

—you were saying

Pissed off at "puddles"

To the Editor:

For the last three years since I have attended Engineering at Dal., there have been problems with respect to parking on campus.

The first that comes to mind is the flooding of the parking lot between Howe Hall and the Sir James Dunn building. This problem has become so common, that the great sharks have invaded, and the Engineering Society had to hire Sinbad and his crew of merry men to destroy the deadly pests.

What I foresee in the future is a cold spell, and the freezing of our "Dunn lake", which may cause a serious accident as a result.

This flooding is very common around the Dunn building. If you get off the bus at the main gate on Coburg Rd. you will also face "puddles"—i.e., bodies of water. As well there are the ice sheets on the path leaving the south door of the Dunn. Its [sic] about time our administration paid a bit more attention to the maint. of our campus before a serious accident forces them to do so.

Bernie MacDonald
Engineer Rep., Student Council



© 1984 Walker/Dal Photo

We really think that there's a drainage problem at the Dunn Building . . . this photo cost the life of a brave photographer whose last energies were spent throwing the camera on shore.

The uniqueness of DTUC

To the Editor:

Though the Dalhousie campus is rather far-removed geographically from its cousins in the west, students here and across Canada should be turning an eye towards British Columbia where a recent "restraint" legislation would see one of the country's most unique institutions of higher learning ruthlessly axed: namely, DTUC, the David Thompson University Centre in Nelson, B.C.

My motivation for writing this letter comes from the sense of ironic anguish I felt last week while plowing through a heap of copy in the Dalhousie Gazette office where I am a typesetter. I suddenly found myself setting a main feature which, it occurred to me, sings an elegy for the demise of that very institution whose Creative Writing program enabled me to learn the skills with which I set those (for me) poignant lines—indeed, the very skills with which I now eke out a living. Far from my singing an elegy, however, I can sing only the praises of DTUC's Kootenay School of Writing, the program in which I was a participant in 1981-82.

Not the least of the unique aspects of DTUC's School of Writing is its relative smallness which affords the opportunity for all the student writers—from poets to playwrights to journalists—to know each other by name and to exchange ideas in an informal way. The atmosphere, because of this, is one of community. Indeed, many artists feel, as did many of their predecessors, that no art can grow without this sense of artistic community. DTUC creates such a sense through artists of various disciplines combining their interests, thereby expanding their perception and knowledge of art. Even the well-established Nova Scotia College of Art and Design does not afford such wide-ranging opportunity: specifically that of intermingling visual arts, performing arts, and creative writing.

Of further importance to the DTUC students of writing is the school's emphasis on practical skills as a complement to creative ones. Students receive a grounding in the essentials of journalism, including production, layout, printing—and, yes, typesetting. Hence, a graduate from

DTUC's writing program emerges not only a better writer, but also armed with practical skills that are readily marketable. And I suppose, in an unexpected sense, I'm proof of that—though one of the least practical-minded of the students in my year there.

But none of what I have said so far describes the single most appealing feature of DTUC: the excellence in the people attracted to the school as teachers and guests. (And I must mention the extraordinarily successful National Writers' Conference—"Writing in Revolution"—held there in 1982.) Some of the important instructors—and they are well-known as writers first, instructors second—are Fred Wah, Tom Wayman, David McFadden, Margaret Hollingsworth, John Newlove, Colin Brown, et al. Visitors have included such notable writers as Margaret Randall, Margaret Atwood, Graeme Gibson, Marion Engel, Jane Rule, bp Nichol, Nicole Brossard, Sharon Pollock, Ian MacEwen—an impressive list that goes on (but I have gotten out of touch).

That such a lively, growing institution as DTUC and its Kootenay School of Writing might be legislated out of existence is beyond comprehension. Alas, B.C.'s Premier Bennett, in a manner typical of that province's Social Credit government since its recent re-election, would have David Thompson's multi-discipline program summarily killed and buried as quickly as possible. Students of George Orwell might be the first to see the significance of such a move ("There will be no art, no literature, no science . . . no distinction between beauty and ugliness"). But hopefully all students—indeed, all Canadians—will take note of this kind of government neo-totalitarianism being enacted presently in British Columbia. There is always the danger that such harsh thinking may spread to other provinces. Extrapolating that gloomy possibility, Nova Scotians may one day need to look to their own NSCAD. And then a quick, wary look over their shoulder.

P. J. Wilson
Dalhousie Gazette Typesetter

An open letter to the members of the Student Union

To the Editor:

We would like to make known to you the opportunities available through the Student Union to develop and participate in educational, social and recreational programmes of your choice through the Student Union. Every year at this time the Student Union goes through the process of developing and adopting a budget for the following year. Under the direction of the Treasurer and Finance Committee this budget is prepared to facilitate the roles, goals and activities to be undertaken in the following year.

This process only really achieves its full objective if the students, individually or as groups, participate in the process. We need your ideas and suggestions. What should the Student Union be spending your money on next year?

For example, this year a line item was included in the budget under the heading "Special Programmes." \$10,000 was allotted to be allocated to societies presenting unique programmes from 1983-84. Should we do the same for 1984-85?

If you have an idea, or are simply interested in the process, you can contact:

Shawn Houlihan, Treasurer
Dalhousie Student Union
Council Offices
Second Floor, SUB

Sincerely,
Tim Hill, President
for the Student Union

—commentary

Halifax group protests against "Caribops '84"

by C. Spurr

On Saturday, Jan. 14 and Monday, Jan. 16, information pickets were held outside the U.S. Consulate at Scotia Square to protest the dispatching of a 5-vessel, 1300-troop Canadian destroyer squadron to the Caribbean for a two-month exercise with the U.S. Navy. About 15 anti-war students from Dalhousie and NSCAD and other Halifax residents opposed to war preparations participated.

The picket was organised by the Halifax Committee Against Imperialist War formed last April

in Halifax as part of the People's Front Against Racist and Fascist Violence, a national body.

Calling this naval exercise "neither innocent nor insignificant," an HCAIW spokesman said to *The Gazette*: "What business does Canada have sending its armed forces to other countries in the first place?"

He went on to denounce Monday's visit to Halifax by federal defence minister J.J. Blais and "especially the media's manipulation of news about the equipment breakdown" of three of the destroyers in the

Caribbean-destined contingent.

A great deal was being made of this "naval disaster," as *The Daily News* headlined it, while only the barest mention was made of the real destination of the destroyers. "The issue is not that the Canadian navy is 'harmless' because its vessels break down," he said. "The issue is that the Canadian government is actively participating in the escalation of U.S. intervention in the Caribbean through sending this contingent. After what happened in Grenada last fall, and with what is happening against Nica-

ragua from Honduras with U.S. backing and troops, the real aggressive intentions behind further Caribbean 'exercises' cannot be hidden."

Canada's involvement in the region, like that of the U.S., arises from the large economic and financial stake in the region of multinationals and big banks whose control is being increasingly resisted by the peoples of these countries to the point of civil wars such as that which overthrew the Somoza regime in Nicaragua and that which now rages in El Salvador. Between

1971-78 Canadian investment in the region went from \$827 million to \$1.98 billion. Canadian government aid to El Salvador went from \$1.37 million in 1979-80 to \$6.21 million in 1981-82.

According to the Halifax Committee the military maneuvers such as this latest exercise are escalating in response to the rising opposition of Caribbean and central American peoples to foreign domination and dependence, and are aimed against freedom and democracy.

Canadian military involvement
continued on page 6