

tic, funky and enthusiastic group of people who formed the Dalhousie Strike/Action Committee. Rather than getting caught up in small-p politics and irrelevant history, they organized the best student demonstration I have seen at Dalhousie. It was fun and effective. Thanks to them, a sizeable group of Dalhousie students took part in the national student strike on January 25.

Had I accepted the arguments of the DSU and some Gazette staffers, I might not have exercised my rights to free speech and association. These basic tenets of democracy seem to be deemed irresponsible and immature in the 1990s where negotiation and compromise are the name of the game. Meeting with politicians useful and good. I still think, however, that there is much to be said for standing up and speaking out, preferably with thousands of others.

The proposed changes to higher education through the social policy proposals are frightening in their consequences. \$7,500 for tuition — that is, the right to sit in a classroom, read expensive books and engage in conversation and exploration — would put university education out of the realm of possibility for many people. It is right to protest.

Many non-students understood and applauded the student strike. Both of my classes of that afternoon were cancelled or rescheduled by supportive faculty members. Metro Transit bus drivers and others beeped their horns in support, even while forced to a standstill by the thousands of students who

flooded Spring Garden Road. Numerous labour unions endorsed the strike. Apparently, some people can still recognize a valid cause.

## In praise of Billy Graham

To the editor,

Billy Graham is full of surprises! Perhaps the biggest surprise is that he considers himself a failure, a 'crawling worm.' He doesn't quite say why but it seems a strange thing to say since he fully believes he is going to Heaven. Is Heaven not the ultimate in success?

Some other surprising and interesting things he said was he believes there is life on other planets, 'or else why are they there?' And in Heaven we will do work, as we do now on earth, which makes sense to me. (One would get tired of playing a harp all day.)

Although he believes in Hell, apparently he is not certain that it is eternal — he leaves that up to God. He admits there is much of the Bible he doesn't understand, such as why God created Lucifer (the Devil) and why there are so many religious wars. But he believes the answers will come to him in Heaven.

I learned through one interview that he is not the arrogant, self-righteous, rock solid, unbending, unwavering, 'fundamentalist preacher' I thought he was but rather an aging and gracious and dignified evangelical, man of God. What a surprise! A breath of fresh air even!

Philip McLean

## Youth group—not BGLAD!

To the editor,

I just wanted to clarify that the meeting on bisexuality that I was referring to in my letter [the Gazette, Jan. 15/95] was at the Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Youth Group through Planned Parenthood of Nova Scotia. It was NOT a BGLAD meeting. I do not know what BGLAD's policy on heterosexuals is. Thanks for making this correction, and sorry to BGLAD for the confusion, especially if the shoe does not fit.

Kirsten M. Schmidt

## East Timor stuff great

To the editor,

I read with interest "Dalhousie ignores East Timor horror" (Brooks Kind, the Gazette, January 19). The article was well researched and well meant. However, I would like to offer a different perspective. First off, I should admit I have vested interests; I make most of my living from fisheries/marine development work in countries such as Indonesia, and I spent three months there last summer working on a marine science education project. I am also a member of Amnesty International Group 15 (Halifax), although this letter is being written independently.

There is a danger in over-generalizing issues which occur in distant countries. Indonesia is made up of approximately 190 million individuals. Some of them are members of a brutally repressive military regime, but most are not. The benefits that result from a project like EMDI (Environmental Manpower Development in Indonesia) accrue mainly to the people of Indonesia, not the regime. These benefits include increased knowledge of environmental processes, problems and solutions. They also include better trained people to identify and deal with those problems. If anything, this increased environmental awareness may cause the military regime more grief than good, in that more people can oppose the environmental degradation with informed opinions. This should scare the industrial development efforts that make the regime so much money. Although it could be argued that efforts like EMDI are a "drop in the bucket" due to the magnitude of the problems in Indonesia, it can also be argued that every little bit helps.

It is one thing to condemn projects like EMDI (rightly or wrongly), but quite another to do nothing else in a positive sense to help oppressed people. Our Amnesty group is about to give up our campaign on human rights abuses in Indonesia and East Timor

due to a lack of manpower to work on it. A talk on East Timor given at our January 19 meeting drew a crowd of only five non-Amnesty people, despite advertising on CKDU and elsewhere. As last week's headline said, Dalhousie is ignoring the East Timor horrors.

This is a double whammy to the people of Indonesia; boycotts of trade and aid are recommended (negative actions) while little positive action is being taken here to reduce the actual human rights abuses. This is equivalent to letting them freeze in the dark, figuratively speaking.

Concern is only useful if it is acted upon.

Human rights abuses can be corrected from inside or outside a country, but the work inside is made easier when there is international support. There are many brave Indonesians already risking and losing their lives in efforts to stop the abuses.

Amnesty International Group 15 will meet next on February 16 at 8 p.m., room 316, Dalhousie Student Union Building.

Seán McDonnell

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## BLACK

### History Month Book Launch

Celebrating Black History Month, celebrating women's lives and writing.

Monday, Feb. 6, 1995

2nd Floor S.U.B.

- 11 am - 2 pm Book Display
- 6 pm - 7 pm Reception - everyone is invited to share some coffee & tea.
- 7 pm - 8 pm Guest Speaker - Lana Maclean and Film: "I know Why The Caged Bird Sings" - Maya Angelou.

## "The DWC Downtown"

Pub Crawl Friday, February 11 at 5 pm.  
Please call for more info.

The DWC would like to apologize to the organizers of the Feb. 11 Dance.

**"Everyone will need dance tickets for admittance."**