

you were saying . . .

Accuracy needed

We are taking this opportunity to respond to the false negative image of the students created in a *Globe and Mail* article published September 16, 1983. Most of us have been active in the area of education issues for some years.

We object to the article for two basic reasons. The view that students are an untapped pool of consumer purchasing is erroneous, misleading and detrimental to the effort to create an accessible post-secondary system in Canada. The reality of student life, for the majority of students, is that of below-poverty-line existence. Those students able to travel extensively make major purchases or occupy bars every night are a distinct minority. That this stereotype exists and is continually pushed is in fact a political statement on how we have all come to view the post-secondary system in Canada. It reflects a post-secondary system that is the prerogative of the wealthy.

A student movement which seeks to sell this erroneous view of students while simultaneously attempting to argue for a more accessible system faces serious challenges. The schizophrenia inherent in this situation needs examination and quick treatment. In Nova Scotia the Students' Union of Nova Scotia has consistently argued that the services component of the student movement direct its attention to the real basic needs of the student majority.

Our second basic objection to the impression created by the article is the sense that somehow political awareness and activism directed at major social concerns, including education issues, is not pragmatism. The tenor and shape of our society is the concern of every citizen. The social conditions which shape our educational institutions are pragmatic questions. To imply that large demonstrations for an adequate student aid system are utopian but the price of a beer mug is pragmatic is to insult students and the democratic system. The tide of conservatism is a media myth just as the social activism of the sixties was a media myth. Any analysis which counts heads and ignores societal factors should be relegated to the first lecture of a logic 1000 course. It should not be used by a credible media nor touted by student leaders.

It is our belief that articles such as that printed by the *Globe and Mail* are destructive of the aim of creating a quality accessible post-secondary education system. It is our belief that such articles are unfounded and inaccurate.

Sincerely,

Tim Hill, President, Dalhousie Student Union
Atul Sharma, V.P. External, Dalhousie Student Union,
S.U.N.S. chair

Susan McIntyre, Vice-president, Dalhousie Student Union
Caroline Zayid, Medical Student, Dalhousie University
Karl Nightingale, Board of Governors Rep., Dalhousie
University

Mike Crystal, former N.S. Services Board Member, C.F.S.
Peter Rans, Former Student Union President, Dalhousie
Marc Tessier Lavigne, Former National Coordinator, Canada
Student, Pugwash

Peter Kavanagh, Executive Officer, Students' Union of Nova
Scotia

Phil Dunn, Dalhousie student

Shaun Houlihan, Treasurer, Dalhousie Student Union
Catherine Ricketts, Editor, Dalhousie Gazette
Eric Walker, C.C. Rep. (N.S.) C.F.S., Student at Nova Scotia
College of Art and Design

Phil Doucette, Public Affairs Director, CKDU

Boycott Shearwater

To the Editor,

As part of the accelerating war preparations being carried out by the Canadian Government and the two superpowers and their military blocs, NATO and the Warsaw Pact, huge militarist spectacles are being established and promoted such as this weekend's Shearwater International Air Show, military "tattoos", "freedom of the city" ceremonies, and so on. Related to this is the orchestrated propaganda surrounding the escalating "visits" of foreign warships to "show the flag" such as with the current "visit" of the NATO Atlantic Fleet, the government propaganda campaign on the question of the Cruise and NATO, etc. Similar propaganda events are being staged in the Warsaw Pact. Far from being innocent military extravaganzas, these events are very dangerous and should be opposed by all peace-loving people.

At the present time, the collusion and contention between the two imperialist superpowers, the US and the USSR, is increasing rapidly and the militarist character of their foreign policies is becoming more and more marked as they increasingly rely on their military presence to realize their aims. A

general wave of warmongering hysteria has engulfed Washington and Moscow, the expenditures for military production are rapidly escalating and their threats of military intervention are becoming more and more frequent.

Far from combatting this situation, the Canadian government is increasingly participating in it, further heightening the grave dangers facing the Canadian people, as shown, for example, in the decision to test the American Cruise missile.

These staged militarist spectacles are part of this attempt to create a general climate of militarism and war psychosis. They also show that the Canadian government is preparing for war and that these preparations are all-sided. Some people say that the only danger comes from nuclear armaments and nuclear war alone. This is not the case. This view, in effect, amounts to spreading a fear psychosis amongst the people about the impossibility of standing up to the war preparations of the superpowers, their nuclear arsenal, the inevitability of war, and so on. At the same time, it lowers our vigilance about the actual dangers which exist before our very eyes. The measures to disguise war preparations under the cloak of "cultural spectacles", "entertainment", and glorification of a "military tradition" in Halifax are part of this.

This weekend a picket line is being held at the Shearwater International Air Show to alert the people to the real danger of war and the necessity for the people themselves, on the basis of their own efforts and resources, to oppose the war preparations. Shearwater is the base for the "visits" of the U.S. ICBM submarines, engines of mass destruction. In this context, such "reasons" for not supporting this action as Shearwater being "too far" are not only lame, but also diversionary—and devoid of reason. It is important that all progressive and peace-loving people oppose and denounce these "spectacles" and point out their true significance to Nova Scotians, whose real aspirations are for peace and not war.

Charles Spurr

Oops! Sorry.

Dear Editor:

Accuracy is considered a necessary virtue in any community of scholars. Since your paper serves a community of scholars and scholars in training, I would like to offer two needed corrections in your last edition Vol. 116 62, pages 3 and 5. I refer to them in their order of importance.

The first is found on page 3 in the article "Hunger Strikers Resist Chilean Repression". The last sentence of the report states "black mass commemorating the coup was held in Halifax." This is truly an inaccurate statement and a serious one. A 'Black Mass' is a satanic cult term. It describes a particularly ugly and grotesque desecration of a consecrated host; obtained, usually by stealing it from a Roman Catholic Church.

To use such a term to describe the Mass celebrated for those whose lives have been extinguished or oppressed since the coup is highly offensive to all involved in this magnificent sacrificial prayer, the Mass, and especially to the relatives of those who have suffered and/or died.

Second correction needed: The caption over the letters to the editor, page 5. The caption reads, "Praise of Sexuality Symposium". Reading the letter one is aware that it was not written in praise of the Symposium as such, but in praise of those who chose the film "Killing us Softly" and the film itself.

The film was the first part of the Symposium, that was good. It was however in stark contrast with the last part of the program, which I have heard on other occasions. I couldn't recommend this part to anyone, so I could hardly praise it.

Sincerely,

Fr. Joe Hattie, O.M.I.
Roman Catholic Chaplain

Correct correction

To the Editor:

Your report "Middle East Struggle Erupts at Killam Lecture" calls for some corrections and comments:

1) Canada Palestine Association (C.P.A.) is primarily a Dalhousie student society membered by students and others, of no specific ethnic or other denomination, who are aware of the injustice to which the Palestinian people have been subjected and are sympathetic to their just struggle to return to their homeland. The Association is an information group that has sponsored lectures and seminars by Canadian politicians, distinguished historians and human rights workers dealing

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