

EDITORIAL

On the road to nowhere

WHEN KEVIN CHRISTMAS, A member of the Union of Nova Scotia Indians, made his presentation to the Special Senate Committee on Youth, he said he didn't have a written brief because "the chap who was preparing it committed suicide three weeks ago."

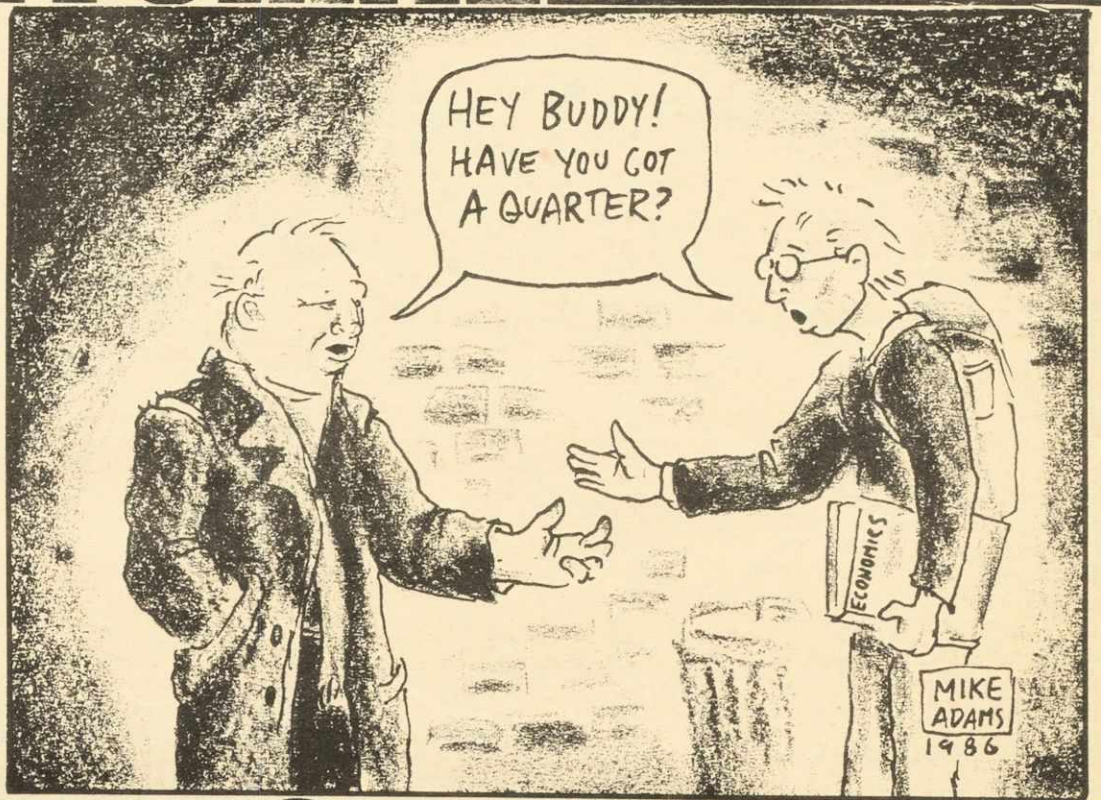
There are problems facing youth - suicide, unemployment, drug abuse, alcoholism, and prostitution - and the Senate committee mentioned some of them in the report it tabled last month.

But what is the government doing about the problems facing its nation's youth? It says it is consulting, but is it really listening? Maybe government members think the youth are too disorganized or too stupid to notice that

they are not tackling those problems.

There have been cuts to student employment centers, cuts in youth programs, and cuts in funding to universities and colleges. And to show its appreciation for youth during the United Nations' International Youth Year, the government did not establish one lasting program to counter youth crises. The year was all pomp and ceremony and no meat.

The government has offered little to the more than 600,000 unemployed young people in Canada. As time goes by, the youth have less and less hope for the future.



OPINION

Not cotton

Dear editor:

Congratulations to Gillian McCain on the review of *Less Than Zero* by Bret Easton Ellis. It was witty, fun, and interesting, but it was less than insightful.

Some research into Ellis' background I'm sure would have revealed to her the true nature of *Less Than Zero*. His literary focus is not the cotton candy populist overview she assumes it to be; this is a superficial summation. Ellis' focus is one of disillusionment and despair, shallowness and alienation, the death of the dreamer and the individual. There is no love lost between him and the characters the book describes, more accurately he is distressed and ultimately saddened by the status quo in *Less Than Zero's* Los Angeles.

I think an obvious parallel to his writing is the music of the Velvet Underground. Both deal with urban alienation — the drugs, the moral bankruptcy, the hopelessness.

Ellis must ultimately loathe the characters in *Less Than Zero* even more than Ms. McCain does.

Sincerely
Mark DeWolf
Entertainment Editor
The Journal
Saint Mary's University

Bloody ties

To the editor:

Whoever welcomes Thyssen money to create jobs in Cape Breton (Ken MacAulay's letter of March 13) should look at what this same money supported before (see, for example, the books by Fritz Thyssen; *I Paid Hitler*, or J. and S. Pool, *Who Financed Hitler?*) The ensuing war killed 50 million people in Europe, among them thousands of Canadians. The Thyssen firms, however, miraculously survived and now propose to further expand their bloody business to Canada. I am amazed that Canadians let them do it.

A point of interest — Thyssen has fired some 1700 "permanent" employees since 1974 in Germany and replaced them with mostly foreign workers who are formally employed by subcontractors. These workers are easy to hire and to fire, are very poorly paid and receive essentially no benefits.

Sincerely,
Karl Dilcher

Simply put

To the editor,

In a recent response to my letter of February 12, Mr. Stevan Ellis labelled my arguments against his biased philosophies 'dis-jointed'. Therefore, I will attempt to make them simple so that he may understand them.

Mr. Ellis' letter begins with a long list of his qualifications and positions, as if to justify his new, unofficial title - Moral Loudspeaker of Dalhousie University. I speak as a mere student — all the credentials I feel I need.

To begin, I think I need to reiterate my position concerning the Dalhousie Board of Governors. No-one needed a crystal ball to foresee that they would vote unanimously for divestment. After all, which Governor would want it known that he or she voted against divestment — for whatever reason. I suspect they were feeling a great deal of pressure from Mr. Ellis and his cohorts, who happened to be crowding the room. If Mr. Ellis needs an example of how politics usually overrides his brand of idealism, he need only remember recent history. Forgive my cynicism Mr. Ellis, but I think the Board of Governors was less concerned with your petition and more concerned with the fiscal well-being of the university.

Mr. Ellis also states in his letter that South Africa is at the pinnacle of 'wrongs' in the world. I wonder then what his stand might be on Cambodia, Vietnam, Nicaragua, Afghanistan, Angola, the Soviet Union, Zimbabwe, Chile, etc. It is true that the countries above were those that pushed the hardest for that resolution to be passed. Why? To draw atten-

tion away from their human rights abuses.

Once again, I must reassert my position. South Africa must change. That, at least, is obvious. How can it change? Not by pouring gasoline over tribal rivals. Not by riots and mob rule. It must change through constitutional and legislative processes. It requires a change of attitude, not government. I believe the white government will allow black rule when they are sure that the country they built will not go the way of Rhodesia and others.

In closing, Mr. Ellis stated that Dalhousie was becoming another brick in the wall that enslaves black South Africans. He quoted the former South African Prime Minister, John Forster. It is not surprising that he would use a quotation from the man who constructed Apartheid.

I would advise Mr. Ellis to update his literature. The current Prime Minister, P.W. Botha, has stated that he is equal to a black man in the eyes of God. An interesting quote from a man whose government you labelled 'morally reprehensible', wouldn't you say, Stevan?

Brewster Smith
(Ed. Note: This letter has been edited to 300 words)

Generalities

To the editor,

I wish to comment on your article entitled "Maritime women fight for nature in their own way" by Lois Corbett (*Gazette*, March 13, 1986). In the fight against sexism, racism, or any other form of prejudice, it is essential not to make unsupportable generalizations. Unfortunately, this article was full of such generalizations about men.

The article seriously confuses two important, but distinct, sets of problems — those of the environment and those of sexism. Ms. Corbett seems to be arguing that all men are anti-environmentalists because more anti-environmentalists are men. I am a male and I am very concerned about the environment. I object

to reading that I build power plants in "women's" back-yards, spray chemicals on their children, spray forests, drop bombs, etc. I also do not feel that I "narrow things down" or that I "don't like to tackle broad issues". I spend a disproportionately large amount of my time arguing for holistic (not wholisitic) approaches to science and society. The statements made in the article about the actions of "men" are obviously not true (although they may apply to some men and, possibly, a few women).

To suggest that the problems discussed can be simply viewed as women versus men is preposterous. Ms. Corbett's suggestions trivialize the serious questions raised by environmental problems ("acceptable risk" vs. societal benefit) and incite sexual prejudice without just cause. By identifying environmental issues as "anti-men" issues, Ms. Corbett risks driving concerned males away from environmental activist groups. If someone wrote similar things about blacks, jews, women, or any other group, I doubt whether you would print such an article. In order to reduce prejudice, it is necessary to examine carefully the basis for generalizations about others. By promoting Ms. Corbett's logic, you implicitly accept its application to other groups of people. I view this as a dangerous practice.

Yours truly,
Michael Paterson

Katimavik

To the editor:

Regarding the article entitled "Youth Ignored" (March 6, 1986) Mr. Syms is obviously as concerned as many of us about the problems facing youth today. However, I find it unusual that after citing the recent budget cuts to youth programmes, such as the elimination of Katimavik, he neglected to mention an even greater crime against youth — the cutting of the Ministry of Youth. This organization, established by the federal Liberal government in 1978, was set up to bring the con-

cerns of youth, country-wide, to Ottawa, to give us a voice in Parliament.

When the Progressive Conservative Party came into power in 1984, they almost immediately began to neglect this programme, and last year, with a budget of a mere 17 million, under the Hon. Andre Champagne, it did nothing more than buy lots of balloons and streamers and generally run around doing little more than chanting "celebrate the youth".

Ms. Champagne justifies her flagrant waste by asserting that she was "accentuating the positive". Sadly, due to the ineptitude of her and her government, there is very little positive to accentuate now. The Budget brought down two weeks ago has cancelled these celebrations, and consequently quieted the voice of youth on Parliament Hill. The Nova Scotia Young Liberals condemn the Progressive Conservatives' blatant disregard for the pressing concerns of youth.

Thank you
Leo VanDijk,
N.S.Y.L. President

New women

To the editor,

We the Sacred Six regret to inform you that this institute of post-secondary education has become a cesspool of sin. This decrepit state of affairs has gone on too long to let lie in the caverns of the LSC and grow into a giant, pestering, feminist orb. It is now time to reveal this super-ego movement for what it really is, a gathering of mindless loudspeakers. These creatures have no soul but can constantly be heard throughout the hallways, and a little too frequently in our University newspapers, belching out, "I can open my own *c&* door." This call-to-rally seems to prevail at good ol' Dal-U, but frankly, we the Sacred Six are satiated to the gills with this narrow-minded ideology. Let the doors of justice swing forth and engulf these chauvanistic hobgoblins, while

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