

Cohn Calendar

Doc Watson

Saturday, January 28, 8 p.m.

Regular \$9/\$8, Students/Sr. Citizens \$8/\$7

No country musician has greater versatility than Doc Watson, and none has a wider following outside the country music mainstream.

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Toronto Dance Theatre

Saturday, February 4, 8 p.m.
Regular \$9/\$8, Students/Sr. Citizens \$8/\$7

Not a company to rest on the laurels of the prime movers of modern technique, namely Graham and Limon, Toronto Dance Theatre has made headwaves with innovative movement that is intensely energetic in its explorations.

Sunday Film Series

JAN. 29

Britannia Hospital
(from the director of O Lucky Man)

FEB. 5

Storm Boy
(another Australian success)

FEB. 12

Montenegro
(Susan Anspach is a bored housewife who becomes involved with a Yugoslavian animal trainer.)

And coming
Videodrome
Prince of the City
Sophie's Choice
and more!!

All movies 8 p.m. at the Cohn

Reg. \$4 Stu./Sr. Cit. \$3.50

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commentary

Pornography: no longer a back room issue

by Andrew Ager

Freedom of speech and expression is not a license for irresponsibility, any more than possession of great wealth is a green light for exploitation of the less fortunate. To be truly valuable, and also to be retained, it must be used in a way that is answerable to responsibility. At the risk of being pedantic, I stress the word "responsibility" because of the extensive buck-passing over so many questionable uses of this great privilege in society today. In the area of pornography, its most common supporters, unintentional or not, are not those who buy it, but those who defend it under the principle of freedom of speech. Rather, it is an abuse of those privileges, a fast-buck way of excusing exploitation under a cloak of liberty.

Beyond this, however, is the fact that pornography is a market, a product that is simply designed to make money by catering to a demand. Seen purely as an economic venture, it is quite successful, as is the drug trade, or the arms market. And so, both the libertarian and the businessperson can justify its continued existence through their own myopic vision.

Seen conceptually, things take on a different light. Continued exposure to pornographic materials gradually wears down the individual's sensitivity to abuse, sexism, and ultimately violence. This is a recorded fact, as shown by many university and clinical experiments. The whole conception of rape, and the abomination it is, gradually becomes a joke, commonplace behaviour, an act of heroism or macho daring.

Other experiments would seem to show less ability in males who read pornography to relate to women as whole people, with honesty and openness. Perhaps this is related to the complete objectification of women in porn, that regards them as toys or possessions to be enjoyed and then disposed of. Men know deeply that this is a lie about women, and yet cannot reconcile it to the glossy hate literature they can buy monthly at the SUB, courtesy of the bookstore.

The dispensers of a given product are as equally responsible for its effects on society as its producers. Retailers of arms are murderers in business suits, drug dealers have brought genocide to high schools, and businesses that sell the fashionable versions of pornography are sexists with an operating license and a cash register.

And so it is in real life here at Dal. There isn't any excuse for selling the top line of pornographic produce here. Not when it's available at O'Brien's anyway....

Were something of a more explicitly obscene nature brought to campus, there would be almost no question of it staying here. However, the Harley-Davidson of porn, along with its transvestite double, have achieved a real respectability in modern civilization. Part of the reason for this is the glitzy journalism that takes up space between the pictorials. An objective look at this writing shows nothing that is not honestly out-capped in competence by other American periodicals that are available on the same shelves. The fact remains that skin mags they're meant to be, skin rags they are; an insult to women and men and, further down the alley, to children.

In the end the results of retailing pornography will be found to



be absolutely counterproductive to the ideals of mutual respect and honesty so desperately

needed between the sexes and among their members these days.

Commission needs to listen to students

by Charles Spurr

The Royal Commission on Post-Secondary Education continued its hearings in Halifax on January 20 and 21. The provincial government has called this commission in response to the crisis in education to sort out the problems of financing and streamlining post-secondary education further along the lines of the notorious Graham Report of the mid-1970's. They are soliciting recommendations from the universities and the public but the recommendations which will be implemented are those emanating from the boardrooms of those holding the liens on the provincial government treasury. Their wish is the government's demand: make the students and ordinary tax-payers bear the burden of the crisis through higher tuitions and self-financing through loans, and cutbacks in many areas. The directives of the financial moguls who lowered the province's credit rating in 1982 have already lead to the elimination of one post-secondary institution, and further cuts are likely to come.

In light of these well-known policies of the government, should the students believe that the Commission will reach some democratic conclusion and relieve their financial burden? Of course the answer is "no". It can be seen from the statements of Dalhousie's MacKay that the hearings are being used to promote the administrators as

defenders of the students' interests while calling for increased tuitions under the justification that this will improve the calibre of student and eliminate the "non-serious" element. In the Dalhousie brief an appeal to "industry and commerce" to come forward and foot their share was made in addition to appealing to the government for increased funding. Thus, if anyone will be blamed for the next bout of cuts and fee hikes, it will be the government for not granting enough or "industry and commerce" for not contributing enough. The administration is trying to tone down the just opposition of the students, to fee hikes by simultaneously calling for increased contributions for corporations, thus introducing an egalitarian concept that all parties will shoulder the burden.

How is the "equal" sharing of the costs of education to come about? Dalhousie administration suggests "matching grants". Does this mean that the corporation contributes to the discipline of its choice, and matching tax money will be put into the same programme? What "equality"! Dal's brief recommends "tax incentives" as well, as if there were not enough incentives already to encourage monopolies to direct the affairs of the universities. At present the universities heavily subsidize corporate research by providing the whole infrastructure while private research grants cover only a portion of the total

cost, not to mention the bonus of having access to graduates already specialized in the field of interest to the company.

The administration brief further recommends companies provide "release time and /or financial support to their employees who seek to improve their qualifications" as if they didn't know that most companies doing this are already heavily subsidized by tax money through Manpower programmes, etc. Dalhousie also suggests co-operative education, through which students are provided to the companies as cheap labour. It remains to be seen where the burden will be "equally shared" by the corporations.

How can there be any semblance of equality in the redistribution of the burden of financing the university education when each and every contribution from "industry and commerce" is dependent upon the profitability of such contribution while the student's share of the costs is extorted. Those students who couldn't realize the demands of the extortionists have now been turned over to collection agencies. The administration exonerates itself from blame for this practice on the grounds that many of the students have neglected to file their proper withdrawal forms, as if this explains why hundreds of stu-

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