

I consider *Red Dawn* to be a piece of blatant and shameless propaganda. Its danger lies in the fact that many viewers saw reality in that film and accepted it as fact that the Russians might actually parachute into their communities at any moment and blow up their high schools.

Perhaps, Marci, you were able to see through the smoke and search for a deeper meaning. I fear, however, that the greater part of the audience was not so perceptive.

Wendy MacGregor

Dawson bids adieu

To the editors:

Hello everyone, and welcome back for another thrilling year. Hello weirdos, communists, freaks, reactionaries, paid lackeys, running dogs, wage slaves, professional students and friends.

You haven't heard the last of me.

Peter Dawson
1st Year, MPhil,
London School of Economics



A personal view from South Africa

The following unsolicited report was sent to *The Gazette* by Dr. Steve Nicol, currently a member of faculty at the University of Cape Town, South Africa. Nicol is a Dalhousie graduate, having completed his Doctorate in Biology here last year.

In the letter accompanying this article, Nicol says he's "tried to describe the feelings on campus and the actions that have so far resulted," without going into detail about anti-apartheid activities on the campus, details which he is not a liberty to discuss.

The *Gazette* hopes to have further reports from Dr. Nicol to present in the coming months.

CAPE TOWN, South Africa — Spring has arrived in Cape Town and with it has come the "unrest" that has been sweeping the rest of the country. The University of Cape Town (UCT) is a multiracial university and although the mix of peoples does not reflect the true population ratios, the fact that all races and nationalities mix freely on campus, makes for an interesting perspective on the current crisis.

Since the state of emergency was declared on July 25 the campus has been a place of discussion. The role students and faculty of a liberal institution such as UCT must play in the process of change has been hotly debated. It is amazing how animated faculty and student meetings become when the possible outcome of the meeting may

result in beatings, teargas and imprisonment.

Two schools of thought seem to exist: the first sees the university being a guiding light demonstrating through its hard-won liberalism that another society is possible and considers confrontation likely to lead to more repression, not less. The second school seeks confrontation and believes that the level of violence must be kept up or escalated in order to enforce change. In general, the prevailing attitude is the former concentrating on non-violent demonstration and quieter diplomacy.

One problem with non-violent protest here is that it is generally one-sided, being met with sticks and teargas anyway. Another problem is that it takes only one violent person in a large crowd to turn a peaceful protest into a riot. So far two marches have been made from the UCT campus. The first was broken up by police off-campus and the second turned back at the edge of campus without incident.

The usual form of protest here

is to line the highway that delimits the campus at rush hour with pickets and posters — the other side of the highway is generally lined by police video-taping the protestors and waiting for the order to disperse them. Twice last week the police came across the highway with teargas and sticks dispersing a crowd that were allegedly throwing stones. The fear of the university authorities is that the police will come across and stay.

Cape Town and its suburbs cover a huge area. The university is perched on the mountainside above the southern suburbs and overlooking the Cape flats where-in lie the black, and coloured townships and the shanty towns such as Crossroads and Khayelitsha. Last week from our ivory tower we could look across the flats and see the plumes of black smoke rising, hear the sirens and see the military helicopters patrolling. In the white areas, however, life went on as normal apart from what protest emanated from the UCT campus.

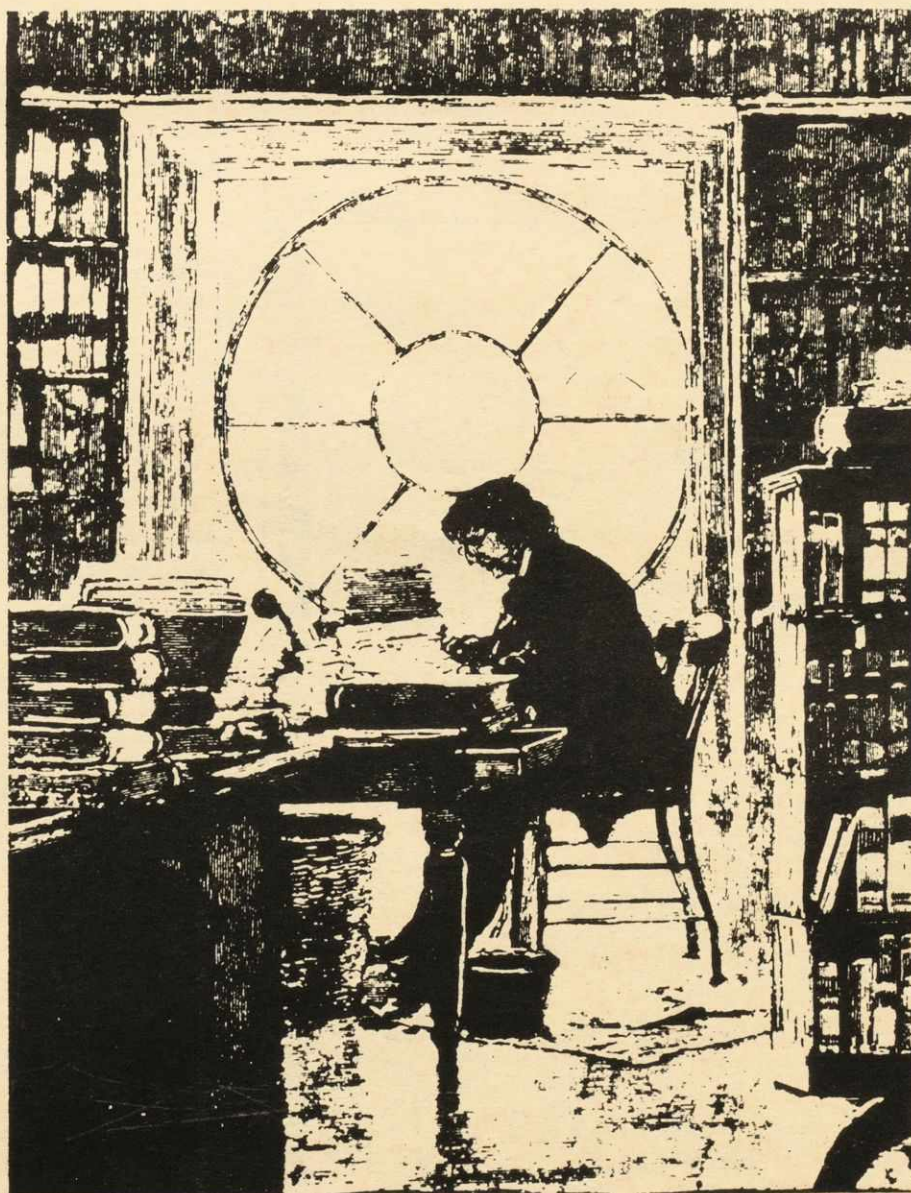
Little scenes and stories tend to stick in my mind. An old lady on Thursday lunchtime hitting golf-balls on the rugby field at UCT where, the previous evening, police had beaten and teargassed protesting students. A police van stopping at a bus stop and warning the three amazed girls there that they had better stand six

metres apart or else they would constitute an "illegal gathering". The sports centre receiving a tear-gas canister through the window disrupting a karate class mock-fighting inside whilst the real thing goes on outside. The sight of a line of police forty metres in front of me stick and guns at the ready, counterpoised against the steady chanting of the black students ten meters behind me and feeling like the filling in a sandwich.

The air of unreality that is engendered by the isolation of the white population from the troubles here is heightened by the almost complete absence of news coverage on the radio and television. Being used to the local news in Halifax where a bad case of indigestion merits an ATV news in-depth report it is eerie to know important things are going on around you about which you are not being told. The newspapers do their best but to a large extent are dependent on the government for information and are subject to a large number of restraints from the same source.

We are being told the "unrest" is simmering down like it did in 1980 and 1976 and that things will return to normal in the townships. The majority of whites seem content to weather out these periodic disturbances and believe life for them will also continue as normal... we shall see.

Now That Classes Have Begun . . .

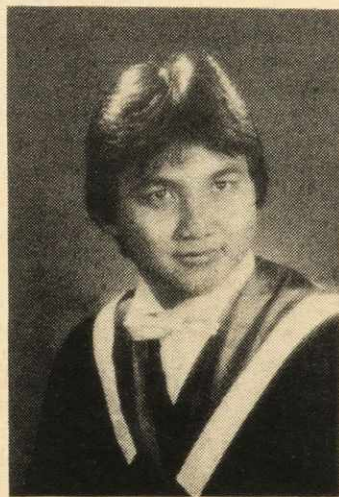


General Study Guides at Dalhousie Bookstore

First Baptist Church Halifax

1300 Oxford St.
(across from Shirreff Hall)
Welcomes all students back.
Service at 10:30
Telephone 422-5203/5416

Graduation Portraits



by
J. Harris

Master of
Photographic
Arts

6⁵⁰ plus
tax

SIX PROOFS TO KEEP

982 Barrington Street
423-7089 422-3946