

## Affirmative action not quotas

To the editors,

In your Jan. 17 issue a letter entitled "Gazette Slightly Socialist, Sexist" appeared in which the author stated that he once firmly believed in affirmative action programs but that "reality" and "experience" crept into his microcosm and taught him that these programs were rarely successful, met with great resistance and caused more segregation. What reality has been experienced?

A common postulation is that affirmative action is a quota system. Those who are recalcitrant should be pleased to know that this is not so. Legislated quotas are not part of affirmative action and to my knowledge have never been. Affirmative action does set goals for professions but these are only achieved through cooperation, not coercion.

Affirmative action strives to break the structure which has neglected individuals. This includes going into the community and informing people on how they have become qualified for jobs or training and also indentifying those already qualified so they may compete for positions. Affirmative action discourages the view that a physical disability is a liability. Affirmative action helps those not in the mainstream to participate. This is the true essence of affirmative action.

Having felt the sting of negrophobia I know the worth of such programs. If we can do away with the blind discountenance and engage in constructive dialogue we may all benefit. If we allow only those who wear the regalia of the status quo to donate to society we may all lose.

Rod Mapp

## Fantasy fieldie finds errors

To the editors,

On behalf of the Fantasy Field Trip Society of Canada I would like to thank the staff of *The Gazette* for reporting on the activities of our society. Our society has, in the past, been plagued with incorrect reporting on the nature and substance of our activities and unfortunately your article is no exception. Therefore I would like to take this opportunity to correct and clarify many of the points made by your reporter.

The first attempt at running a field trip event occurred during the summer of '82 after nine months of intense preparation. The game took place on McNab's Island and involved 22 participants. Since that time, five more events have been staged averaging 30 to 40 participants each and running for either one or two days in length.

I must now take exception to the quote reported indicating that society members wish not to be identified and that we can sometimes lose touch with reality.

We are, in fact, all quite proud to be a part of this society, as we

consider ourselves to be pioneers in a new form of recreational entertainment. In fact, by playing our last game in Point Pleasant Park, we were quite aware that we would be opening ourselves to full public viewing. Public response was excellent with many weekend skiers stopping to watch our activities and some, who had read the Narnia books, cheered us on.

Moreover, nobody "flips out" on these games any more than a chess player would flip out by playing chess, or any more than an actor would flip out while playing his role on stage. This is an activity no different from any other game you might play and suffers no differently from it. Actually it is rather difficult to lose track of reality with planes continually flying overhead, with the sound of highway traffic always lurking in the background and especially when you have a referee tagging along with you all the time complete with rule manuals, dice, and a walkie talkie.

I hope by clarifying these issues I have inspired your readers to want to check into these activities and we certainly would welcome new players. Our game requires no previous wargaming skill and is particularly suited to individuals who have an affinity for outdoor activities, particularly along the lines of orienteering.

Marc Trotter

President

Fantasy Field Trip Society of Canada

## Ronald Reagan war monger and stupid puppet

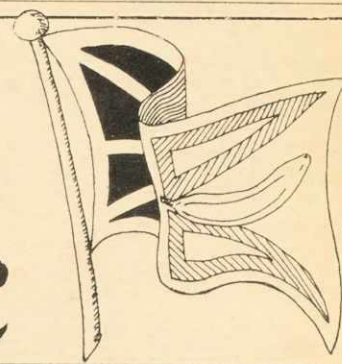
To the editors,

Ronald Reagan will be visiting Quebec City on March 17 to secure Canadian involvement in "Star Wars," the Distant Early Warning Line, and so on. In the most recent meeting between U.S. and Canadian "defence" officials, the American administration released a report on the meeting praising Canadian support, two hours before the meeting began! The Canadian collaboration in the arms build-up and war preparations must be opposed by peace-minded people.

Youth and students across Ontario and Quebec are involved in a mass mobilization to protest the Reagan "visit" in Quebec City on March 17. Wherever in the world Reagan travels he is protested, whether it be Ireland, Spain, South Africa, Canada, or even his own country. The United States and the Soviet Union are arming to the teeth, and people all over the world are rising up in opposition. Youth and Students Against Reagan has been organized locally as a reflection of this opposition.

From my experience in the student movement (I served as Treasurer of the Students' Union of Nova Scotia as well as President of the Student Union of the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design) I have learned that the youth and students of Canada, who are the future of the

# Banana Republic



WE DON'T HAVE AN UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEM.



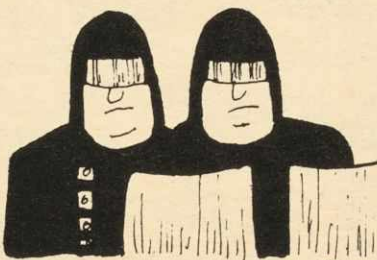
WE PAY PEOPLE TO GET ELECTED.



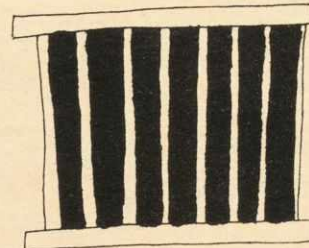
THEY TAX THE POOR PEOPLE.



AND HIRE A POLICE FORCE.



AND BUILD LOTS OF PRISONS.



SO WHENEVER THIS HAPPENS...



IF I DON'T GET A JOB SOON... I'M GOING TO KILL YOU!

WE CALL THE POLICE...



AND PUT THEM IN PRISONS.



NO PROBLEM.



G. PORTER/MUSE

nation, must make their voice heard in the efforts to promote peace. Youth and Students

Against Reagan are very pleased at the support received for its programme from the university community, as well as from the broader populace. Our declaration has received signatures from well over one hundred people, and we have placed a statement, supported financially by signees of the petition, as an advertisement in the *Dalhousie Gazette*.

Ronald Reagan is a war-monger, and the fact that he is also a stupid puppet of the American arms industries makes him all the more dangerous. We must oppose this foolish notion that a third world war is the "inevitable Armageddon" and thus the "will of God." I call on you to unite in action and denounce Canada's involvement in the U.S. war machine. The protest is on Friday, March 15 at 4:00 pm in front of the U.S. Consulate on Duke and

Barrington. Simply look for the crowd with the pickets reading "Reagan Get Out of Canada!"

Sincerely,

Roger Lewis

Representative of Youth and Students Against Reagan

## Dal council not euphoric over review

To the editors,

I have been requested by the Student Council to write to you expressing the concern we have over the recent article in *The Gazette* on the Dalhousie Medical Students' Euphoria '85. ("Reviewer not euphoric," Jan 31). In particular, Council was concerned over the representation of the four Halifax physicians who judged the program — Dr. Holland, Dr. McCormick, Dr. Salisbury and Dr. Clattenburg.

It is the opinion of Council that Ms. Mackey's representation of the four judges was

inappropriate, unfair and possibly libelous. Criticism of the merits or demerits of Euphoria '85 is one matter but damaging the reputation of respected professionals in the community on what appears to be rather subjective (if not questionable) grounds is quite another; surely, a modicum of common sense would have prevented this unfortunate incident from occurring.

I would hope that your good judgement might result in an apology to the individuals concerned, and I leave the matter in your hands.

Alex Gigeroff  
President DSU

*Editors' note— The Gazette sought legal advice concerning the Euphoria article. We were advised that the article was not libelous. If the medical students society is interested in pursuing this matter in court we would prefer to see a letter to that effect from their lawyer, not a letter from student council.*