

continued from page 5

Thank you, Joseph

To the Editor:

To the Cast & Production Team of Joseph:

We would like to thank all of those involved in the performances of Joseph. In our belief it was one of the most successful ventures ever seen by this student union. The level of energy, dedication and, dare we say it, professionalism shown was exemplary. We extend a particular congratulation to Glenn Walton for his ability to pull together so many diverse areas of this campus into a production which demonstrated that spirit at Dalhousie is alive and well.

Yours affectionately,
Peter Rans
John Russell
Shawn Houlihan

Faculty shouldn't strike

To the Editor:

The Dalhousie Faculty Association has called a strike vote over the period December 1-3. It has done this regardless of the facts that the people who would be most directly hurt by a strike are the students, that it is an issue that will deeply divide the faculty, and that their demand for a 15 per cent salary increase in these "six and five" days is hardly calculated to enlist public sympathy or to incline the Provincial Government to increase its level of funding.

It would be difficult to think of any strike action whose effects so clearly injure - and indeed are designed to injure - the innocent third party as a faculty strike. Students at Dalhousie pay crippling high fees. They deserve to receive in return continuous and conscientious attention from their professors. The withholding of such services in effect robs them of a portion of their fees. Moreover, it is clear that if the DFA won its higher increases the students would have to pay for them in the form of yet higher fees. What is particularly repellent about this is that professors do not constitute an oppressed, lowly paid, over-exploited proletariat. On the contrary, they are an economically privileged elite.

There is another group within what was once thought of as the Dalhousie community whose interests the DFA would recklessly endanger: the secretarial and other support staff. If there were a prolonged strike, it would be financially sensible to close down the whole, or major part, of the university. And that would mean that those who could least afford it, and who have no stake in the issue, nothing to gain, would suffer a loss in salary, the innocent bystander who would be hurt most.

Incidentally, have the faculty thought out how long it would take them to make up for the salary they would lose in a strike? It would seem that they are prepared to risk substantial loss to others for the sake of a very dubious gain to themselves.

Kenneth A. Heard
Professor of Political Science

Recognizing conflict

To the Editor:

It was amusing to read the Letter to the Editor written by Ms. May Raad (Gazette, Nov. 18, 1982) who was driven by profound inexplicable feelings and dared to call proven historical facts "Zionist fabrications, alternations and misquotes" just because they did not suit her purpose. This ploy of evading the issue is common among politicians, but does not alter the facts. But what struck us more, was that after Ms. Raad made this accusation, she jumped to quote very specific suitable historical writers provided by "reliable" PLO sources. How can an intelligent person accept these "new facts" as the undeniable truth, for it will not only nullify accepted historical documents, but will destroy the credibility of the United Nations and its resolutions, because it was this organization that granted the Jewish independent sovereign state.

Ms. Zayid (Gazette, Nov. 4, 1982) and Ms. Raad made one point very clear - there is no such thing as unbiased writing on the complex issue of the Middle East conflict. Instead of showing a positive solution for the conflict, they spent their time and energy feeding the fire with hate. Their attempt to present Israel as a "bloodthirsty" nation is as ridiculous as the attempt to describe the PLO as a humanitarian group only interested in the preservation of human lives.

We suggest to address the issue in a rational manner and not by intense emotional identification for slogans as Ms. Zayid and Ms. Raad have done. This intense emotion will only interfere with clear thinking to resolve the real issue of the conflict - the right for any national attachment to the land, be it Christian, Jewish or Islamic.

To claim that the refugee problem is the root of the conflict is definitely an alteration of the reality. Refugees are the consequences of war, and not the instigators. Throughout history all refugee problems have found suitable solutions - all except the Arab refugees. It is well known fact that Arab leaders manipulated individual human suffering for their own interests. The saddest fact is that the Arab refugees were given open financial support by UN agencies created specifically for their situation. Where did all the millions of dollars go to?

The "reality" Ms. Raad speaks about is one of continuous fighting and the determination to destroy the State of Israel on the one side, and a serious feeling of threat on the Israeli side.

An article written in the London *Observer* on Sept. 3, 1967, by A. Hourani, a "moderate" PLO propagandist, reflects the reality that Ms. Raad talks about:

"If the West Bank is returned Jordan may become a more solid and united state. But in spite of Israeli hopes and efforts, there is no reason to believe that the attitude of Palestinian Arabs towards Israel will change, except to be more hardened by new losses."

With this in mind, as long as the Arabs, and the PLO especially, refuse to accept Israel's existence, the road to peace will be forever blocked.

Iris Kohier
G. Levinton

Article disputed

To the Editor:

It would be a worthy endeavour to enlist someone to proofread Album review articles to keep out contradictions. Take a look at Gary LeBlanc's review of Dexy's Midnight Runners: paragraph 5: "Dexy's are dedicated bleeding hearts" and later, paragraph 7: "... if they didn't pretend to be so sensitive." Dedicated = pretend?

As the point of an album review is to give a clear, objective sketch of the content, contradictions like this are confusing at least, if not indicative of poor journalism.

Allison Outhit

Reception under fire

To the Editor:

Students beware! There is an addiction so horribly, so methodologically unexpected that you may not even know it exists. Yes, my friends, it's the terrible television craze. As of yet it has not claimed any lives but who knows what's to come next. It all starts with a few innocent soap-operas between classes, a movie now and then, maybe even a mini-series, and WHAM!, you're hooked! Game shows, reruns, cartoons, no show can hide from your glassy-eyed stare. Your work begins to suffer; nothing seems to matter except that next show. You foot yourself by saying you could quit anytime, yet the thought of a power outage gives you the chills; you've heard of people dying of boredom during blackouts. The urge to watch television is undeniable. You are addicted!

It's so easy to chuck the books and head for the television lounge it's not even funny. Oh, the thrill of sitting back and being entertained without having to lift a finger! Come on now, a two years old could derive the plot of any one of those shows you are so entranced by. If that's what you want, go right ahead and let your intelligence be made a mockery of by a piece of machinery.

There are alternative escapes from studying which are less hazardous, and are enlightening and enjoyable. Reading allows you to use your pictorial imagination while, at the same time, it draws you out of yourself into the lives of others. A good workout lets those muscles, grown still through sitting, unwind. To get your mind off chemistry, why not test your skill with a strategy game? You see, there is more to life than hazy hypnosis in front of a picture tube.

A good movie or documentary never hurt anyone but beware the day when "Another World" becomes more important than a midterm. Look after your own interests, not those of some fictional character. It's time to get some discipline. It's time to fight for your future, not some game show. What's more important? A television or the rest of your life?

Signed,
a concerned student

Commentary



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