

Justice sought for the dispossessed Palestinians

by Virginia Hamilton

"The Prospects for Peace in the Middle East" was the subject of a lecture by Senator Heath MacQuarrie on February 3. Senator MacQuarrie, a native of Prince Edward Island, served 23 years in the Canadian Parliament as a Progressive Conservative and is currently a member of the Canadian Senate.

"Rich in history, often unfortunate in its geography, glorious in its contributions,

explosive in its present day possibilities, the Middle East is as fascinating as it is important to our future." This was Senator MacQuarrie's opening assessment of the historical role of the Arabs and the Middle East. He went on to detail the events which led to the creation of the State of Israel. He called the Balfour Declaration, 1917, "One of the most ignoble contributions to human history" and "a document in which one people (the British) promised a second

(the Jews) the country of a third (the Palestinians)". These were the terms in which Senator MacQuarrie described the Balfour Declaration of 1917, whereby the British government promised a Jewish homeland in Palestine.

Despite the series of deceptions and betrayals which led, in 1947, to the creation of the State of Israel, Senator MacQuarrie stated his belief that "The Canadian people recognize Israel's right to

exist, but not within borders of its own choosing".

"Terrorism is not the monopoly of a small group of Palestinians" and "In the '40's there were no resolutions in the Canadian Parliament condemning the terrorism of the Jewish Irgun or the Stern gang in Palestine". Senator MacQuarrie made these comments as he discussed his attempts to persuade the Palestinian leadership to renounce the use of violence. He also noted that, in the words of Canadian

author Frank Epp, "The most cruel and inhuman form of terrorism is the terrorism of dispossession," to which the Palestinians have been subjected by the Israelis.

Referring to the collective guilt felt by the Western world as a result of the atrocities committed against the Jewish people in this century, he expressed his sympathy for the argument that there was something radically awry in "assuaging their guilt and attempting to right the wrong done to the Jewish people by the dispossession of another people", the Palestinians, who were completely innocent of these crimes. In fact, he said, "The cruelest act committed in the history of the last 30 years is that committed against the Palestinian people".

"If my people were removed from the beautiful province of Prince Edward Island and I, and my children, were told to live in Alaska or New Mexico since the language and culture were the same, it wouldn't be the same. It wouldn't be home." With these words, Senator MacQuarrie brought the central issue in the Palestine question into focus.

Senator MacQuarrie ended on an optimistic note. He expressed his firm hope that Palestinians will be given justice and will not forever be homeless and stateless.

The Learning Resource Centre: Education for future?

by Robert Stanley

A lack of initiative to use the Learning Resource Center (LRC) is hampering the modernization of teaching methods at Dalhousie, said director Dr. T. Carter.

Carter is concerned that as long as faculty members are given tenure, professional advancement, and faculty promotion almost exclusively on their papers and research, it is not worth their time to rearrange the courses to provide progressive reform to their educational format.

Carter, also a member of a Senate Committee for improving teaching and learning, sent letters to the DFA and the Dean of Arts and Science about his concern. The Dean's office did not reply and the

DFA said they would look into it, that was six months ago and he hasn't heard back from them since.

Last year the LRC was established at Dal to create a more exciting and innovative approach to learning. It brought the various departmental media units under one roof to provide a media service more integrated in producing course materials. Teachers have access to audio-recording and duplicating facilities, and an expanding audio, film, and video library.

The center has two functions, serving faculty as a resource center for information on the teaching and learning process, and developing audio and audio-visual aids for courses. Faculty mem-

bers wishing to change their courses from a lecture style to a more self-instructional program can seek advice from the center.

"It could revolutionize the traditional teaching process making courses flexible and orientated around the student," he said. One benefit of the LRC is that it helps design material more informative and interesting than lectures, Carter added.

Carter said that LRCs have been established all over the country, through initiative and participation from students. He hopes to see more student pressure to make courses more interesting and exciting, which can only result in more learning.



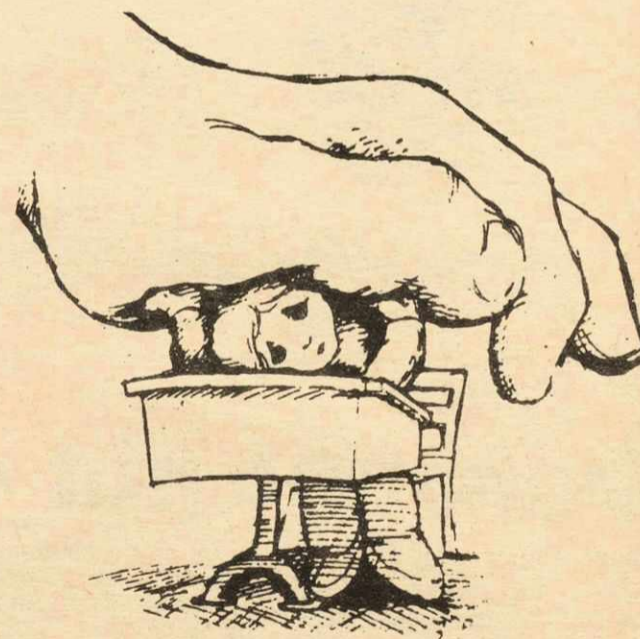
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