

Editorial/Opinion

Fighting for education: Why bother?

Canadian government education officials are in an uncomfortable position these days. A target for the collective anger of post-secondary students, these hapless souls are being publicly confronted by thousands who gather to voice accusations and make demands.

The complaint? Governments, by attempting to trim spending on post-secondary institutions, threaten the very future of education. Concerned students are unwilling to remain idle while governments make decisions which reduce funding, tailor academic programs to suit the whims of industry, and, by increasing tuition and altering student aid programs, make university education accessible to a shrinking 'chosen few'.

While the spectacle of hordes of angry students hurling abuse at government officials, and politicians confusedly pointing fingers at other politicians, could be considered amusing, it is good and necessary that someone is fighting to ensure education is adequately funded.

Canadians historically embraced the ideal that education is desirable and agreed to share the cost of making it accessible to all. Now it is crucial that Canadians remember their commitment to that ideal, and if it means tightening up somewhere else, so be it.

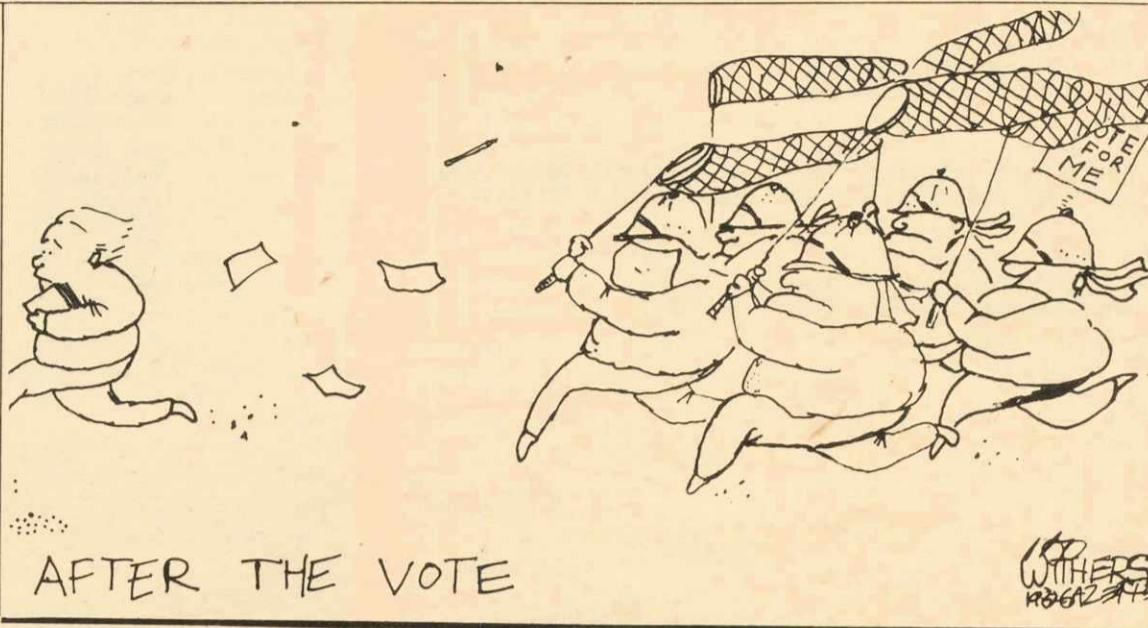
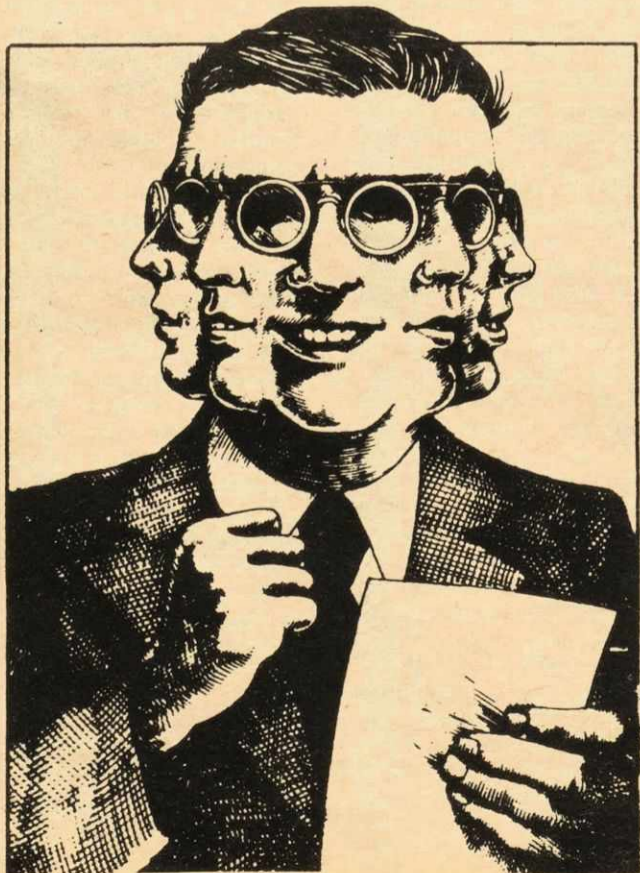
But, let the buyer beware. Throwing students into expensive buildings and surrounding them with professors, books and paper may constitute a university, but does not ensure anyone will become educated.

Canadian taxpayers can provide a comfortable, well-equipped environment in which students can learn. Beyond that, it is up to the students.

The painful truth is that a student can spend three or four years in a university, sit through hundreds of lectures, write hundreds of essays, and still not become educated, even if granted a degree.

Education, in the true sense of the word, means "to bring out", not "to stuff in". Students must take some responsibility for ensuring they receive value for their money. As with anything else on the market, not all university courses are worth paying for. Some are, however, and, unlike other commodities, the more you ask of them, the more value you are likely to receive.

Students who leave Dalhousie without having stretched their minds, without gaining something of value, whether in knowledge or skill, have cheated both themselves and the society which paid for them to be here.



Letters

Imperialism? Well, I'll be a...

To the Editor:

In my previous letters on the nuclear war workshops held at Dalhousie, I pointed out the existence of a holy alliance of well-paid professors of strategic studies, who are financed by the military to promote their theories, the Voice of Women and the church-based Project Ploughshares. I pointed out also that one of the sponsoring organizations is the recently founded Center for Conflict Studies at the University of New Brunswick, the director of which is a "counter-insurgency expert" who had trained the police and army of the fascist Shah along with his other "credentials". Also, while promoted as an informational series, it was a particular sort of information which was provided.

In the last and final session of this series it became clear why these workshops had been organised. Tugwell, the pro-imperialist "counter-insurgency expert" from UNB, supported a "peace movement" of sorts, and favoured "speeded up negotiations by the superpowers pressured by concerned people throughout the world". Later on his cohort from the U.S., D. Charters, elaborated this line on the "peace movement" by calling for the use of CIA radio stations such as "Voice of America" to convince the peoples that they "have nothing to fear from the West", i.e. from U.S. imperialism, and that it stands for "peace". This is the other side of the coin of Soviet social-imperialism's "peace and detente". Examples of aggression and interference in other countries such as El Salvador, Iran, Chile, Vietnam, and so on, expose this blatant lie. Imperial-

ist agencies such as this one at UNB are interested in promoting "peace" only as an instrument of imperialist war.

The history of the past thirty years shows that while the superpowers are talking loudly about "peace" they are actually preparing for war. Some 6,000 talks on disarmament and related issues have been held by the superpowers in the past, and the result is that their destructive capacity and the danger of war is greater than ever. And the current events in El Salvador, Poland and elsewhere show that the two superpowers, to the same degree, whether taken separately or together, are the enemies of all mankind.

No good can come from lining up with either or both superpowers in the name of "peace", but these workshops are part of a series of activities including vigils and a march leading up to yet another "disarmament conference" at the U.N.O. in New York this summer. Thus they are promoting that people should rely on the imperialists and social-imperialists to avert the danger of a third world war which is like relying on Chamberlain and Hitler to negotiate a just and lasting peace in Munich before the Second World War.

The imperialists and social-imperialists are preparing for war but it is impossible for them to do so if the peoples refuse to be lined up behind them. The imperialists cannot make war without obedient soldiers or with a population which is actively resisting imperialist war and war preparations. Therefore, the students and all democratic and peace-loving people must actively oppose the war preparations of the imperialists, oppose all efforts of the Canadian state to recruit the youth as cannon fodder for imperialist war, oppose the beefing up of the armed forces and the militarisation of the economy, oppose the use of university facilities for war and fascism and oppose all attempts of the state to impose fascism in Canada. We must demand that Canada get out of NATA and NORAD, and oppose

the Warsaw Pact. When the "Department of National Defence" gives \$300,000 to a professor of strategic studies to promote their theories, this should be opposed. Only by uncompromising opposition to imperialism and imperialist war preparations can a third world war be averted.

- Charles Spurr

Council wrist-slapping irks student

To the Editor

I have always been under the impression that Student Council is for the students and is supposed to operate in our best interests. Student Council's handling of two very recent incidents, however, has left me with some very serious doubts.

The first of these two incidents is the one in which tickets to a SUB event were forged and sold by a Dal student. The facts were presented to Student Council and I am very alarmed over the lack of action taken. It seems that a motion was passed in Council to fine the student and have him banned from the SUB. Does this really deal with the problem? Apparently the amount for the fine being suggested will not even recover the money lost by the students who were unfortunate enough to have purchased these tickets. There is also a problem with the banning of this student from the SUB. It seems that until 6 p.m. the building is considered public and the ban therefore cannot be enforced. Has all of this really been in the best interests of the students of Dalhousie?

The second incident to which I am referring is the one involving the resignation of Murdoch Ryan, the Student Union Build-

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