

## you were saying . . .

## Reader Spurns Spurr

Is the Gazette that hard-pressed for words to print that it must resort to becoming a media for the rubbish that is written by one Charles Spurr?

Mr. Spurr would have readers believe that his primary objective is to achieve a state of world peace. I will contend that his aim is of a much different nature. I believe that his main purpose is to set off a condition of mass turmoil in our society so that he and his communist friends can take over the reins of control.

Let us reflect for a moment on my admittedly limited knowledge of Mr. Spurr's current activities. He is the lonely soul who stands for hours outside of the SUB selling a communist newspaper for a dime. He belongs to the group who distribute the trashy paper which disrespectively denounces various western countries, leaders, and dignitaries. His activities are somewhat radical to say the least.

Don't get me wrong, I do not believe that the Gazette should cut off Mr. Spurr's letters altogether. He has just as much a right to write letters to the editor as I or anyone else does. However, isn't a letter a week a little much? Not only this, but on the week when our Prime Minister is visiting our university, to help us in our celebration, we find the Gazette printing a totally disrespectful and far-fetched letter about him. Do you people have no sense of responsibility to those who you represent? When Mr. Trudeau picks up a copy of our school newspaper, as he most surely will, he will see himself referred to as a "warmonger" and see a suggestion that he be condemned instead of honored. The Prime Minister will feel a sense of resentment towards all students at Dalhousie and he will be justified. Just because a few people hold very radical views, which I personally believe to be based upon pure rubbish, the whole of the student population will suffer. I happen to hold political views which differ widely from those of the Prime Minister's, but I still respect him as the elected leader of our country.

Prime Minister Trudeau, please accept my apology for the blatant disrespect shown to you by the Dalhousie Gazette and please realize that these views are not those of the general student population.

Matthew M. Harris  
4th year Commerce student

Editor's note: We print all letters according to the outlines in the masthead, p. 4. All submissions must be typed, double spaced.

## In defense of Rusty and Dave

Since their conception and birth 3 years ago, Rusty and Dave have found humour in situations where it was not all too obvious.

The column on fraternities two weeks ago continued this tradition.

While I may agree to some parts of recent letters from fraternity members, I think we should remember what this column is.

I do not, and I would be willing to wager that most students do not, consider fraternity members "Hitler Youths." Anyone who does suffers severe ignorance, not only of fraternities but of reality.

Let us never take ourselves too seriously. Remember that Maclean's has Fotheringham and the Gazette has Rusty and Dave.

Winston Brooks  
Past President  
Phi Delta Theta Fraternity

## Comment on Grenada

His Excellency Paul Robinson  
Ambassador to Canada  
Embassy of the United States of America  
100 Wellington Street  
Ottawa

Dear Sir;

We, the students, staff and faculty of the Atlantic School of Theology, received the news of the invasion of Grenada by forces of the United States and six Caribbean nations with shock and dismay. The explanations

given to date by authoritative sources of your government, including the President of the United States, conceal more than they reveal. We protest the decision on the part of the United States to use armed force and intervention in the internal politics of a sovereign nation. We condemn this action.

As citizens of a sovereign nation allied closely and in a variety of ways with your country, we view with deepening dismay the acceleration by the government of the United States in achieving its international aims by military means. In the current tension-filled world situation the invasion of Grenada can achieve no more than thoroughly undermine the credibility and trustworthiness of United States policy. As Canadians we publicly disassociate ourselves from the alleged aims this action attempted to achieve.

G. Russell Hattan  
President, AST  
et al (64 names more)

cc Hon. Pierre Trudeau  
Prime Minister of Canada

Hon. Allan MacEachen  
Minister of External Affairs

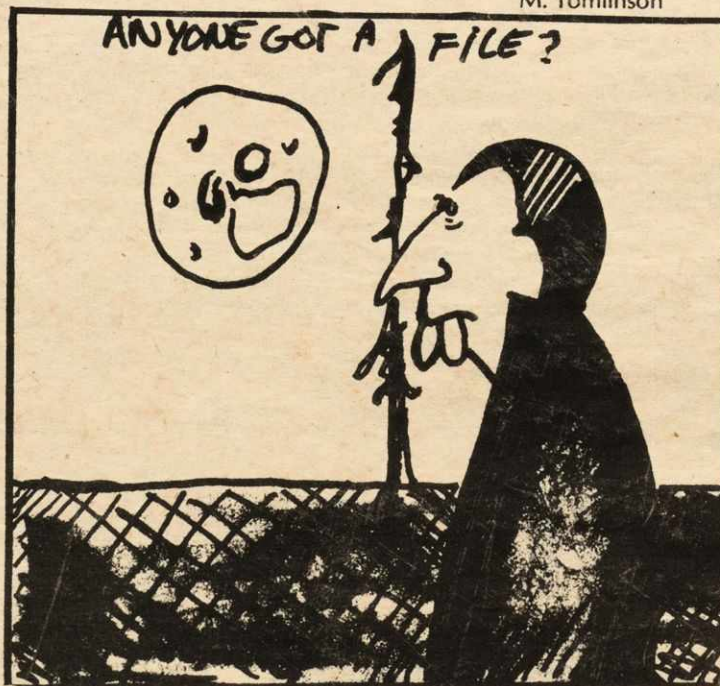
Hon. Gerald Regan  
MP, Halifax

## Dispatch wrong

To the readers of the Dal Dispatch

Those of you who have picked up the Dispatch may note it claims that Jim Warner holds all the Senate posts. This is inaccurate. Jim holds one of 5 Senate positions. The others are held by Fred Vamperman, Don McInnes and Martin Tomlinson. There is one vacancy which is to be filled in a by-election at the end of this month. Anyone interested in this position, or in Senate in general, should drop by room 222 of the SUB.

Sincerely,  
M. Tomlinson



## Freedom of choice needed

The basis of a democracy, freedom to make decisions concerning yourself, your body, your life. Freedom to make responsible decisions concerning whether you are going to have children, their number and spacing. These freedoms only exist when a woman has access to birth control information, counselling and the ability to determine for herself whether to carry on or to terminate a pregnancy.

Seventy-two per cent of Canadians (according to a Gallup Poll) believe women are entitled to these freedoms. Unfortunately, not all areas have birth control clinics and only twenty per cent of Canadian hospitals have therapeutic abortion committees. Of these, many do not have enough doctors on staff or ones who are

willing to participate on the committee, thus seventy-five per cent of all abortions are done in large urban centres. Having located a hospital that does abortions, a woman must find a doctor who will recommend her to a committee who then decides if she should have an abortion, then wait to see if her turn comes up before she is 12 weeks pregnant. True freedom of choice is presently available only to those rich enough to afford to travel to an abortion clinic. Only with the establishment of comprehensive contraceptive and abortion services, including appropriate counselling will all Canadian women be able to exercise their right to freedom of choice.

Anti-choice groups are actively trying to have this basic freedom of choice denied to Canadian women, as exemplified by the recent Borowsky case in Saskatchewan. Supported by the Catholic Church, these groups are organised to present a voice louder than their numbers warrant. If perceived to be the majority, their moral and religious views will be imposed on the nation, you and I, through legislation.

Seventy-two per cent of Canadians believe a woman has the right to decide if and when to bear a child. A silent majority will not convince the politicians. A silent majority may see their rights disappear. A silent majority is no majority at all. You can ensure that the concerns of the Pro Choice majority are effectively expressed through support of the Canadian Abortion Rights Action League (CARAL). This nation-wide organisation spreads information to the public on the issues at stake with Pro-Choice while at the same time ensuring that our political leaders are not swayed by the large volume of anti-choice material with which they are continually bombarded. You can show direct support of a Pro-Choice philosophy by contacting the local CARAL organisation at:

CARAL  
P.O. Box 101  
Station "M"  
Halifax, N.S.

Kit Holmwood

Mr. Editor?!  
Ms. Paton?

Your editorial of October 27 is yet another example of the tiring onslaught of childish and unrealistic verbal diarrhoea that continues to offend the vast majority of your readership every week. The only redeeming quality your utterings have is that they seem to be, for the most part, factually correct. Congratulations.

You are indeed correct in stating that war games are "fun." It is also true, as you report, that "real live military manoeuvres are played like a board game." NATO forces exercise every fall in West Germany.

Your opinions, however, tend to warp the accuracy of your statements. They stem, it would appear, from an incredibly shortsighted and grossly misinformed pair of brain cells acting in collusion to the detriment of this university newspaper.

It is not "sad" that wargames are played in every day life, it is beneficial. It matters not that there are enough nuclear weapons to destroy the world many times over: the existence of conventional forces in Western Europe is one of the few real deterrents of nuclear war. These weapons will be used first if and when war is declared, and hopefully it will be over before nuclear weapons are used.

As for "big boys in fancy outfits fooling around with big toys . . ." they are not all big, not all boys, and they are not fooling around, Mr. Editor. They are anticipating Warsaw Pact tactics and are actively practising the defense strategy of the NATO alliance. It is you who are fooling—yourself.

The fact that there are thousands of army personnel (American - not Canadian) who walk and sleep for the defense of the free world—including Halifax—is somehow reassuring to me, Mr. Editor. And probably more so to the millions who live next door to the Soviets. Why is it not to you? Why don't you complain to the Soviet embassy instead of boring the Gazette readers? When you think about it, isn't it really their interests you are promoting, and not your own?

Sincerely,  
Hugh Paton

Editor's note: Mr. Paton, I'm relieved to know I get my facts straight before I write. Check your sources—I am a woman.