

## Let the SUNS shine in

IT'S NOT THE USUAL POLICY of this paper to go bashing on the student councils of other universities. We usually have enough fun with our own.

However, a few words must be said about the decision of the council Acadia University's Student Union (ASU) to pull out of the Students' Union of Nova Scotia (SUNS).

Frankly, the decision stinks. Stinks on ice. And should be reversed as soon as possible.

Of all the times for one of this province's major student bodies to be leaving SUNS, this is *not* the time. For two reasons. First, SUNS is in better shape than it's been in years. It's more activist, more alive, more aware, more critical and is getting more attention than it ever has before. By comparison to its lacklustre national sister organization, the Canadian Federation of Students, it's positively *radical*.

Student radicals. What won't they think of next?

Second, post-secondary education in Nova Scotia is approaching a crucial juncture, with the upcoming release of the report of the provincial Royal Commission on Post Secondary Education. We don't mean to jump on the Report before it's even been issued, but the word so far has not been promising. If the report of a similar commission in Ontario last year is anything to go on, this

province's universities will be in for a very rough time.

Now, more than ever, the students of this province will have to stand united in the face of a government determined to turn back the clock a good 25 years where its universities are concerned.

The last thing we need at this point is a gap in that unity.

The council of the ASU thinks it has a better approach. One councillor was heard to say at the Sept. 17 meeting, "If we've got problems with the minister of education, what we've got to do is sit down and talk to him. Take him out to dinner. What we need in this day and age is a more professional approach. More businesslike."

Right, buddy. Guess who he'd have for dinner.

Lest anyone get the wrong idea, *the Gazette* doesn't back everything SUNS does or stands for without criticism. But in this "day and age", students across this province are going to have to stand, and march, firm and united against a system which is already firm and united against them.

Students of St. Mary's University will be next to vote on continued membership in SUNS. Stick with it, SMUers. In the words of the old saying, either we hang together or we hang separately.

## Letters

Deadline for letters to the editor is noon, Monday before publication. Letters must be typed and double-spaced and be less than 30 words. Letters can be dropped at the SUB enquiry desk or brought up to the *Gazette* offices, third floor, SUB.

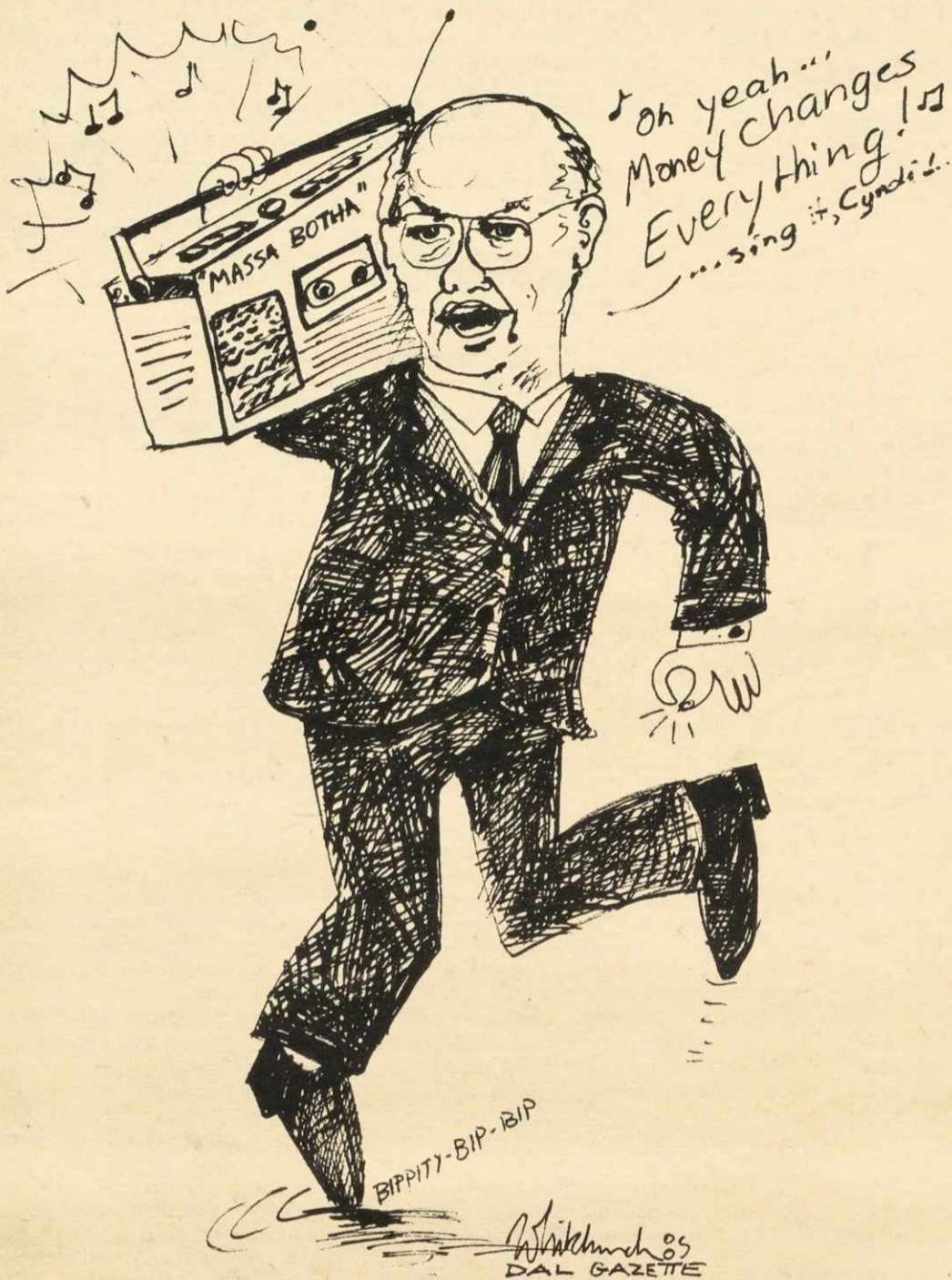
such phenomena as *Rambo*. That's fine and makes interesting reading. But *Rambo* ain't art! As far as I can determine, the only article that examined the Real Thing in your issue were Rick Janson's review of the photo co-op show, and Ken Burke and Bonnie Bobryk's *Echphore* piece. Art isn't divorced, of course, from other human concerns, including the political; on the contrary it's inextricably linked with them, but a bit more attention, in an otherwise excellent supplement, to the extra-political aspects of it won't hurt.

Glenn Walton  
Atlantic Filmmakers'  
Co-operative

## Left leaning, right thinking

To the editors,

I would like to reply to the article/opinion by Ken Burke carried by CUP, picked up by the University of Alberta *Gateway* and printed on Sept. 12. As a left-leaning right thinking person I would have to agree with the



## Money changes everything

FOR QUITE SOME TIME blacks have been dying in South Africa — their blood running in the name of apartheid. In the past year alone, over 700 have died, most of these at the hands of government soldiers.

Is this supposed to upset South African president P.W. Botha and his racist government? Did anyone hear the Ku Klux Klan crying over the lynched bodies of American blacks? Did Hitler reform Nazism because the Jews were dying?

The answer is no and that's why it's not surprising the past year brought little in the way of change for South Africa.

What is also not surprising is that the day after the United States imposed limited economic sanctions on South Africa, the government of South Africa began recommending limited reforms to apartheid — granting blacks citizenship (but not a vote) and abolishing the humiliating pass laws which require blacks to possess proper documentation to leave their designated 'homelands'. It is clear that Botha doesn't hate blacks as much as he loves American dollars.

Few things change unless they are forced to change. History is full of examples.

It took civil rights protests, led by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., to permit American blacks to exercise their civil rights.

It took the quiet revolution in Quebec in the 1960's to give French Canadians prominence in the national political scene that they long deserved.

It took protests over the mining and processing of uranium in Nova Scotia to bring about a provincial moratorium.

These changes all resulted

from the forces of democracy. Unfortunately, these forces do not apply in South Africa. There is, however, a more powerful alternative — the forces of economics.

Right now Botha has his hands full — trying to juggle world trade and apartheid. He will only drop apartheid if not doing so will hit him in his fat wallet. Tough economic sanctions are the only peaceful means of bringing down apartheid. Otherwise Botha has no reason to change.

## Tree gets smoked

By CAROLINE WARREN-PERRY

WITH ALL THE BEAUTIFUL sun we've had the past week and a few hours to spare between classes, I would often be found soaking up the rays. One of my favorite spots to relax is in between the LSCS and A & A buildings against the large greenhouse window.

As I lay there, I was thinking and remembered that once upon a time there used to be a large tree in the pit below the window (who

I imagine enjoyed the sunshine as well). I wondered what became of the tree and why its former home is now the site of an oversized ashtray.

Every time I walk by that area and by chance happen to gaze at the soil, it is covered with cigarette butts (which I think personally does not do too much for decoration purposes of the building). Why can't they replace the tree and supply ashtrays for those who enjoy to sit around it and smoke? I hope others who remember the beautiful plant feel the same as I do.



## Yes, but is it art?

Dear Gazette,

Congratulations on an excellent Arts Magazine! If this first issue is typical, we'll have plenty of thought-provoking arts material to read this academic year. As information officer for the Atlantic Filmmakers' Co-op, I've already clipped Elizabeth Donovan's "Camera, Action, WOMEN", and Ken Burke's "Rambomania" for display in our office, and I'll be interested in *the Gazette's* (continuing) coverage of the important conference on cultural policy this month at the Mount.

One word of friendly advice, however. Art *can* be political (or beautiful, or shocking, or instructive) but *needn't* be. (From a political point of view Dali's technique or Philip Glass' harmonies are insignificant.) You particular bias, judging from past issues of Arts Magazine, is to examine the political angle of