

Comment on boycott

In reference to the current Quebec strike, Vilas woodworkers vs. Molsons, it appears that the Gazette and CUP have had the nerve to ask the student community for a boycott of Molsons products. What was neglected to be emphasized, however, from the Vilas reports is the fact that the Quebec provincial government must take a good portion of the blame for the present situation. Therefore, not only should the boycott be applied to Molsons but the Quebec government should have been strongly condemned for its apparent collusion with this and similar large industrial enterprises in the province.

The point to be made here is that any sound business, including the aforementioned Family Enterprise operates in such a manner as to maximize their profits—not an unusual goal to pursue. Unfortunately, they have not seen fit to insure that their employees are working in a relatively safe environment.

The astronomically high accident rate is typical of the entire wood-working industry in Quebec and probably the industry in the rest of Canada demonstrates a similar record. The disgusting thing about the whole situation is that the Quebec government is aware of the events taking place at the Vilas plant but, irresponsibly refuses to take any positive steps to guarantee that these people will have safe working conditions. They chose instead to make 75 safety-related recommendations, nothing stronger, then left the whole mess for Molsons to straighten out unattended.

Molsons has refused to meet these provincial safety instructions claiming to be the industry's "underdog": "why should we undertake expensive safety improvements if we don't have to, and why should we have to when the rest of the industry is left untouched."

Is Molsons Quebec a special case? Are proper safety conditions

in a potentially dangerous industry an expensive luxury? Hardly likely. Molsons cannot claim to be exempt from carrying out such a fundamental responsibility. But the Quebec government is equally culpable. Offering at this stage 75 production modifications for the Vilas plant which are "geared" for safety is a shoddy excuse for remodeling its general labour safety code. Such incremental actions bode ill for the people of Quebec. They elected the incumbent administration with an overwhelming majority. Yet, this same "people's" government somehow manages to shirk its duty in maintaining a suitable environment for its working population. Industrial giants such as the "Molsons Maimers" continue to play word games, the provincial government does the same, and the defenseless individual worker continues to labour in an unhealthy, unsafe situation.

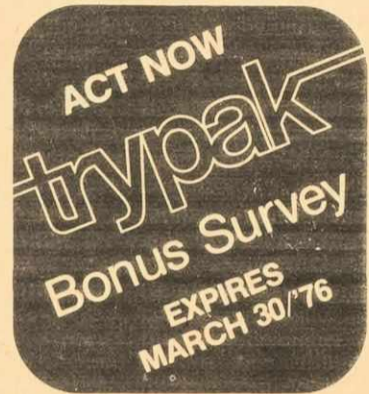
Another example of the Quebec government's apparent apathy, (or is more in the area of corruption,) is the actual steps it took in assisting the mediation process between Vilas and Molsons. Molsons distributed a questionnaire amongst the strikers asking whether they wished to hold another union vote with regards to the situation. This is a blatant violation of the Provincial

labour code. Molsons was not prosecuted by the government for this breach of law.

Clearly the problem is not only with Molsons, but is EQUALLY a failure of the government to intervene in a situation which definitely required its active participation.

With these additional points of information in hand, it was irresponsible for the Gazette to call for a boycott of Molsons without calling for a general condemnation as well of the corrupt Quebec government. Maybe we should advise the Quebec people to boycott their government?

Wayne Ingarfield CUP Editor
Bradley Warner



Letters

Cont'd from pg. 4

hope to play a role in improving the rest of society in the future—let alone criticize it. After all, what is the use of our education if, after we discount our own selfish motivations, we do not use our ability for constructive purposes. If our present system is perpetuating this inability to strive for improvement then it obviously needs to be reformed. We have the ability to promote a change now that can possibly lead to future changes in the way our university is administered (ie. possible changes in Senate council). It would seem to me that this is an end we should pursue. I felt that this matter should be brought to your attention as it is a matter of great concern to all of us here at Dalhousie.

Sincerely, Robert L. Rideout

Support acknowledged

To the Gazette:

I would like to publicly thank Dal Student Union for supporting my "Brief opposing the exclusion of property owned by a university, college or institution of learning from the Residential Tenancies Act." I would especially like to thank Barbara Beach for editing it for me, as I was in England for several weeks. Without her aid, it would not have been ready in time for presentation to the Provincial Government.

I am pleased to see that Dal has taken the matter seriously enough to support this effort.

Yours sincerely,
Dale Robertson,
King's College

His Alcoholic Majesty

To the Gazette:

In response to the boob who dares to demean my alcoholic majesty, let me say that my brain is not fermented, .. demented, but not fermented. In addition, the subliminal lulling of my readers is for my own vain ego. Writing a booze recipe column is a hard and loney job! Only one faithful reader actually shelled out the paltry buck for an autographed collection of my recipes. If you are daring enough to try my BOOZEPRINT recipe, I can assure you that IT DOES WORK!!! Try the 'eco-buffs' down at the ECO ACTION CENTER, they get all our old copy... Oh yes, THANKS and 'a tip of my hat' to Al McHughen. With regard to your disgusting allusion to my fermented brain, "oh nameless complainer," this reminds me of my favorite recipe: ... DRIED GOAT BRAIN AND BOILED RABBIT DUNG WINE.

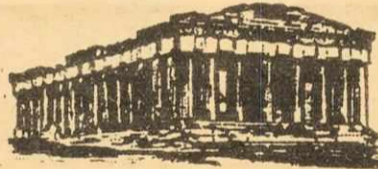
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G.G.

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