

Council pipes a new tune

Will the real student council please stand up?

Dalhousie student council surprised many pessimistic observers, including the Gazette, by taking strong stands on issues which have been brewing for some time.

The Gazette was critical of council's seeming timidity, tabling of important decisions, and, with respect to the thought of censoring the engineer's strip tease, steering clear away from it.

Sexism may not be the major concern of councilors when they think of the engineers contracting out for naked bodies, but they saw the issue as serious enough to warrant a campus debate.

This may be the year for action. Issue after issue is piling up for

referendum day. With last year's high voter turnout at student union elections and the impressive march, students are ready to get involved and speak their mind.

Whether or not Dalhousie will become a member of the new national student movement organization, the Canadian Federation of Students, whether Dal wants to accept strip teases on its premises, students' support of disarmament initiatives on the part of Canada - so far these are the wide-ranging issues that students will vote on, and the campaigns should be interesting.

If council is showing that it has an open mind, it's going in the right direction.

Halifax march sets example

It's been a month since that glorious march to Parade Square, but the reaction hasn't ended.

The story of 5000 Nova Scotia students taking over Spring Garden Road was read by students across the country via the Canadian University Press wire service. The message to Secretary of State Gerry Regan was clear as he watched the national news that night: his constituents are watching his every move.

Co-ordinated student protests are happening across the country, many using Nova Scotia as an example. To quote an editorial in the Gazette of University of Western Ontario, London criticizing its council for it less than aggressive plans, "...why aren't more constructive plans underway such as the great rallying scene in Halifax last week?.... It goes without saying that the politicians in Nova

Scotia got the message: Students are really upset with cutbacks and are willing to fight about it."

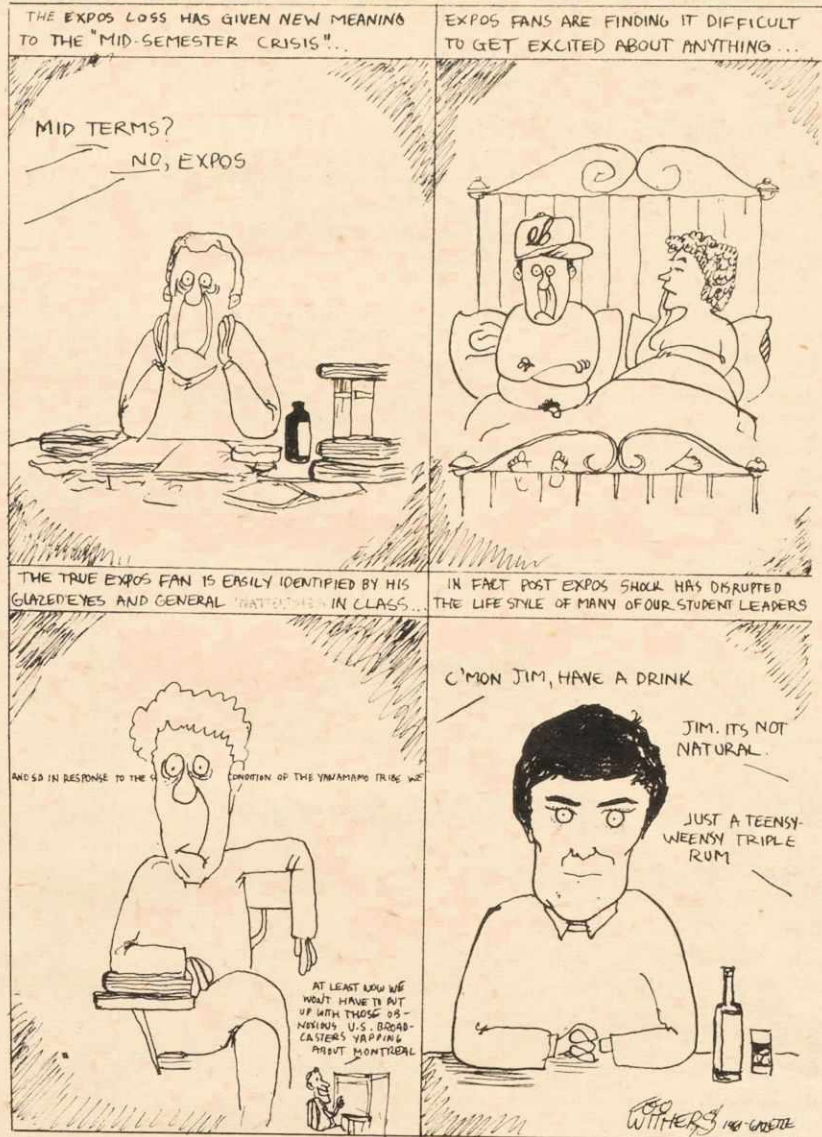
Did we march because we're "upset and willing to fight"? The organizers of the march, the students and councilors who made the posters and distributed fact sheets certainly were.

However, many thought the march was a jolly good time, the feeling of solidarity in stopping main street traffic not only imbibes a feeling of power, it's fun.

Before we forget the joys of demonstrations, let's not forget why we marched. The march was a beginning, and a good one.

But we need the support of the larger electorate who will be affected when their children and grandchildren cannot go to university and when Canada starts losing its political science, social

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work, english and history graduates, faculties that further liberal thought that has brought society to its present 'enlightened' stage.

Student leaders now have the support they need to lobby politicians. They now have no excuse for not being on the ball and participating in the provincial government committees, examining how Nova Scotia will take the

brunt of a major loss of federal funds.

Tuition fees will be hiked. Government and university administrators admit this bluntly.

Liberal arts are on the way out if the federal government's plans come through.

Alarmist? Let's plan for the worst and make sure it doesn't get that far

the Dalhousie Gazette

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LETTERS

Editor's note: This letter refers to a Gazette editorial after the Terry Fox Day run on September 13, that concerned itself with the prevention of environmentally caused cancers, from the nuclear industry, among other things.

To the Editor:

In your editorial of the 17th, I agree with every word in the first paragraph; we can never pay too high a tribute to the gallant Terry Fox.

But I deplore the pseudo-scientific poppycock* that you then shovel out, and I resent its association with Terry.

"Some say that we have to take risks to achieve our energy requirements." In so saying, you imply that nuclear energy is dangerous. According to Dr. Andranik Petrosyants, Chairman of the USSR Atomic Energy Committee, nuclear power is clean, safe, reliable and economic, and the problem of nuclear waste has been solved. (Quoted by Sir Philip Baxter, "Is the antinuclear campaign an international conspiracy?," *Quadrant*, June 1979, pp. 10-12.) Note that Russian reactors operate on the same principle

as the Canadian Candu.

Your reference to uranium miners dying of cancer in the USA reveals that you have inhaled the noxious propaganda drifting from over the border. Dr. Robert W. Buechley, University of New Mexico, has done the only study of cancer among uranium miners in Grants, NM. Among older miners, 1825 started working before 1961. Of

these, 30 have developed cancer, vs 23 expected; but 28 of them were smokers. Since 1961, improved ventilation has been installed in the mines - as is now the practice everywhere. No excess of cancer has been found among younger miners. ("Uranium: Fact or Fiction," TV script, free, from AREA, Box 11802, Albuquerque, NM 87192.) Moreover, allegations of health damage to workers in nuclear refineries do not stand up before the facts.

That stuff about abortions after Three Mile Island: they existed only in the imagination of some cranks over stateside. Actually there was a drop in fetal and neonatal deaths in the vicinity after the accident. (News release 3/20/81/37, Pen-

sylvania Dept. of Health, Box 90, Harrisburg, PA 17108.)

The hysterical opposition to insecticides is unjustified, as they have replaced older ones toxic to humans. Were it not for the opposition to the use of malathion by scientifically illiterate environmentalists, the dreaded Med fly could have been quickly wiped out in California, as it has been in other states.

As for alternate energy, the apparatus is enormously expensive both in money and in the energy consumed in making it; the return is uneconomical. Further, if all forms of alternative energy were developed, it would give us only 1-3% of the need in the early decades of the 21st century. We need something effective but nonpolluting - nuclear! Or hydro where possible - James Bay.

You have covered a lot of ground with your poppycock."

We need political decisions to provide us in future with abundant and clean energy. Our agriculture must continue the scientific war against pests. Unless we ourselves enjoy the prosper-

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