

# EDITORIAL

## Terry Fox and the politics of cancer

Terry Fox lives on in the memory of Canadians for his struggle and courage in face of that which causes fear and pain in the hearts of everyone, cancer. Last Sunday's Terry Fox Day was a celebration, a time when Canadians joined together in a rare show of community solidarity to fight a danger we all have in common. The 16,000 Nova Scotian runners and multiples of people who sponsored them must have felt a rare warmth and strength. Yet as we hope that the millions of dollars that go to cancer research will do some good, it should be remembered that research is not the only answer. Cancer is not totally a faceless, nameless evil predator lurking at the back door. It is sad that there are political and social causes of cancer that do not need medical research to prevent, but rather need more of the concern for fellow human beings that was shown last Sunday.

A pamphlet was distributed by two women at the Halifax Commons Terry Fox Day run, entitled "Cancer is a Social Disease". Carol Millett and Lynn Murphy outlined a lot of food for thought.

"Environmental factors are believed to account for more than two-thirds of all cancers," the pamphlet read. These factors include pollution, the release of hazardous substances as by-products of industry that cause many health problems including cancer.

The issue of nuclear energy is a complicated one. Some say we have to take risks to achieve our energy requirements. There are political and economic arguments for and against nuclear energy, but the central argument has always been health. The price for nuclear energy is being paid by uranium miners dying from radiation induced cancers, by workers in refining plants in the United States, by the increased self-abortions in animals and humans in the Three Mile Island vicinity, and the latent effects of accidental releases of nuclear wastes in Lake Erie, in the Serpent River in Ontario, and multitudes of other less-publicized accidents. Radiation induced cancers may be latent for up to forty years.

The pamphlet quotes a nuclear plant engineer who said in 1975 "The primary focus (of safety system inspection) has been to 'prove' the plants are safe enough for continued operations - not to openly assess their true safety."

Carcinogens are being discovered in our food in the additives used to preserve it, and in herbicides and pesticides on our produce, in the forests and in the air and water of surrounding communities. Cancer causing chemicals are more and more a part of our daily lives.

Society's concern should focus on evaluating and limiting the causes of cancer by legislating to encourage this. Money for better ventilation in mines, for research in safer alternative sources of energy such as tidal power, solar, wind and biomass energy, and programs to facilitate non-chemical control of agriculture, is money well spent from a health point of view.

Let the support continue to help find a cure for cancer, and let support also be mustered for political decisions to help prevent the causes of cancer that society has created.



## LETTERS

Dear Mom, How are you? I am fine. How are things back on the farm? Well I have been at Dalhousie for a week now and its been downright peculiar. You remember two haying seasons ago when our cow Bessie got into that pasture and started acting strange, well the other night I had some brownies at a party and I think I know how Bessie felt now.

I have been going through something called regurgitation I mean registration. I've filled out a thousand and one forms. I forgot to sign a little green card

and I had to fill out five forms explaining why I forgot to fill it out. I felt like Paw did when he bought that tractor on credit.

All this week they've been having something called Dus-orientation (whatever that is) with different events, just like the exhibition without the smell. They had a thing called a super-sub. I wasn't hungry but I went anyway. You should of saw it people every where arms flailing, bodies gyrating it wasn't a barn dance. I went to the cafeteria for my sub and I asked a feller, with a ring in his nose what was going on and he said, "feel it". I reached for his nose and he hit me. The next thing I knew I was back at my place and this girl was getting dressed (I haven't been that embarrassed since Mary Sue saw my fly down). She kissed me goodbye and I went to breakfast.

Saturday night they had a Carribean night which was good fun. I wanted to make a good impression so I put on my best overalls. Everything was fine until a girl I was spooning suggested doing something called the bimbo and I split those overalls clean up the middle.

Sunday they had movies and I was torn between them and the hockey game. They had "Doctor Deigo" starring Omar the Sheriff, it wasn't bad but every 30 minutes there was a night

scene. The second film "All That Jazz" was fine once it started. I was real disappointed there was no popcorn. Should of saw the game, at least Canada scored a goal.

I start classes tomorrow and I am real nervous and agitated. Well so long for now

love, Elmer

P.S. (Please send fifty dollars)

### To the Editor:

Contrary to a rumour spread by a certain Rob Cohn in last week's **Dalhousie Gazette**, the Department of Classics does exist in reality. The DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS is alive and well and lives happily at 1244 LeMarchant Street (somewhere outside the minds of certain professors). Dalhousie students have an opportunity to verify this statement by attending the PUBLIC LECTURE on Friday, Sept. 18, 8:30 pm in the MacMechan Auditorium of the Killam Library, organized by the DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS. Professor Desmond J. Conacher, of the University of Toronto, an internationally recognized authority on Greek drama will speak on "SOME USES OF IRONY BY THE GREEK TRAGEDIANS".

**the Dalhousie Gazette**

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The deadline for articles and letters-to-the-editor is noon on Monday. No unsigned material will be accepted, but anonymity may be granted on request. Letters should not exceed 500 words and must be typed on a 64-character line and double spaced. Local Advertising is handled by DAL-ADS — the advertising department of Dalhousie Student Union: Tel. 424-6532. Ad copy must be submitted by the Friday preceding publication.

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