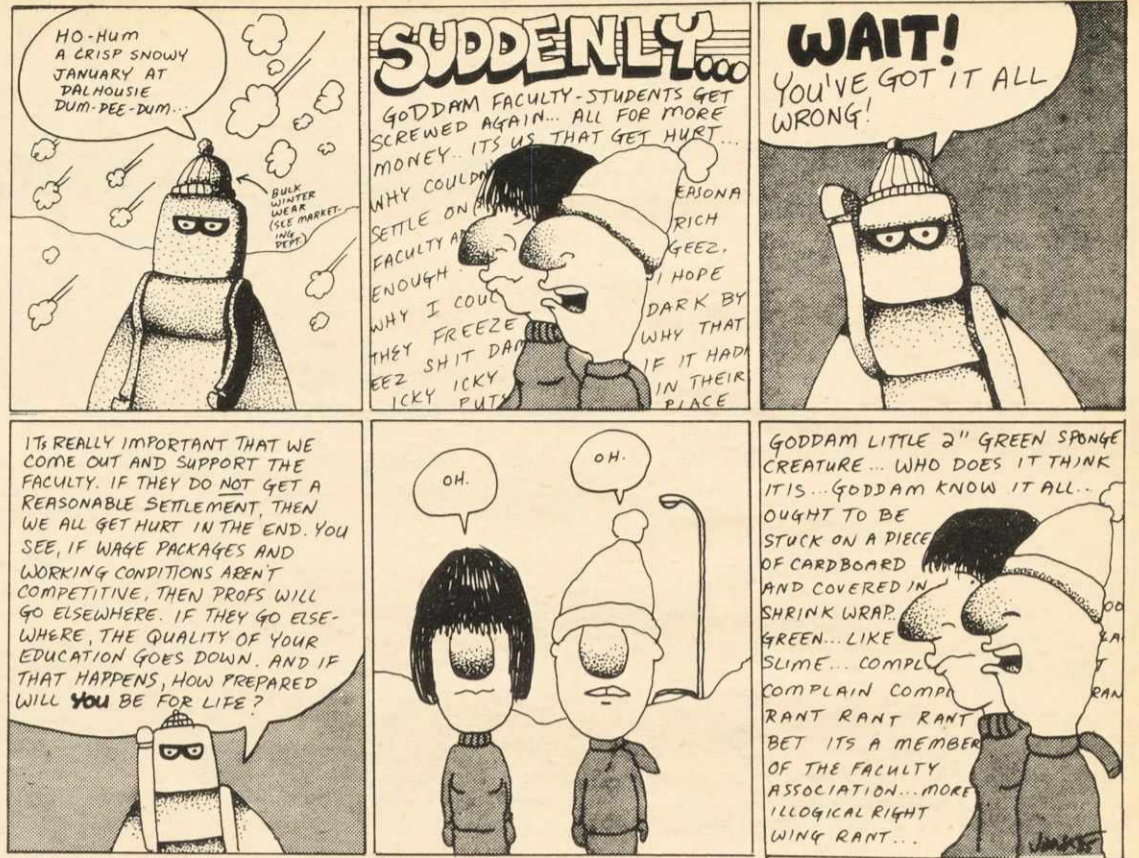
Bioresources responds...

To the editors,

I would like to respond to the letter headlined "Gazette Should Boycott Bioresources" to the editors from P.F. Dawson and A.L. Penny, published in the Nov. 15 issue of the *Dalhousie Gazette*. I am particularly concerned with several inaccuracies and misconceptions expressed by the authors of this letter.

Bioresources is a small and highly specialized laboratory whose purpose is to produce high quality diagnostic and therapeutic blood

The return of the Incredible Bulk



plasma products for eventual use in hospitals and other medical facilities throughout Canada. Five years ago Canada was totally dependent on foreign supplies for essential anti-rabies and certain diagnostic immune serums. Bioresources is now capable of producing sufficient Rh, Rabies and diagnostic plasma to meet Canada's current needs.

Bioresources has a small, carefully selected group of donors who participate regularly under highly supervised conditions. Bioresources employs highly trained medical professionals who provide a superior level of donor supervision and care. Due to the regular nature of their program, and the amount of time required for weekly participation, donors are paid a small honorarium in consideration for their time and out of pocket expenses for travel.

Bioresources does not compete with the Red Cross. Both utilize a medical procedure known as plasmapheresis where plasma is extracted from whole blood and the blood cells are returned to the donor. We use the procedure to produce different plasma products for different medical, diagnostic, protective and life-saving reasons. Bioresources supports the outstanding efforts of the Red Cross Blood Transfusion Services and related programs. Our donors are free to participate in Red Cross programs if they choose to do so. Our small donor group does not adversely affect the success of the broadly based Red Cross Donor programs.

Bioresources conducts a modest, highly selective advertising program which is directed at groups of individuals who will most likely provide the plasma which is required for this highly specialized program. The overriding objective of this advertising program is to obtain the participation of dependable, low-risk donors so as to assure maximum quality and safety of health-care products produced in and for Canada.

We are pleased to state that Bioresources has received objective, factual coverage in major newspapers and on several television and radio programs. When approached, Bioresources has readily complied to provide full and complete details

of program procedures and the essential medical use of our products.

We must assume that the highly emotional and inaccurate statements contained in the Dawson/Penny letter are either a result of misinformation or a premeditated bias. To the best of our knowledge and records, neither of the two authors have ever contacted Bioresources staff or management to determine the facts.

I sincerely hope that this letter helps to clarify the situation.

Yours truly,
Theril R. Andrews
General Manager

Bursting!

OUR LETTERS SECTION IS just bursting at the seams. We're doing our best to squeeze them in, but some are being held back until next week. Keep those cards and letters coming anyway...

Congrats on Arts and Expression

To the editors,

Congratulations and thanks to all the contributors featured in last week's special Arts & Expression Supplement of the *Gazette*. The quality of the works involved combined with the *Gazette's* careful, clean layout made the supplement worth collecting. Hopefully, such a successful co-operation between artists on campus and our newspaper can continue.

By a pleasant coincidence, Oxfam and DSU's Sabia concert coincided with the arts and expression supplement; it was nice to hear music and messages from the skies. Sabia's music brought to their audience the spirit and solidarity of Latin America.

Lesley Choyce, take heart, there are saints being heard out there, yet.

Lyn Kerans

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