

# Canadians need to work together

Canada is not well. In fact we're quite sick. We're suffering through a heart attack on our way to a major break down.

The final affects of the Meech Lake fiasco will not be felt for some time, but it is safe to say the resulting crack in the maple leaf will not be repaired in the near future, if at all.

Demands for more power and more independence are heard from the Pacific to the Atlantic.

Much noise is being made about the Federal Government's "Canada Commission" led by Kevin Spicer, and not without reason. The poor man has been given the responsibility to do, by July 1, what no one has been able to do in over 100 years — define Canada.

Don't get me wrong. I wish him the best of luck. It's just that it seems he has been given a task (to unify Canada) that just about everyone else in the country is working against.

Canada is at a crossroads and the future of our country hangs very much in the balance. Little slip ups can soon be perceived as major blunders, and people on opposite sides of the political spectrum are just waiting for a chance to expose the other side as insensitive, bull-

ish, or domineering.

Now, more than ever, Canadians need to communicate. They need to spend time talking and listening to each other.

One of the most important forums for such communication is through existing national institutions. Which is why it is so ironic that these institutions are under attack, now more than ever.

Spicer is fighting an uphill battle against the same people who hired him. He is expected to find the bonds that unite Canada at the same time as the federal government is overseeing the dismantling of Via Rail, Petro Canada, and Air Canada.

It may not seem that these institutions, or

corporations, are important to national unity, but look again. True, these companies do not represent all of what Canada is. They don't come close to expressing the wonderful cultural diversity, history, and traditions that make us Canadians. Yet, there are not many tangible things that define Canada. So, why is the government spending so much energy attacking the few institutions that can be considered all our own.

So what can we do about it? Well, there is the usual stuff, write letters, join protests, etc...but there is something else we as students can do.

We can defend, work for, and support the national institutions we belong to. We can

work together to preserve the communication forums that already exist for Canadian students.

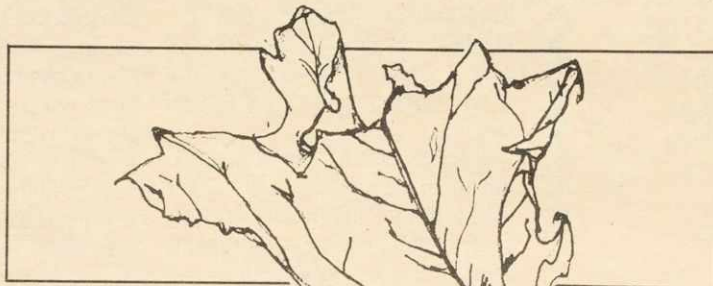
This means working to refocus and reunite organizations such as the Canadian Federation of Students, not to follow the example of the federal government and simply withdraw ourselves when it is most important to speak out and be heard.

Dalhousie has a long and illustrious history of organizing and supporting national organizations that allow Canadians from coast to coast to speak with each other and to work together for the common good.

That is a history Dalhousie should be proud of, stand up for, and continue to work on. Let's not hide our heads in the sand. If there are problems let's work them out together, as Canadians, and not as islands of ignorance.

Canada needs people to speak out on its behalf. Let's hope Dalhousie will not be remembered as one of those who sought to undermine the bonds that link the country together.

Alex Burton



## War is profitable

by Boris Nikolovsky

"The Gulf Crisis is an unexpected boom for Canada," said an anonymous official in the government.

"Potential war is a welcome psychological boost. What with the G.S.T., Meech Lake, Oka and deficits, people need some excitement to take their minds off things." War would also alleviate the woes of Atlantic Canada "especially in the fishing industry," said the official.

A military source hinted Canada might deploy its short range cod missiles, lobster cluster bombs, and poisonous maple syrup gas, in the event of war in the Gulf.

The military & fishing industries have rapidly developed these weapon systems despite a massive government deficit and criticism that Canada has a wimpy army.

A general added "Malarky, we could blow Iraq up in a blink. Just boom and Saddam won't have to go to Mecca."

Responding to criticism that Canada is sacrificing butter for guns, the official said "the sacrifice is fish, not butter. Anyway, all those plants are closed and would reopen to produce the military cod and the deadly maple gas."

The official boasted Canada is coming of age. Asked about Canada's traditional non-interventionist & peace keeping role, the official said "there is no more

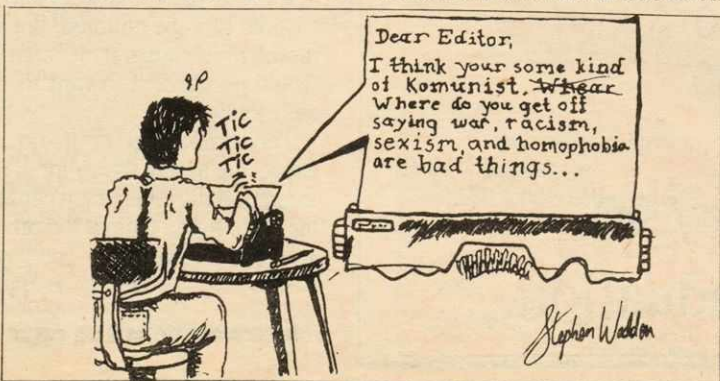
room for commie peace bullshit, no way, no sir. We're totally right and no mickey mouse dictator is going to push us or our brethren, the United States of America and the defender of democracy and peace, around." The official admitted Rambo is the best movie ever made.

When asked about Canada's reluctance to act under the United Nations' declaration, the source replied "screw them, we don't need anybody to tell us we're right. If the boys down south (Washington) give the go ahead, our people are ready." The official stressed that Canada follows an independent foreign policy.

Another official in the finance department declared "we always have plenty of gumballs for the military. We always give them the black ones 'cause they're the best. It used to be jelly beans you know."

When asked about economic problems facing Canada, the official remarked "that's not a concern at the moment. People are getting more and more excited about war and we hafta' get rid of, once and for all, those silly nincompoop social programs."

The official expressed his hope that if a lot of people, like Kevin MacDonald (Gazette Nov 6) get happy enough about war, the government would not need to go through the hassle of bringing in the draft in the event of a conflict.



## Fun in the Killam Library

Dear editor,

I first borrowed books from the Killam library in my second year. (My sister needed some info on Shakespeare and couldn't find it anywhere else.) I first used it for myself three weeks ago. I borrowed a book on the reserve list. Well, I was twenty-five minutes late returning it. (The elevator was slow, and nature called.)

Within two days I was mailed a 'bill', asking for the \$1.00/hour overdue charge. For only 25 minutes? If I had known I would be charged the whole dollar, I would have kept it the other thirty-five minutes. I should only have to pay 41.6666667 cents. But, being an average Dalhousian, I will pay the dollar fee, probably the day before I borrow another book.

Which brings me to...The Top Ten Things to Look For at the Killam Library. (What does this have to do with my little anecdote? Who knows?)

10. People trying not to get caught eating and drinking in the library.
9. Various staff pushing around that book-laden trolley, trying to look busy.
8. Books in which other students have conveniently underlined the more interesting parts.
7. Electrical outlets at every cubicle. (For what? A T.V.? Nite-light? Radio? Remember, if it's not...Oh, forget it.)
6. People on the top floor, looking down on the rest of the world.
5. The various signs warning against recent thefts, reminding us how safe we are from crime.
4. People who can walk up to the

second floor, but take the elevator instead, to 'save time'.

3. The rapid-access computers. (Press SEND, wait a minute, press SEND again, wait again...)

2. Those easy to understand call numbers for books. (PR 3069 L2 R4???)

And the Number One Things to Look For at the Killam Library:

1. People studying. (Hey, I'm still looking!)

Craig Falkenham

## Pissed off

Dear editor,

I'm sure you've noticed by now that the Gazette has the cute habit of putting humorous little cartoons next to its articles, op/eds and letters. In fact, in all nine issues of the fall 1990 term the Gazette has adhered to the unwritten policy of applying cartoons that were relevant to, or even outrightly supported the writer's arguments. This use of the cartoon is a great medium for making the author's point and poking fun at such things as the GST, tuition hikes, faculty strikes, etc.

However, if you look at every cartoon in all of this term's nine issues so far, you will find only one single instance in which a corresponding cartoon espouses a totally different viewpoint than the article it was attached to. This occurred in the November 8 issue when a cartoon of Uncle Sam (pretending to be a carefree warmonger) accompanied an article that defended Canada's role in the Persian Gulf and called for a peaceful solution to the crisis ("Canada needs to be in Gulf" vol.9 p.8) Nowhere else has the Gazette printed a cartoon

## LETTERS

that was so way off the mark of the article it appeared with. Why is this? Is it because the article criticized editorial czar Alex Burton for his myopic views on the crisis? Was it Alex's revenge?

The unofficial policy of printing cartoons that were relevant to, or supported an article was suspended to denigrate an opinion that the Gazette editors openly opposed. The Gazette editors must not be so "small" and narrow-minded by trying to trivialize a seriously written op/ed that runs counter to their own viewpoint. It's time to grow up, Gazette, and at least show some fairness, or a semblance of journalistic integrity. This paper is fast becoming a sounding board and ideological organ for an elite few (i.e. Alex Burton).

Kevin McDonald

Our apologies to Kevin McDonald for the editorial cartoon placed with his article last week. It did not express the views of his opinion piece.

**All contributions to the Gazette must be typed, double-spaced. This also holds true for letters, which should not exceed 300 words. Opinion pieces should not exceed 500 words.**