

Your excuse?

Halifax has, once again, provided us with our annual October 31st dose of fun and thrills: five closed-off streets, stocked liquor stores, and the right to act as we please behind scary cloaks of anonymity.

The Mardi Gras has turned into a good excuse for doing pretty well anything. As one non-participant put it, "It's a good reason for staying at home." For others, it justifies spending hours dressing up with friends and messing with makeup, only to get there too late, wander around in the bitter cold for half an hour, and return home to take it all off.

Unfortunately, some people abuse the excuse. Given a mask and a couple of bottles to hide behind, they see the Mardi Gras as their one and only chance a year to go out and act like jerks. But the worst is yet to come. As the number of bottles consumed increases, they inevitably lose hold of their acting talents.

Beware: this is when true

natures start leaking out from under even the most elaborate costumes. This is when someone may (God forbid) discover that you're actually a drunken idiot, and not really an enormous smiling pink and yellow cupcake.

Hark.

If you really want to convince them, just drop a few bottles and make sure they shatter in their vicinity. Vomiting on their shoes would probably work equally well.

And if I were a queen or a friendly witch, you could always try pinching my bum. Just be prepared not to luck out every time; in case you missed her, the line was "I'm a bug. So... bug off!"

Unless you want the Mardi Gras to be infested with bugs next year, it might help to keep in mind that Hallowe'en is the one time of the year when the costumes are supposed to be scary — not what's behind them.

Ariella Pahlke



PHOTO: ARIELLA PAHLKE

Who's lurking behind this one?

l e t t e r s

BN not BS

To the Editors:

I would like to express concern about an article appearing in the October 1st edition of the Dalhousie Gazette (CKDU goes mainstream"). The article distorts the issues surrounding CKDU-FM's acquisition of Broadcast News (BN), a teletype news wire service.

CKDU-FM has been licensed by the CRTC to be an alternative to commercial and public radio services, providing programming not available from these stations.

In current affairs programming, we attempt to present information in a different way than other stations.

CKDU-FM attempts to secure as many sources of good material as possible. BN is an accurate, up-to-date information source.

While quoting two staff members who are opposed to the decision to order BN, the article made no attempt to explain why other people are in favour of CKDU-FM purchasing the service. The article also states that BN is used by commercial stations without further mention that it is also used by many other campus stations. This omission gives the impression that we are changing our mandate from providing alternative radio service, an impression furthered by the article's flippant headline, 'CKDU goes mainstream'.

CKDU-FM's mandate to provide campus, local, regional, national, and international news remains unchanged. The addition of BN will only add to the immediacy and variety of source

material available to our volunteer staff. Purchasing BN does not make CKDU-FM 'mainstream'; for your paper to state that it does so seriously misleads your readers about our commitment to provide a radio service beyond the "mainstream".

Sincerely,
Mark MacLeod
CKDU-FM Station Manager

Source of arms

To the Editors:

Your article on the arms industry correctly points out that there is an extensive Canadian arms industry and that it is a threat to international peace

and security. However, it fails to point out that the major source of arms and the principal threat to international peace and security are the two superpowers, United States and Soviet Union.

This threat does not come from their possession of nuclear weapons which are likely to explode by accident and severely damage the environment. It comes from their rivalry with each other and their desire to impose their dictate everywhere.

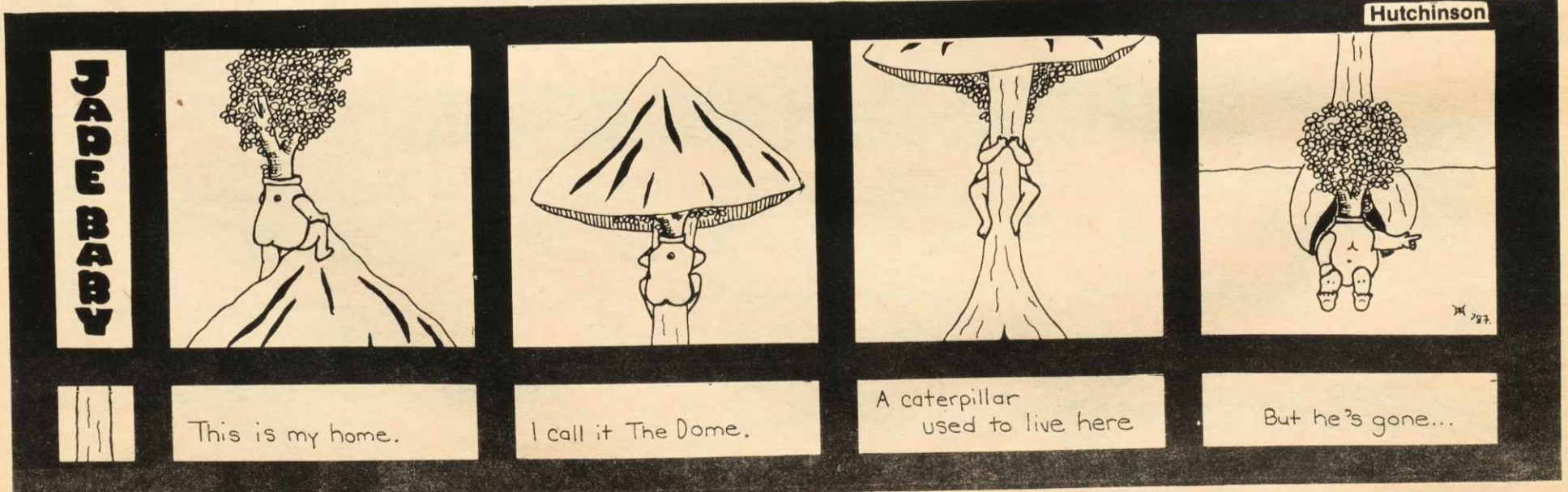
The Canadian government is complicit in this with its membership in NATO and NORAD, its decision to continue testing the cruise missile and other foreign weapons, and because it actively allows warships of the United States to use Canadian ports as a staging ground for acts of aggression against the peoples of foreign countries who have never harmed Canada.

While some see the many

American warships that "visit" Halifax every year as merely an important factor for the tourist trade, the hosting and provisioning of such warships is open collaboration with the greatest enemies of mankind. The USS Sark was one such warship which has been hosted in Halifax on several occasions. Recently it has appeared in the Persian Gulf where it was interfering in the affairs of the countries of that region. The reality is that U.S. warships leave ports like Halifax where they are provisioned to impose U.S. dictate all over the world.

It is indeed a great crime of the Canadian merchants of death to sell arms to such countries as Chile. But let us not forget that they sell 85 per cent of their arms to the United States. Is this not as great a

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Hutchinson

PARABY

This is my home.

I call it The Dome.

A caterpillar used to live here

But he's gone...