

Letter to the editor...

I would like the opportunity to reply to your article, "CUSO: Why Africans Say No Thanks". Your article was an excerpt from one in the Ghanaian Times entitled "Employing Ghanaian Graduates" with a preamble by someone from Dalhousie. I presume I shall deal with the preamble and main article separately.

I rather resent the simplistic attitude taken by the anonymous writer of the preamble, exemplified by the assumption that CUSO is a Canadian Peace Corps and the implication from the headlines that we push CUSO on the Africans who really do not need us.

If the African governments and educational agencies said 'no thanks' we would not be there. They request CUSO by sending job descriptions,

and they make the final decision as to who should fill the jobs.

One could argue, as I presume the writer of your preamble does, that the people don't want us, but the governments. I assume that the writer believes that CUSO should then tell the foreign governments how to conduct their affairs and that we should make decisions for them because they are simply incapable of governing themselves. There is a word for this I believe.

CUSO is not 'Peace Corps.' Peace Corps is a relief agency whose members work solely for the Peace Corps. CUSO is almost unique, in that our people work for and are paid by, (all or in part), the recipient government. They thus owe their

allegiance to the host government to do their thing in their own way.

This, I suggest, gives us a very different philosophy than Peace Corps. Many, although not all, of the accusations directed our way reflect the assumption that Canadians can never be different from the Americans. I suppose this lies behind the allegation by the Afro-Asian Peoples Solidarity Movement that we are a C.I.A. agency. They may be interested to learn, for example, that our second largest programme is now located in Tanzania, a country which does not permit Peace Corps to enter the country and which is phasing out the British equivalent.

The article for the Ghanaian Times refers directly to Peace Corps, and most, if not all, the criticisms are valid. The question for us is how valid are the criticisms as far as CUSO is concerned.

Firstly, the question of job competence. I would agree that as far as teaching is concerned, there is much validity in the criticism. There is, for example, a tendency to believe that anyone can teach English. This is not as true now as in the past. If it is of any comfort, CUSO Dalhousie is probably one of the most job-competence orientated in Canada.

The second criticism, that we take jobs away from Ghanaians, I cannot accept this simply because they don't save anything by doing so. Part of the problem is that people trained in Urban areas will not work in rural areas. The result is that one finds East Indians teaching in rural Nova Scotia and CUSO is rural Ghana.

CUSO can overstay its welcome, and that is the concern of the writer of the article. He is directing his remarks to the Ghanaian government, reminding them that once the structural imbalance in the Ghanaian teaching service is corrected "it is time Ghana said 'thank you' to them and their home governments..." We agree.

Ghanaian teachers are "more likely to understand the work of the students than a foreigner would" We agree.

Of course, we agree "in the final analysis there is no better policy than having your own thing." That is why CUSO exists.

John Farley
Biology Dept.,
Faculty Chairman, CUSO

Secretariats' changing

by Dorothy Wigmore

Changes are in the wind for the Dalhousie Student Union Building, with the appointment of the SUB Affairs and Internal Affairs Secretaries.

"I think that the establishment and maintenance of the student voice in the running of this building is of the utmost concern," says Peter Harvison, newly appointed SUB Affairs Secretary.

The SUB Affairs Secretary's position in the building be evaluated, Harvison stated.

He is also worried about the state of the building, and wants to ensure that students continue to control the SUB.

"I think the SUB Affairs Committee has to establish a set-up of authority - what it hopes to do," he said. "Certainly, one of the prime concerns we are faced with, and one of the things that irritates me most, is the state of the SUB itself."

"It's a dirty hole," he continued, "and we've got to do something about it. This place is supposed to be run for the students, and currently, it just doesn't seem that it is being run that way."

Harvison hopes to expand the entertainment offered at the SUB, particularly for small groups. The

jazz nights will definitely be continued.

Sandy Lyth, Internal Affairs Secretary, is concerned with reaching the community - a new role for Internal Affairs.

"The need now is for expansion beyond the university campus, out where the 'real people' live," she said.

Miss Lyth explained that campus groups now have a good idea of what the Union has to offer them. Co-ordination is no longer the role of Internal Affairs Secretary.

Instead, she is going to continue working in the same vein as former secretary, D. A. Campbell.

"D. A. Opened all sorts of channels last year for students to find out about things they can do outside the university," said Miss Lyth.

"Most of Internal Affairs this year," she added, "will be concerned with encouraging students to get out and contribute their talents and knowledge to the people who keep all of us here."

In the works are a family planning clinic for the community, perhaps in connection with the Health Centre, and volunteers for the Neighbourhood and Drop-In Centres.

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April 9-16 The Lawyer

CASINO THEATRE

April 2-9 The Kremlin Letter
April 10 - Midnight Cowboy
Alice's Restaurant

ODEON HYLAND THEATRE

April 6-9 Lock Up Your Daughters
April 10 - The Comic

ODEON OXFORD THEATRE

April 6-10 Anne of a Thousand Days

PARAMOUNT THEATRE

April 6-9 The Ballad of Cable Hogue
April 10 - Libertine

CINEMA SCOTIA SQUARE

April 6-13 M.A.S.H.!

NEPTUNE THEATRE

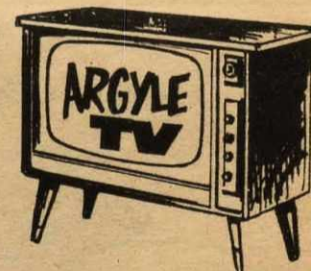
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April 7-10 The Lion In Winter.
April 8-9 Tiger! Tiger!
April 11 - The Killing of Sister George.

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