

Watchful welcome to Morris

Edmund Morris got demoted to Advanced Education, though that may seem like a contradiction in terms. His correct title is actually Minister of Advanced Education and Job Training. Hopefully Morris will remember, once he's no longer defending himself in court and can turn his full attention to his new responsibilities, that the two parts of his title are not synonymous.

There's a lot to be done in the chronically underfunded field of post-secondary education. Our new minister could look to Dal where last year's announced increase in funding of 6.5 per cent by the provincial government worked out to only 3.15 per cent due to an archaic enrolment-based formula. In that case, Dal loses out to universities like Saint Mary's,

where they've had an enrolment increase of approximately 8 per cent, leaving Dal far behind.

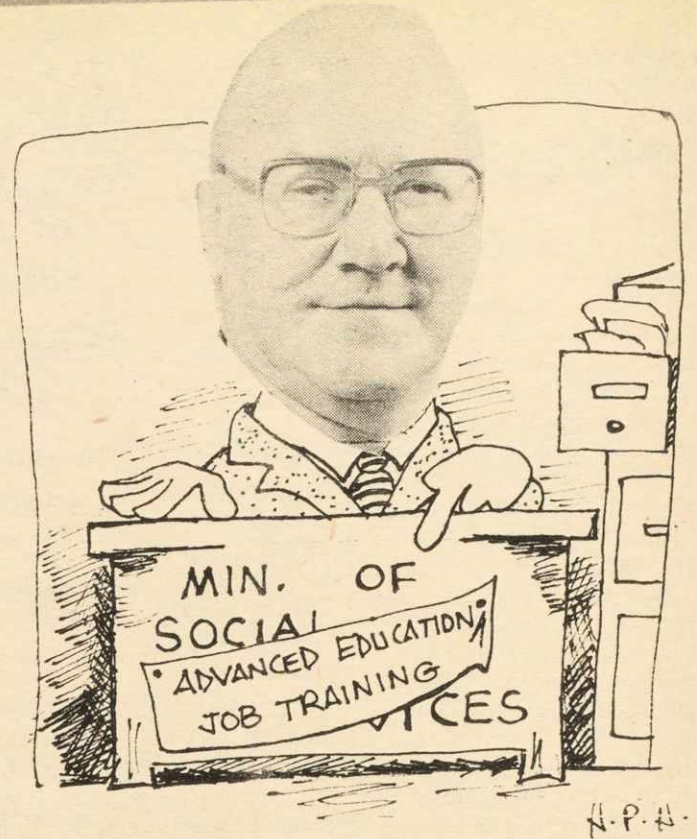
And it's not only universities which should be aided. Nova Scotia is the only province without a community college system. Work is slowly going on; soon it will be two years since the process began. In a province where school dropouts number 5,000 a year and functional illiteracy (less than Grade 9) has been estimated at 27 per cent, the education system has a long way to go. The purpose of community colleges would be to give access to higher education to older people, women, minorities — instead of the predominantly young, white students who attend university. There are also many areas of the province with limited educational opportunities and employment. We need

to have short-term diploma courses and specialized training that would equip Nova Scotians for finding jobs.

And finally, we'll be watching to see if the Association of Atlantic Universities' request of a 9.8 per cent funding increase to universities is accepted by the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission and then by Nova Scotia. The AAU brief indicates that while per-client funding for hospitals and schools has gone up by 40 per cent and 20 per cent respectively since 1979/80, per-client funding for universities has dropped by 20 per cent.

Let's hope the provincial government takes their new department seriously enough to put a little muscle and money into it.

Heather Hueston



o p i n i o n

la PRESSE

par Paul Creelman

Je vois dans *La Presse* que Jean Poulain écrit sur la contraception au tiers monde. Apparemment, l'effort pour réduire le niveau des naissances dans le monde est maintenant plus important que jamais, et il est en plus très rentable. Un étude du Worldwatch Institute de Washington a fourni les détails dur deux exemples de programmes du contrôle familiale des naissances.

Au Mexique entre 1972 et 1984 le système de sécurité sociale urbaine du Mexique (SSSUM) a dépensé 38 milliards de pesos (\$330 millions Can.) pour contra-

ception a 800 000 femmes. Cela s'agit d'une épargne de 318 milliards de pesos (\$2.6 millions Can.) pour les 3.6 millions de naissances et 363 000 avortements évités cela veut dire que le Mexique épargnait neuf pesos pour chaque peso dépensé.

La Thaïlande aussi eut un grand succès avec un programme semblable. Entre 1972 et 1980 l'état a réduit le nombre des naissances dans l'environ de 2,4 millions. Thaïlande a économisé en moyenne \$7 pour chaque dollar investi en planning familiale.

C'est évident que c'est nécessaire pour les payées du tiers monde d'améliorer leurs con-

trôle du niveau des naissances. Au Bangladesh, les salaires agricoles sont plus bas qu'ils étaient il y a 150 ans. C'est par suite de la croissance rapide de la population rurale. Aussi il y a une crise de population à l'Inde et à la Chine. Tous ont vu les photos des enfants en Ethiopie, enfants sans les bons mets que nous avons au Canada, enfants qui mourront de faim. Pourquoi leurs parents ont-ils eu les bébés qu'ils ne peuvent pas nourrir?

Mais il y a un fait de plus; le tiers monde dépense quatre fois plus en armements et en forces militaires qu'en dépense de snaté (y sont compris aussi les contrôles des naissances). La recom-

mendation d'auteur Jacobson que le monde dépense \$7 milliards chaque année pour stabiliser le population du globe est

très important. C'est un travail pour les nations riches aussi que les nations pauvres. Du moins, c'est mon opinion libre.

VOULEZ-VOUS PARTICIPER COMME JOURNALISTE?

Cette année le *Dalhousie Gazette* veut publier une chronique en français. Il y a sera un article de commentaire qui s'appelle "Opinion Libre". Ceux qui ont intérêt de travailler sur ce projet peuvent donner leur nom et numéro de téléphone au bureau du *Dalhousie Gazette*, au 3eme étage du Student Union Building. Chaque personne écrira un court article d'opinion. Nous prévoyons les sujets reliés à la francophonie comme affaires acadiennes, l'Afrique Noire, les issues minoritaires Néanmoins, tous sujets sont acceptables; après tout, c'est un article de votre opinion libre. Cette occasion d'être journaliste est très bonne expérience pratique pour les étudiant(e)s de français, et même pour autres.

Dispatch discriminates?

The following is a copy of a letter sent to the editors of *The Dispatch*, the Dal student council newsletter.

Dear Editors:

Please believe me: I do have a sense of humour.

But I also believe a student newspaper or council newsletter has a responsibility to its readers. As the editors of a 'paper' that's funded by student money, intended for students, I think it's important that you keep away from perpetuating the same stereotypes we all encounter in the regular media, and in everyday life.

Barry Moore's *Ride My Thumb* included the sentence: "Could be a homosexual looking to score" in his copy in the last issue of the *Dispatch* (It was picked up by cartoonist Mike Adams for the illustration.)

I think it's important papers not overly concern themselves with things that are "offensive" — the word 'fuck', for example, can be offensive to some but may, in context, be important. Portraying a positive image of gays and lesbians, or even of blacks, may be 'offensive' to some, but is of positive benefit to the community at large.

I'm not naive — I know that there are, somewhere out there, homosexuals looking to 'score'. There are blacks out there looking to 'score', there are Jews out there

These groups — and many others — are already suffering under a society which sometimes even seems to promote stereotypes which hurt minority groups. They don't need the student media to reinforce these negative images.

No, students aren't stupid — of course many of them will realize the comment was a joke. But that statement will still rein-

force their own image of what a 'homosexual' is. And for others who have never met 'a real gay person', the image will fit nicely into their own pre-conceived notions.

Members of Canadian University Press, a non-profit news-gathering and skills-sharing organization of 49 student newspapers across the country, have long held a belief that the perpetuation of hateful stereotypes within their pages is a disservice to the community.

Comparing homosexuals to axe-murderers is one such hateful stereotype.

I was not amused.

Eleanor Brown
Atlantic Region Bureau Chief
Canadian University Press

P.S. "Break Down the Barricade" is a good example of a piece which did break down the stereotypes we hold about the physically disabled. Congrats.

Technofertility

To the Editors,

I would like to respond to Anne Drew's interesting and very articulate letter "The bottom line is individual choice" in the Dec. 2 issue of the *Gazette*.

Drew argues that the women objecting to the new reproductive technologies are women who are fertile themselves and thus unable to fully understand the impact of infertility. Today it is becoming less and less possible for any woman to assume her own fertility, as the effects of a couple of decades' worth of contraceptives, drugs, hormonal "treatments", and environmental hazards are just beginning to surface. This will be increasingly true in the future.

Nonetheless, the suffering of infertile women, as Drew points out, is very real. However, it exists in a social context. We

live in a sexist society in which a woman's primary role is as a mother, and in which childlessness, voluntary or involuntary, is seen as deviant.

Gena Corea in *The Mother Machine* questions why those doctors who are very well paid to probe, scan, puncture, suction, and cut women in repeated experiments are considered so sympathetic to infertile women.

Drew suggests we need a "cultural shift away from the sanctity of biological motherhood". Can this co-exist with the technologies whose very presence tells women they should, at all costs, do everything in their power (and in the power of science) to be biological mothers? Furthermore, the significance of Renate Klein's finding that the majority of women in IVF programmes would have been willing to adopt is that for most women, mothering is much more than a biological relation-

Continued to page 7