



JORDAN/DAL PHOTO

Offensive "academic" paper raises eyebrows

By Arnold Mosher

Last week an unmarked brown folder arrived at the office of the *Gazette*. Inside the folder was a paper by Professor J.B. Webster of the History Department, entitled "O Canada: Guide to Native Society" and an anonymous note stating, "The blatant sexism in this paper ought not to be tolerated by the Dalhousie Community."

The paper satirizes Canadian society through a parody of white colonial writers of the 19th century. Webster said the paper is a guide for African students coming to Canadian universities and experiencing a new culture. The paper describes the route an "African explorer" should take in approaching "native" society.

It is still not resolved to what degree the paper was serious, says Jim Phillips, president of the Dalhousie Graduate Students. There were a number of people in the History and African Studies Departments who did not approve of the content of the paper, said Phillips.

Descriptions of Canadians which ascribe all whites as believing themselves superior to all blacks lend a tone of reverse racism, said Phillips.

Interactions between Canadian society and foreign students allows a "cross-fertilization of ideas," said Phillips, and he said he hopes anything said in Webster's paper would not discourage

this.

Phillips said the paper also gives a perverted view of relations between the sexes.

Phillips presumably had in mind passages like the description of a native woman who "decides when and if sexual intercourse will take place" rendering men "impotent or sex starved neurotic prone to rape suicide, alcoholism, and drugs."

John Orckar, Dalhousie's Overseas Student coordinator, said the paper seemed to dwell too much on "sex and food" and not enough on spiritual existence for foreign students.

Another criticism leveled by Orckar is the lack of documentation in what was given as an academic paper.

Orckar pointed out that behind the exaggerations of points in the paper, Webster's criticisms of Canadian life were often justified.

Exaggeration, said Webster, is the technique used not only to parody the colonial writers, but also to satirize various aspects of Canadian life. However there are serious questions behind the exaggeration, he said.

Webster said a group of feminists tried, unsuccessfully, to prevent a seminar he gave on his paper last Thursday at the African Studies Department. The feminists did not appear when the paper was discussed in the seminar.

It is typical for such groups, says Webster, not to be able to

see his paper as a satire and accept the criticism.

Webster also takes a crack at the woman who, he says, wants the best of both worlds, desiring to retain her traditional superior status, along with achieving her new equality.

Webster said later that when the paper is revised it will carry an attack on the church and religion.

Webster said that the descriptions of nightclubs, women who like "kinky sex", and white women preferring black men because they are "macho", are all derived either from personal experience or descriptions by African students. He said revealing his sources would be highly embarrassing for all concerned.

Webster says it is typical that people in our society should make criticism of his discussion of sex, and yet ignore the blatant criticism that all Canadians, suffer from "Amerifilia". He said he had distributed his criticism fairly evenly to all parts of society.

A criticism which Webster said he firmly believes is that the Bachelor of Arts degree at Canadian universities (including Dalhousie) is below international standards. The Master's of Arts degree however is kept up to international standards, he said, and as a consequence few B.A. students who enroll in a master's program complete it.

Webster's final word of advice for African Students is not to "go native".

Health insurance increased fees

by Paul Creelman

The costs of the drug insurance plan have jumped this year, while the coverage offered has lessened, according to John Graham, general manager of the student union.

Last year, the cost to the students was \$8.50 per student. This year, the cost jumped to \$11.50 per student. This amount of money is paid directly out of each students' student union fees.

"This is something that the student union, and all the students in the university are going to have to look at very closely in the future," said Graham.

"Are we really acting in our members best interests when we pay out this amount of money for an insurance plan? That's a question the students will have to answer."

Most of the rapid increases were due to a large number of physiotherapy claims last year, said Graham.

"There's no doubt that we had a good deal on insurance last year — the company lost their shirts to us. As a result, the premiums jumped this year. In order to provide coverage for a reasonable cost, this year's coverage does not include physiotherapy."

All fulltime students at Dalhousie are automatically covered by this policy, according to Dr. Johnson, director of Student Health Services.

"For Canadian students,

their MSI insurance automatically covers all costs of medical care except for the cost of prescribed drugs. This insurance plan covers the rest of their costs, except for one dollar for the drugs," said Johnson.

"Foreign students are in a different situation. The provincial government, some time ago, decided that it was not going to support MSI benefits for foreign students at Dal anymore. These students must either buy their own health insurance or remain here as a resident for a year before they are eligible for MSI coverage."

Graham confirmed that foreign students must buy their own health insurance. The cost of such coverage for a single student is \$163.50 this year, and it must be purchased by the foreign student before they can be registered.

The insurance certificates which have each individual student's policy number will be mailed in the next few weeks, according to Graham. Once each student has received his policy number, he can make a claim for any prescribed drugs by filling out the color-coded form available from student health or the student union. After the claims are received by John Ingfe, who administers the plan, the underwriting insurance company will mail out the amount of money spent on the drugs, minus one dollar.

Doonesbury takes on Kissinger

OTTAWA (CUP)—Mike Doonesbury, Joanie Caucus and Marvelous Mark Slackmeyer will challenge Henry Kissinger when he comes to Ottawa October 21.

A play featuring the Doonesbury characters will be part of a protest against the former U.S. Secretary of State's appearance at a conference on Canadian-U.S. relations sponsored by Algonquin College.

The play, produced by Barry Freed Memorial People's Theatre Troupe, will question why an alleged supporter of wars and of oppressive regimes should be sponsored by a community college.

According to Algonquin dean of Business, John Hamilton, the college's management centre invited Kissinger because of expertise in international affairs. "We received a general feedback from the Ottawa business community that he was a pretty reliable source of information on international affairs."

The centre did consider possible adverse reaction to Kissinger, he said, but felt it did not outweigh Kissinger's usefulness as an "authoritative voice".

Although Hamilton would not reveal figures, Kissinger is reported to be charging



\$15,000 for his appearance, with \$7,500 in advance.

The college is charging participants \$195 each for the one-day seminar, while those who wish to eat lunch at the same table as Dr. Kissinger will be charged \$300 more.

Hamilton said he hoped the conference would make a profit.

Kissinger's appearance has raised objections from Algonquin students and staff. Raymond Desrochers, Algonquin Director of Community Education, has written the administration three times protesting the choice and demanding an explanation.

"I still cannot understand in what way this visit responds to the needs of the populations we are responsible for,"

he wrote.

"To associate ourselves with this person, known for his pro-war positions, his support for so many oppressive regimes, his ferocious opposition to all national liberation movements, his encouragement of the arms trade... what is a community college doing mixed up in this affair?"

According to the Barry Freed troupe, the assumption that a profit will be made from the seminar cannot justify it.

"We believe that such an attitude is, at the very least, questionable in an institution devoted to learning."

It also questioned why a community college would be sponsoring an event that, because of its high entrance fee, would exclude all but a tiny minority of those who might wish to attend.

The seminar will also feature former External Affairs Ministers Flora MacDonald and Mitchell Sharp and U.S. Senator Clairborne Pell.

In addition to their speeches, and an audience question period, it will include a live on-stage interview of Kissinger by journalists Bruce Phillips, Adrienne Clarkson, Peter Desbarats, Allan Fotheringham, and Charles Lynch.