

## NEWS

# Where has the humanity gone?

BY MIKE ZELLE

The troops have come home. The medals have been handed out. The home videos are available from your local video store. The first anniversary has come and gone and most of us continue our lives without a second thought for the lingering effect the Gulf War has on the people of Iraq. Rick McCutcheon is not most people.

As co-ordinator of the Canadian Friends Service Committee, McCutcheon has visited Iraq twice since the end of the war and spent two months in the Middle East witnessing the effects the war and the continuing sanctions have had upon Iraq and the surrounding countries. McCutcheon was in Halifax Feb. 18 and spoke at Henson College.

"One crime in Iraq does not justify another," said McCutcheon. "Our frustration towards Hussein today must not lead us to callousness toward its children."

According to McCutcheon an estimated nine hundred thousand children are malnourished in Iraq and at least 50 000 children have died since the war ended.

## One crime in Iraq does not justify another

McCutcheon related his experiences in Karbala, a major city that went without electricity for 3.5 weeks, a disaster of a magnitude unprecedented in modern times. Without electricity, what remained of the sewage removal and treatment plants couldn't operate. When a team of Iraqi engineers managed to salvage parts from various plants and factories and restore power to the city they found it was futile. The waste resting in the pipes under the city had solidified.

In most other countries there would be three options; chemically flush the system, use giant drills to bore the pipes, or replace all the pipes. McCutcheon said Iraq's only option is to wait as children walk barefoot through the streets filled with sewage, stirring up disease. The United Nations Security Council sanctions prevent the importing of equipment needed to repair basic infrastructural items.

The Humanitarian wing of the United Nations told the Security Council that to meet the immediate need for disaster prevention, Iraq should sell \$28 billion worth of oil. This was the minimum required for food, medicine, and money for things such as hospitals. The Security Council's decision not to allow the sale. No reason given. The Humanitarian wing then asked for \$6 billion for food and medicine only, and were again refused. The reasons for these decisions won't be released for 55 years. It's a UN policy that Rick McCutcheon finds frustrating.

U.S. President George Bush has stated that we must continue to enforce sanctions as long as Saddam Hussein rules Iraq. The result is Canada's HMCS Restigouche will join the international blockade.

In McCutcheon's view these are some of the weakest arguments for sanctions he has ever heard. The main concern of the countries involved in the blockade is that Saddam Hussein will use any available money to buy weapons. McCutcheon points out that 89.5 per cent of all weapons transferred to developing countries, including Iraq, can be attributed to the five permanent members of the Security Council.

"In order to punish Hussein," said McCutcheon, "we continue to kill people with these sanctions. Starvation tragically exists in many countries, but this situation is different in that Iraq has the resources to pay for its own food and medical supplies if the world would let it. Where has the humanity gone?"

McCutcheon urges us to stop and think how many deaths non-military sanctions are responsible for, the deaths of civilians. At a recent UNICEF summit on the rights of children, Prime Minister Brian Mulroney said that "every child in this world has a right to food and proper care even in times of war."

McCutcheon will be continuing his tour across Canada encouraging people to pressure Mulroney to lift sanctions, and raising money for the Karbala Ambulance Project. KAP is attempting to raise enough money to fund the repair and replacement of emergency vehicles for the city of Karbala and hopes to have the first ambulance ready by June.

# Standards for academic freedom needed

BY ANGEL FIGUEROA

International guest speakers will be the highlight of a day-long symposium on academic freedom and institutional autonomy on Thursday, March 5.

Entitled "Academic Freedom — Catalyst for Development," the symposium is sponsored by the World University Service of Canada, and jointly funded by the Canadian International Development Agency.

The key speakers are Sri Lankan exile Dr. Hema Goonatilake, and professor Sehoi Santho from the National University of Lesotho. Both are esteemed scholars with extensive experience in the realm of international social and political affairs, and will speak on the state of academic liberty and on the international implications of academic repression.

While both speakers will discuss the situation in their home countries, an international arena of related topics will also be touched upon, as the symposium will include experts from the local community,



Watch for O'Brien's fire sale.

DAL PHOTO: MIKE DEVONPORT

# O'Brien's drugs go up in smoke

BY SHANNON GOWANS

In a burst of flames, Dalhousie's closest drug supply was destroyed over reading week.

The fire, which began at about 2 a.m. Feb. 19, completely gutted O'Brien Pharmacy and two upstairs apartments.

Many Dalhousie students used O'Brien's because of its convenience to Dal, just across Coburg Road from Howe Hall. "Students are our business," said Janet O'Brien, owner of the store. "We don't want to lose any student business [while they are rebuilding on the same site]." As a result they have opened a temporary dispensary at 6139 Coburg Road, two doors down from the original store. It will only sell prescription medication.

While the drug store's destruction will affect many Dalhousie students, two biology students have suffered an overwhelming loss.

Chantal Vis and Sarah Arnold were awakened by their neighbour, and managed to escape unharmed, but they could not rescue any of their possessions.

They returned to school this week with no place to live, no clothes, no books, no paper, no pens, and especially no money.

Vis may be covered under her parents home insurance, however Arnold has absolutely no insurance. "Watching the fire was very punk rock," said Arnold, but "we lost almost everything."

They also lost "irreplaceable" recordings of their band The Experimental Farm, their guitars, violin

and tin flute.

Several university leaders have become involved in helping Arnold and Vis. The Dalhousie Student Union has donated the security deposit and first months rent for their new apartment. DSU Community Affairs is collecting donations of clothing and household items in room 214 of the SUB.

The fire department has determined the fire started in a garbage can outside the back of the building. However, they have not discovered the exact cause, and likely never will, said department spokesperson Captain John Fitzgerald. "It could have been almost anything."

The building is completely destroyed and damage is estimated at \$750 000, says Fitzgerald.

speaking on Argentina, Central America, Kenya and Zimbabwe.

The symposium will be put on by the Dalhousie chapter of WUSC, in conjunction with Saint Mary's and Mount Saint Vincent chapters. An energetic committee of students, faculty and community members designed the program, which will feature a faculty/student open forum, a seminar on issues in the Americas and Africa, and the public lecture.

Susan McIntyre, assistant to the Vice President of Student Services and chair of the planning committee, feels the symposium will bring awareness to Canadian students on an issue which is as relevant to Canada as it is to developing countries.

"Violation of academic freedom is a recurring abuse in many countries," said McIntyre. "This symposium, which is held in co-ordination with an international campaign, will bring attention to some need for an international standard of academic freedom. As it stands, there are no standards. For example, education often is

a privilege and not a right. It must be established as a right. As well, academic challenge is the very structure of society, yet often it is the first target and victim of human rights violations. Our objectives will be to look at the situation today in the north and south hemispheres and talk about instilling autonomy and the danger of repression."

As part of a national WUSC Development Series touring the country, the symposium aims to promote international academic solidarity and cooperation, while addressing the need to establish global standards on university autonomy, in accordance with the WUS 1988 Lima Declaration. Also essential is the need to promote the social role of the university and involve academic communities in the problems that face society.

With an obvious international focus, the symposium is especially topical here in Canada, where some universities facing government cut-backs may have to depend on corporate sponsorships to keep from sink-

ing into financial crisis. The alarming concern of many in the academic sector is that the price for such support will thwart academic autonomy, by transforming erstwhile independent institutions into rubber-stamping factories akin to George Orwell's 1984.

People are invited to drop in for one or all sessions. An introductory round-table begins at 10:30 a.m. at the Dal S.U.B., followed by a break with refreshments, and then an open forum at 12 noon. Resuming with a seminar at 2:30 p.m., the symposium will close with the main event, the public lecture at 7:00 p.m., at the private dining room of Saint Mary's.

environment supplement



MARCH 12

DEADLINE  
FOR SUB-  
MISSIONS  
MARCH 6

"Pardon me thou bleeding piece of earth,  
that I am meek and gentle with these butchers."