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INSIDE

Strike update
Page 3

Film Festival
Page 11

Orchard Says Canada big loser in "free" trade deal

by Alex Burton

"Free trade is just another attempt by the Americans to control the entire continent," says David Orchard.

Orchard, a grain and livestock farmer from Saskatoon, spoke to a packed auditorium at Queen Elizabeth high school last Thursday night on the dangers of the Canada - U.S. free trade agreement.

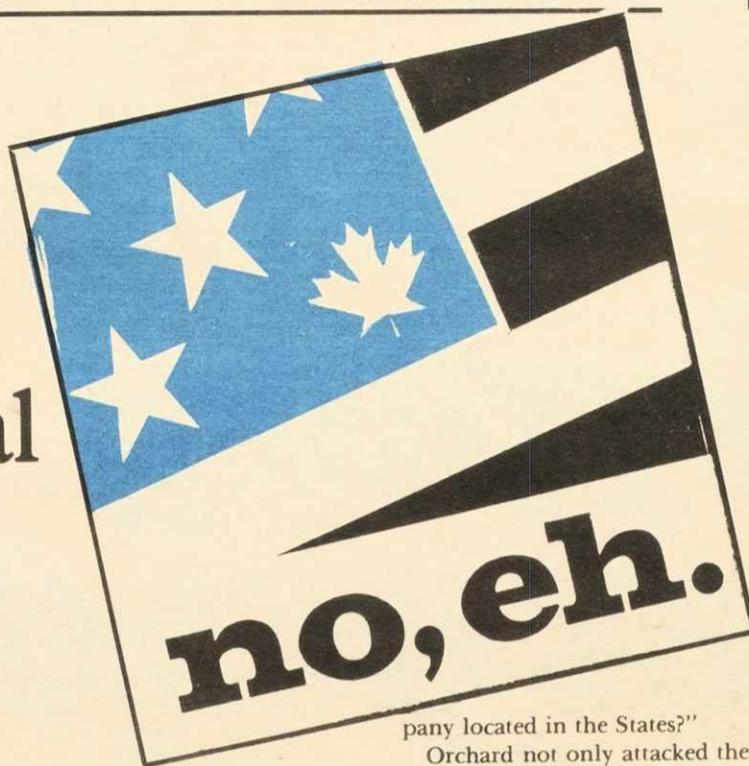
Orchard opened his three hour speech with a detailed account of the history of Canadian - American conflict. Quoting famous historians, politicians, and business people from both sides of the border, he attempted to illustrate the "age old desire" of the Americans to rule all of North America.

He cited various historical precedents, including attempts

by the United States to invade Canada in 1775 and 1812, and the Canadian federal elections of 1891 and 1911, where free trade was a major issue, as proof of this desire. Orchard stirred up a vision of a Canada which, since Confederation, has been in a struggle against the Americans for its sovereignty.

Orchard, who is the president and founder of the non-partisan group Citizens Concerned About Free Trade, also spoke at length on the current free trade agreement.

"The agreement will hurt almost every part of our economy," he said. Using the example of a 1944 U.S. - Canada free trade agreement in the agricultural machinery industry, Orchard said free trade would allow larger American companies to domi-



nate and eventually overrun smaller Canadian businesses.

He complained about the intimidation tactics used by proponents of the deal, who have accused opponents of the agreement of having no faith in the ability of Canadians to compete. "Competition is a joke when you have a branch plant economy," he said. "Will General Motors of Canada compete against General Motors of Detroit? Will Scott Paper Products of Nova Scotia compete against its mother com-

pany located in the States?"

Orchard not only attacked the free trade deal, but Brian Mulroney as well. He wondered out loud why the prime minister would break with a 100 year Conservative tradition of opposing free trade with the United States, and why he had changed his views on free trade since the 1983 Conservative leadership convention.

(In 1983, Mulroney said, "Don't talk to me about free trade. That issue was decided in 1911. Free trade is a danger to Canadian sovereignty. You'll hear no more of it from me.")

In his speech, Orchard repeatedly referred to the dangers to Canadian sovereignty that the deal poses: "(the deal) is about the survival of Canada as a nation." Using the examples of Hawaii and Puerto Rico, both completely independent states at one time, he said free trade would eventually lead to "the total unification of Canada and the United States."

Free trade will also affect education. "Education will be affected in the same way most Canadian institutions will be. It will have to conform to the American approach or system," Orchard said.

Twin city elections Dartmouth gets top billing

by Amber-Leigh Golding

The big story of the municipal elections just past, if newspaper reports are any judge, was the political massacre dealt to Dartmouth's mayoralty challenger, Charlie Keating, at the hands of re-elected John Savage. This has been interpreted as proof positive that Savage enjoys overwhelming support from his constituents. Savage's appeal may be somewhat exaggerated and short-term. He won too big for his own good.

It was a comparatively angry vote that turned out in Dartmouth; by and large the voters were casting ballots not so much in support of Savage as against the challenger. Moreover, these anti-votes were reflections of voter disillusionment not with Keating, the candidate, as is generally supposed, but rather Keating, the candidacy. His campaign was hindered by a negative image early on in the race which proved impossible to overcome.

The most conspicuous of Keating's troubles, the now infamous "Dartmouth Roots, Dartmouth Concerns" slogan, was eagerly interpreted by opponents as a slur to Savage's Welsh birthright. (How the owner of Dartmouth Cable TV, whose community channel specializes in broadcasting a decidedly liberal line-up of minority interest programming, managed to get himself labelled as a virtual bigot proves one of the most bizarre developments of the fall electoral season.)

Keating's inability to lay this issue to rest, widespread criticism of extravagant campaign spending, in addition to the poll released just prior to the election predicting for him a landslide loss, all played a part.

But the root of Keating's difficulties was his relative inexperience politically. Now Charlie Keating has experience. It should be interesting to see what he does with it.

Members of the media have

hinted — not so very subtly — that Keating's days as a politician are over.

Since Keating has only recently got into the game, this claim may be recklessly premature. What political career has not had its ups and downs? Walter Fitzgerald is a good example; his political remains have been buried more times than most people care to count, and have been exhumed yet again, this time in the guise of alderman for Ward Two in Halifax. Where Charlie Keating is concerned, "never say never" is the best possible policy.

In Halifax, unlike Dartmouth, the mayoralty campaign tended to be, for the most part, tastefully sedate. As expected Ron Wallace won with very little exertion on his own part. His challenger, Ron Cromwell, seemed to be stuck cast in the unflattering role of hopeful bridesmaid.

Continued on page 14

DSU does not take sides

by Edward Fobes

"I do not know a Canadian university in a worse financial situation," says Dalhousie president Howard Clark. This is also the main reason for the present situation at Dalhousie, according to the Dalhousie Student Union's press conference held to clarify their position on the impending strike.

According to the DSU, the blame for Dal's financial perils rests squarely on government. Questioning John Buchanan's ability to function as minister of advanced education and premier of Nova Scotia, they wondered about the provincial government's priorities. They chastised the provincial government's policy since 1980 of decreasing grants to universities in constant dollars while enrollment has increased by 34 per cent.

The federal government was not spared. Its failure to regulate provincial spending of federal money allocated for education is cause for much concern within the DSU.

In concluding that government is the root cause of Dalhousie's potential faculty strike, the DSU successfully avoided taking sides with the administration or faculty.

In the event of a strike, the DSU will be taking steps to keep the student body informed and to protect student rights. Students will be given a voice with a university-wide post card campaign. To further underline the DSU's stance against the government in particular, there will be a student march on the Nova Scotia Legislature on Thursday, October 27.

Students march Oct. 27

To lobby for increased funding to the university, a student march to the Nova Scotia Legislature will be held on Thursday, October 27. Prospective marchers are asked to meet at the Dal Student Union Building at 10 o'clock the same morning. Students from other universities, Dal faculty and administration, as well as representatives from the three main line political parties are invited to join the march.

Speakers for the rally at the Legislature will include Roydon Trainor, student representative for the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Council, and Chris Van Buskirk, Acadia student union president.

Anyone interested in making banners and placards for the march is asked to go to the Student Council offices on October 23.