

opinions

Blacks on Black

It is with both elation and apprehension that I am preparing the final draft of this introductory article. As anyone who has attempted to organize their thoughts on paper knows, the final draft is always a cause for celebration.

Added to the festivities is the understanding that this column will be shared with other Brothers and Sisters attending this university.

So why am I apprehensive? Perhaps if you are perceptive, you have already figured it out. Above I have written Brothers and Sisters. If I had written Sisters and Brothers, the basic concept would have and will remain the same.

Within the Black community of North America there is not only tremendous diversity in our skin colour and physical structure, there is also a wide variety of ideologies and levels of consciousness. Yet despite our differences, there remains within many of us a sense of family, and this is why we call each other "Sisters and Brothers".

To many students and readers, this column may appear to be racist

because it will exclude non-Blacks. Although it is not appropriate to this introduction to defend our reasons for excluding non-Blacks, it should be noted, that there is ample room in this paper for non-Black groups who wish to express their opinions.

If as a nation we are ever going to stop racism, we must clearly define racism, and openly address the ramifications of racism, considering that most non-Blacks do not understand the Black experience in the Americas and Africa, we offer this column as a step towards understanding.

This limited space is for Blacks and Africans, about Blacks. We look forward to the ideas, comments, discussions, and actions that may arise from this column. Open your eyes and mind, close your mouth and THINK.

This is a university, and as students we should all demand that our minds and the status quo be CHALLENGED!!!

Know the Truth, peace.

Sean Flynn Foy

fewer faculty and staff members through attrition and layoffs. No doubt, it will not mean that privileged administrators will lose their jobs and hefty salaries; for one thing they are too busy administering the cuts!

Last year the Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) launched an important "Freeze the Fees" campaign. Many protested the fact that our tax dollars are being wasted on buying (and using) military hardware (such as the current proposal to buy 50 helicopters for a whopping \$4.4 billion!), instead of improving the lives of the majority of people in Canada. We emphasized how racist, sexist and elitist tuition hikes are in effect.

The strength of the campaign came through its activist, mass mobilization orientation. For example, approximately 1000 pissed-off students came out to the Board of Governors (BOG) meeting at which the tuition hike vote was to be taken. Its weakness was one of analysis. Clear on some things, the campaign failed to foresee and argue that however reasonable and exhaustively our case was presented, the BOG would remain true to the class interests of its members, which include many prominent business people from the region. As a result, the campaign underestimated the amount of pressure required by students to defeat the administration's Tory agenda - one that demands workers and the poor in general pay for a recession we did not create.

If in order to keep education accessible and relevant students must use tactics such as occupation (as students in Britain have done) then so be it. To defeat the proposed fee hike for next year we need greater numbers and greater defiance. We should be as intransigent as the BOG showed itself to be last spring. It appears they need reminding that education is a right, not a privilege to be held by the rich alone. It is vitally important to recognize that tuition is essentially a user fee charged on services already financed by our tax dollars.

Students need to be prepared to act.

We should discuss and learn the lessons of last year's campaign, as well as the struggles of other students elsewhere. For it is up to us, along with sympathetic faculty and staff, to defend the rights of all students against an institution and system which be-

comes increasingly inaccessible, elitist, white, straight and male.

Paula Cornwall, part time student and member of Dal. International Socialist Club and Kelli Meagher

Letters continued

Lessons to be learned

To The Editor

The quality of education, including its accessibility, continues to slide down the drain. Over the past two years, tuition at Dalhousie has increased by 37.5%. It is slated to increase 10% again in each of the following three years. Altogether this amounts to an 83% tuition hike in five years time - to

be instituted despite the ever rising cost of living, a massive decrease in student employment, and a largely unaltered, wholly inadequate funding system for education.

Though enrollment at Dal is said to be way up, no improvements are evident from this new money. Moreover, universities in Nova Scotia, in conjunction with the provincial government, are devising a plan to "rationalize" various programs offered in common. This means fewer available classes at a time when many are already ridiculously overcrowded, and hence

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