

# Canadian freedom threatened

Last month Dr. John McMurtry told an audience at the Dalhousie Law School of the atrocities visited by the government of Indonesia on its own citizens and on the inhabitants of the occupied state of East Timor. He further described the complicity — for all the atrocities are forbidden under international law — of the Canadian government and various Canadian post-secondary institutions with this criminal regime. He detailed the struggle on his own campus, the University of Guelph, where he sought to expose the links between Guelph and Indonesia.

The byzantine machinations of the administration at Guelph prompted McMurtry to ask, "Has Indonesia come to rule here?". After the most recent word from the APEC summit in Vancouver — where Indonesia's President Suharto was a feted guest — the answer, for Canada, is clearly yes.

The University of British Columbia hosted a meeting of the APEC group. Faculty and students were not consulted about this and many opted to protest both the administration's highhandedness and APEC itself.

One form the protests took was the writing of slogans on campus buildings, using readily delible materials.

Another form of action was playing road hockey at the entrance to the UBC President's driveway. A number of people were arrested for these innocuous activities and, what is more, were offered release from jail on condition that they desist from protesting APEC. What of freedom of belief and expression?

APEC protesters invited individuals from other Asia-Pacific countries to participate in the parallel Peoples' Summit. However, a number of those invited — Dominador Resurrecion and Danilo Fabella of the Philippino cultural group Tambisan sa Sining; Nathanael Santiago, Secretary-General of BAYAN, a major Phillipino labor union; Iswad Prasad Pandey, coordinator of ASEED Asia in Nepal — were denied visas by Canadian immigration authorities, despite having all their documents in order.

In contrast, General Suharto — who, as MP Svend Robinson has observed, could be turned away

or even detained under Canadian law — has been welcomed by the federal government.

Most sinister, though, was the arrest on November 24 of Jaggi Singh. Mr. Singh is one of the principal organizers of APEC Alert, which was scheduled to conduct a mass action on November 25. Mr. Singh's crime? Assault (he used a bullhorn at too high a volume during a street protest). Not only is the charge itself ludicrous, but the alleged incident occurred two weeks ago — and yet Mr. Singh was not apprehended during the integrum despite making daily public appearances during that time. The spurious nature of the charge, in tandem with the timing of Mr. Singh's arrest, makes it quite clear that this was an attempt to quash political dissent.

APEC was made much in the news of late, as to a lesser extent, were the protests against the summit. What desperately needs to be addressed now was the chilling counterattack directed against the legitimate political expression embodied in the anti-APEC protest actions.

ANTONI WYSOCKI

# Letters

## Good Riddance to Lies

To the editor,

Unfortunately I could not resist using my version of Stephen Ellis' weak and obvious hackney headline, "Good riddance to you, British empire" (note the grade-school usage of personification). But just as Mr. Ellis was "inspired...to no end" to respond to an article by Daniel Clark, I am equally inspired to respond to Mr. Ellis' article — his predictable, childish, liberal and revisionist diatribe.

For years, as entertainment, I have read the Gazette's numerous whining commentaries — the products of malcontents and societal outcasts. Mr. Ellis' comments did not disappoint me. It is obvious that Mr. Ellis has wasted much time reading socialist drivel and that his comments cannot be considered seriously since they lucidly display his bias, ignorance and lack of education. Or perhaps it is his ample superficial education — a little knowledge can be very dangerous.

His usage of rallying cries, "Unite and fight!...Your underlings are restless...", is laughable. His comments (for example, "deficit hoax") are so ridiculous that a person cannot decide if he is being insincere and making a weak attempt at satire (was his article suppose to be published in a satirical journal?), or that he is actually being sincere and enjoys embarrassing himself and advertising his ignorance of economics.

As for the comments about the British empire, the fact is that Britain civilised much of the world, and I am very thankful. So should Mr. Ellis if I am correct in assuming that, according to his surname, he is of British ancestry.

Instead of writing revisionist propaganda (lies), which is a great disservice to the students of Dalhousie University, he should be expressing his pride in our glorious culture and heritage. The British culture has proven to be the most civilised culture, so disseminating lies to the contrary is unconstructive and stupid.

ROBERT SPEIRS

mortal enemies. We are neither being displaced by them, nor are they responsible for lessening our wages. We shall not yet take violent measures against them.

This said, it must be admitted that we shall have to restrain some of our more enthusiastic members if the \$1.75-million parking garage is built there, in the bottom levels of the new Arts building. It is not that we are entirely unsympathetic to cars. Part-time professors occasionally own them and even the odd TA manages to get his or her hands on one. The point is that this amount of money would pay for 200 raises of \$1,000 a year for eight solid years.

In any case, if the above strategy has no effect, some of our members want to apply directly to the university for an underground parking level all our own. The university could park us there, as it were, instead of the cars.

Alternatively, some other members insist that we look into the option of applying as a body for refugee status. They say that this strategy is more likely to achieve our minimum demands. What do you think about this course of action?

DON HAMBRICH

## Meal plan joke

To the editor,

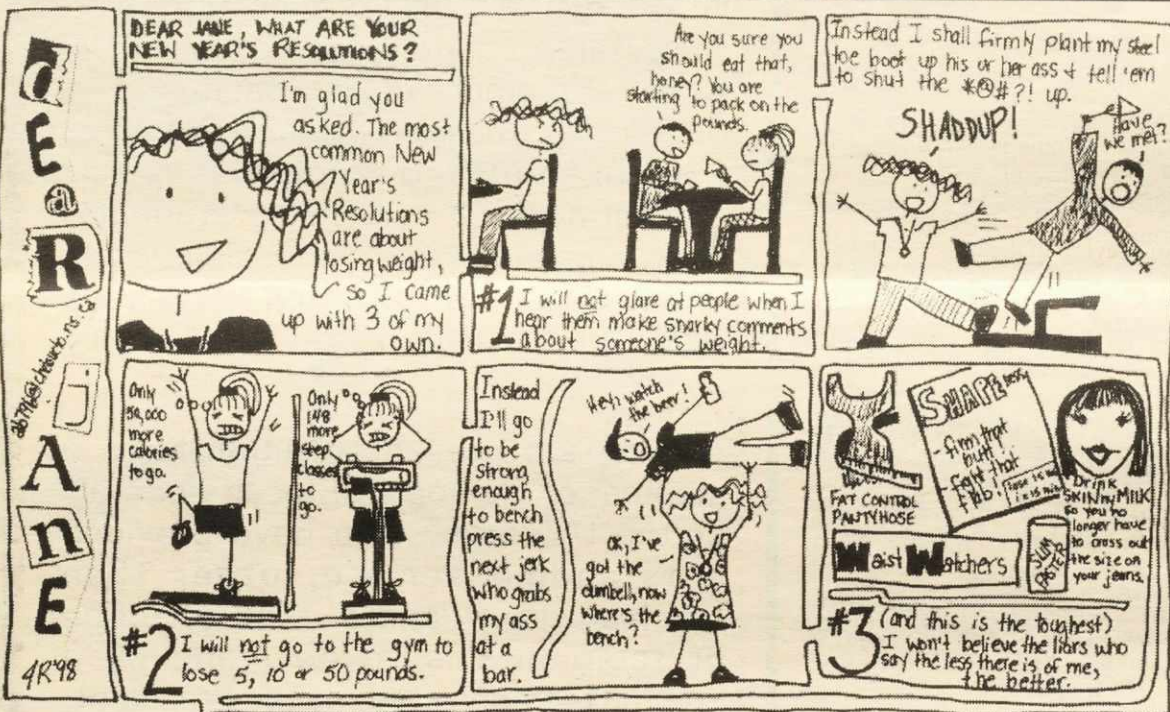
My trouble is with the Dalhousie Meal Plan. I am currently a first year full-time student at Dalhousie and a resident of Shirreff Hall. In making the choice to live in residence I also accepted the fact that I had to have a meal plan. This means I have to eat at one of Dalhousie's two lovely dining halls, which really are lovely.

More directly, my problem is with the food. I have eaten at both of Dalhousie's residence dining halls and the food has not looked or tasted that great at either of the two. This is my opinion as well as the majority of the people I have spoken with on this subject — past and present students.

There are four meal plans offered at Dalhousie. I am the not so very proud owner of the 19 meals per week plan, which means I get breakfast, lunch and dinner everyday, except for weekends when there are two longer (time wise) meals. My particular meal plan for the full academic year costs \$2,070, according to the Food services guide. To have the same meals for the same length of time at four dollars a meal (which is what is put on your Dalhousie student card every week to compensate you for missing from one to all 19 meals that week) it would cost \$964.

Now after figuring this information out I have come to realize that I think the whole meal plan deal is a joke. I know that the kitchen has to prepare food for over 500 hungry people everyday, and I was not expecting Mama's home cooking, but the food is awful. And like I said this is not only my opinion, I have asked others. I do not have any problem with the variety or quantity, but the fruit could be washed, and I do not know about anyone else, but I sure do not like eating stir fry most of the time. What kind of meal is stir fry, hash browns and string beans? Sure there are a few other options but sometimes a person does not like the other options. Sometimes the food just does not

## OH SWEETIE, I DO WISH YOU WOULD WRITE MORE OFTEN...



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Student Union Building, Dalhousie University, 6136 University Ave, rm 312, Halifax, NS, B3H 4J2. editorial tel. 902 494-2507, facsimile 902 494-8890, e-mail. GAZETTE@is2.dal.ca

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