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putting an article in the Commentary section you publicly disavow any responsibility for its content you cannot avoid the fact these articles do appear in your paper and thus have, at least apparently, your approval. We urge you to be more judicial in your selection of Commentaries in future.

Sincerely,  
James C. Morton  
Ronnie Cuperfain

## Ghanese pen pal

To the Editor:

I am most desirous of obtaining a pen pal in Canada, and

would appreciate it very much if you would publish this letter in your newspaper, outlining my request.

I am 20 years of age and live in Accra, the capital of Ghana. My country was formerly known as the Gold Coast, and is, of course, located on the west coast of Africa.

Auto mechanics are my trade, and my hobbies include football, boxing, music and films. I would like to correspond with someone with similar interests, but would welcome letters from anyone.

Thank you very much.

Yours truly,  
Theophilus Kojo Ahialey,

c/o Mr. Asemoah,  
Godson Mansah Enterprise,

P.O. Box 1438,  
Accra, Ghana.

Signed,  
KimRilda van Feggelen

## A critic of critics

To the Editor:

Michael Brennan, one of your entertainment reviewers, may be a very earnest writer, however, if he desires any validity to his reviews, he should refrain from idolizing and rambling about his heroes, personal life or how "boring" Halifax may or may not be. This subjective material has no place in a relevant review.

In addition, Mr. Brennan makes absurd assumptions about the meaning and purpose of the music he reviews to those who play it.

# Commentary

## Chaplain warns of Moonies and Mind-control

by Eric E. Dyck  
Lutheran Chaplain

SNAPPING, BRAINWASHING, and MIND CONTROL may allow you to join a cult; they do not allow you to join life and freedom.

The word "cult" took on a new significance in 1978 when more than 900 men, women and children took their lives (a mass suicide) upon the orders of their leader Jim Jones who had become the human god of the group. Those people were everyday individuals like yourselves before the complex process of indoctrination and intentional destruction of the individual's capacity to process information was carried out. Take note, those same types of cults are here in Halifax at Dalhousie University!

During the summer and during the past few weeks two major North American cults have been soliciting members in front of the Killam Library and the Student Union Building. Here are some facts on one movement, the Unification Church (Moonies), which do not appear in their advertising.

### The "Moonies"

Sun Myung Moon is the founder of this group which incorporates elements of oriental philosophy, mysticism and distorted Christianity. The members consider Moon to be their only Father and Moon states in his own words: "My goal is the salvation of the world, and that's not even the end of it... We are going to liberate God. We are going to liberate Jesus Christ. (Son-

tag, *Sun Myung Moon and the Unification Church*, p. 132). The "in-house" magazine for members states (with regards to audiences that were not up to expectations for Moon's appearances): "Empty seats in front of the Lord of the Second Advent." (*New Age Frontiers*, April, 1972). In the early days of the movement *Time* magazine reported: "...ritual sex characterized the Moon communes. Since Moon was a pure man, sex with him ('body cleansing') was supposed to purify both body and soul, and marriages of other cultists were in fact invalid until the wives slept with Moon." (*Time*, "The Darker Side of Sun Moon", June 14, 1976, p. 50). It seems clear that Moon is the man from Korea, born in 1920, that has suddenly become God; not

through some divine blessing but through some of the following methods of "teaching" recruits: snapping (physiological breakdown affecting the mind), brainwashing, and mind control.

The induction into the cult usually begins through friendliness, a casual dinner invitation, for a "free meal", and via a lot of "ego stroking" off to a weekend retreat. At the retreat camp, the principles of repetition, monotony, and rhythm play upon the mind through lectures and presentations that allow no questions. There is never a moment without a smiling friend or generous host/hostess. For every moment at the retreat the new ideas keep coming; usually in vague generalities easy to agree with, until there is a snapping. At that point,

instead of enabling people to solve and answer problems out of their own resources, the Unification Church offers their totalitarian system as the only complete reality and belief system. The more complete the isolation from other environments, people, and belief systems, the more totally the victim adopts the Moonie view of reality. The basic principles of brainwashing (as identified by psychologist Robert Lifton in his study of the psychology of Totalism) have all been subtly and brilliantly incorporated into the Moonie camp. The retreat seemed to be in such good 'fun' way back on the university campus; after the 'snap', the brainwashing techniques establish

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