

## Wake up Terry

Finally one Nova Scotia government department has recognised the contributions made by students to the economy and the costs they incur while at university.

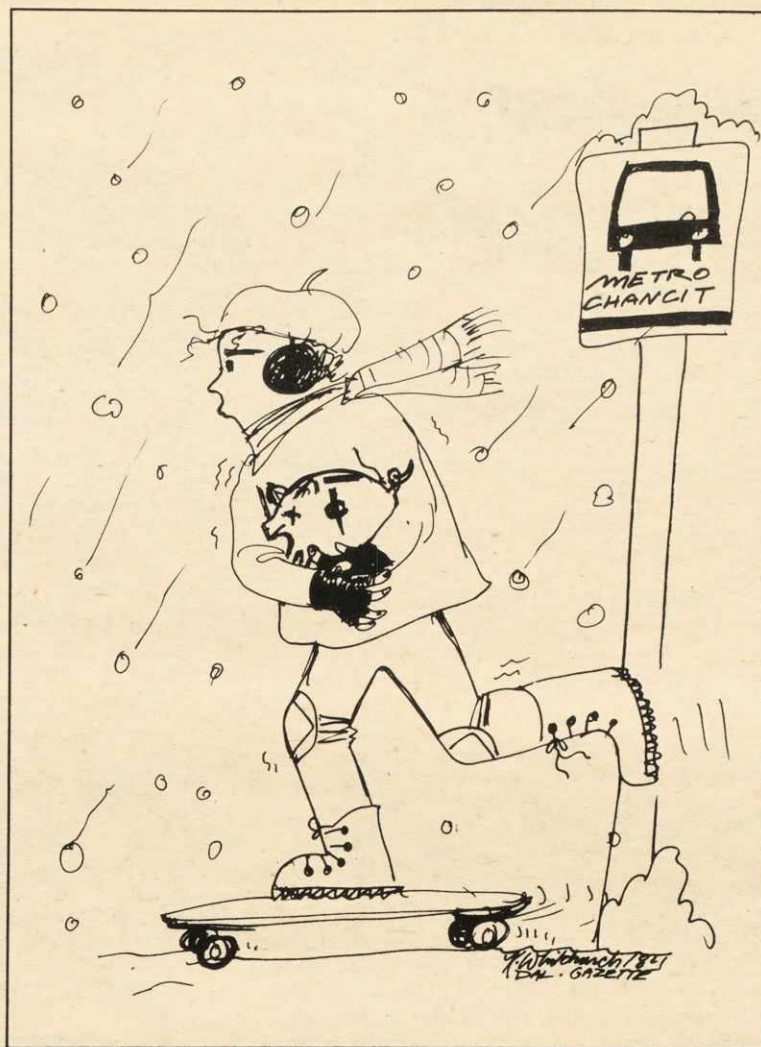
A study conducted by the NS Department of Development showed that students at Kings and Dalhousie spent an average of \$6135 each. This included \$192 for local transit, \$880 for personal maintenance (laundry, entertainment, etc.) and \$3170 for food and lodging.

Meanwhile the NS Department of Education Student Aid "beneficiaries" receive only \$35 a year for local transportation, and \$2550 as a board and lodging allowance. Compare the Dept. of Education's allowances with the actual costs outlined in the Dept. of Development's study. Just where does the Minister of Education get his facts?

Halifax's housing crisis forces students farther outside the city. Inadequate transportation allowances limit access to campus as well as forcing students to travel home at night.

Even the Dept. of Development's study does not accurately reflect the expenses student loan recipients incur. The study said 43 per cent of full time students were from the metro area. However, this means over half of the students would live at home without paying rent. Since the \$3170 figure was averaged among all students, those who actually pay rent face even higher costs than those indicated by the study.

Contrary to Terry Donahoe's belief, students do have problems with accessibility to education. For students requiring student aid, their problems start at his office. □



## Violence against everybody?

To the Editors,

'Violence against everybody?' This is what your Oct. 11 editorial caption should have read—had you considered its implications.

I suppose that if I were to take your cartoons to their editorial and logical extreme, and similarly announce that in Canada there are no channels for legitimate dissent, I would drool on in this idiocy, use your tactical advocacy as an example, and bomb the newspaper. Stupid isn't it? Violence is the last resort of the politically incompetent.

The peace movement, which I can only guess that you advocate, has suffered a massive setback since these bombings stained irreparably its reputation. What a wonderful way to totally alienate any sane person from even writing letters in its support.

Orwell had it right on. For you lot 'Peace is War', and 'Love is Hate'.

Paul Davis

## A Spurr to the conscience

Aside from those who spend their days in a state of semi-permanent hibernation, few Dal students can be unaware of the existence of a Mr. Charles Spurr. By way of a reminder, Charles is the fellow you have seen in front of the SUB or the Killam library distributing literature for the Communist Party of Canada (Marxist-Leninist).

Now, this activity of his has not exactly put Charles in the running for the title of Mister Popularity on this campus. In fact, most of you would, we imagine, be less likely to voluntarily shake hands with Charles than with a victim of leprosy.

But last week someone let their gut reactions go to their head. This person stole one of Charles' papers from him and proceeded to rip it up. When Charles informed him that the paper cost 25¢ and asked him to pay for it, the brave, God-fearing commie-baiter turned around and punched Charles out.

Granted, Mr. Spurr's party has advocated the use of violence in the past, and have not been above beating the crap out of their opponents with two-by-fours. But in using their own methods back at them, one doesn't leave oneself much moral room to manoeuvre. The whole situation is symptomatic of the fact that the real threat of violence in our society today comes from the right, not the left. "Kill a commie for mommy"; that's the byword now.

And aside from the questionable aspects of his party, Charles is himself a relatively inoffensive character. We at the *Gazette* have had our disputes with him from time to

time, some of them of a rather long-running and vituperative nature. At the same time, he is an interesting person, good to have a cup of coffee with to discuss the state of the world. His methods and beliefs may be a matter of debate, but the fact is that the guy *cares*. And this is more than can be said for most of the head-up-their-arse types we usually encounter from day to day.

We can only suggest to Mr. Spurr that he seriously consider pressing legal charges against his assailant and bear in mind that, in our view, there is no room for violence in Canadian politics. □

## Erratum

The director of security at Dalhousie is Max Keeping, not Max Keaton as incorrectly stated in last week's issue.

## Sign on the dotted line

Note to the "pacifist and activist for Christ" who submitted a letter to this issue of the *Gazette*. We require that all letters to the editor be signed. If you drop up to our offices on the third floor of the Dal SUB and sign the letter we'll be more than happy to print it next week.

## Reflections on Marge Piercy

By SAMANTHA BRENNAN

When I listened to Marge Piercy speak about the anger she feels at young women "bedecked in the spoils of the women's movement" who refuse to call themselves feminists I too felt angry.

I have friends that fit very well into Piercy's picture. Some are independent, strong women in masters programmes and professional schools and they often say "I'm not a feminist but..."

Sometimes it comes out in phrases like the ones Piercy used in her lecture, "Yes, I want a job, yes, women should be able to walk on the streets at night but I'm not sure about all this feminist stuff."

After listening to Piercy speak about the young, confident, articulate medical student who said she was not a feminist but rather simply competent I began to share her anger. How dare that young woman refuse to realize that feminists like Marge Piercy and sisters before her are responsible for the improvements in women's educational opportunities that allowed her to be in med school.

With the smug sense of someone who know that answers and possesses the right political line, I found myself slipping—slipping into old thoughts—women are their own worst enemies. And then I stopped.

I remembered a chapter in Mary Daly's book *Gynecology*. It's called *Naming Thy Enemy* and that's important.

We live in a womanhating society so why should we be surprised when today's young women don't want to associate with other women. They've learned the rules



Photo: Carlos.

or survival and they intend on doing just that.

We shouldn't be angry because they've grown up to be exactly what society expects.

Rather we should offer support, information and friendship. I may feel hurt when another woman says to me "Don't you think feminists carry this thing too far" but I'm saving my anger for those who deserve it.

You see, anger is a powerful tool and rage is sometimes an emotion that allows one to survive in this world.

Marge Piercy also talked about how the patriarchal media has shaped these young women's perception of feminists and themselves.

But who are the media?

According to the summer issue of the *Columbia Journalism Review* ninety per cent of the editors of daily newspapers are men. Men control women's images and perceptions through the media. Let's not forget where our anger belongs.

As well, I find the term patriarchal society just a little bit elusive. Patriarchy didn't just happen, men created it and they sustain it.

If I want to describe myself as a woman who's "for other women", then that means all women, not just those who call themselves feminists or those who subscribe to my particular brand of feminism.

Creating splits between women is how men have succeeded in ending things before. Marxist men, for example, often insist the women's movement is bound to fail because of class barriers between women.

Let's stick together and save our anger for those who truly merit it. □

## Letters Policy

All letters to the editor must be typed double spaced and signed and not exceed 300 words. The *Gazette* reserves the right to edit letters for length, clarity and brevity. The *Gazette* also refuses to publish copy that is racist, sexist, libelous or homophobic.

The letters deadline is Monday at noon. Letters can be dropped off at the SUB Enquiry desk or the *Gazette* offices on the 3rd floor.