

Canada shouldn't follow U.S.

It is getting more and more difficult to write an editorial critical of the Federal Government.

No, its not because the Tories are following an agenda that meets with anyone's approval, or they have a vision of Canada worth pursuing.

On the contrary, the problem with attacking the Canadian government is that there is too much to criticize, so one is apt to write something lacking any particular focus or direction.

For the moment, however, forget about the GST, cut backs to education, no funding for women's centres, the destruction of Via Rail, the disaster of Meech Lake, and the privatization of Petro-Canada.

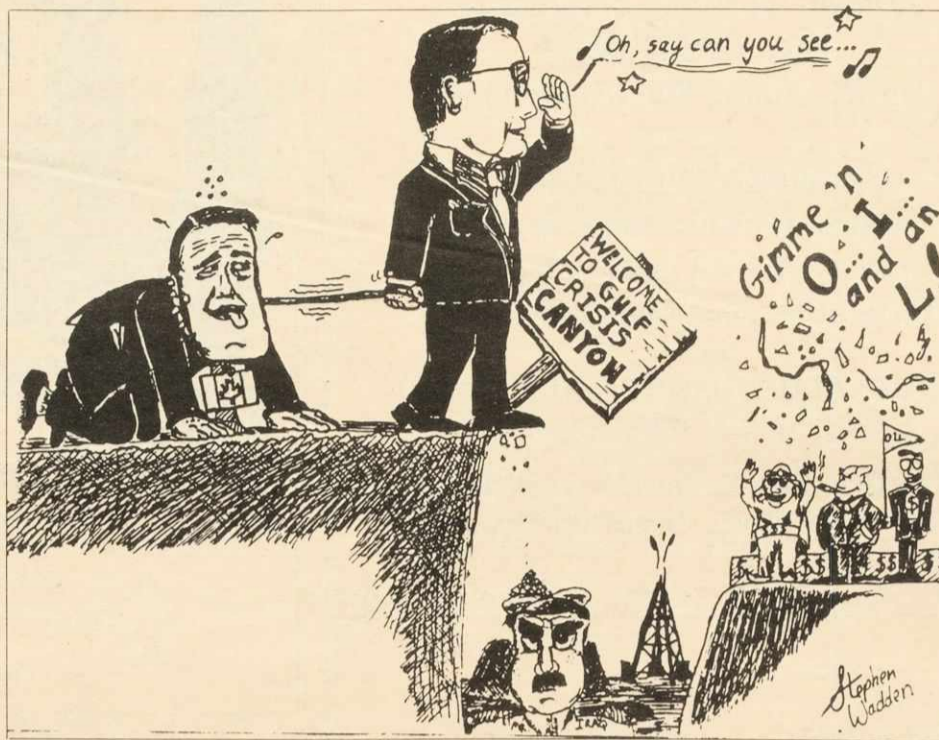
Instead, think about WAR.

It seems very foreign to most Canadian students. The last war to seemingly have a direct impact on Canada was Vietnam. Most of us were learning to walk, or maybe just crawl back then.

Yet, there is a serious possibility Canada may go to war soon.

Joe Clark's announcement on October 25 that Canada is prepared to move against Iraq without United Nations (U.N.) approval, is not only a dangerous move away from Canada's usual peaceful foreign policy and its traditional support of the U.N., but a statement that should shake Canadians to the core.

When a federal cabinet minister announces



Canadians may die in the deserts of the Middle East as coolly as he announces a government appointment, something is seriously wrong.

Saddam Hussein has no right to occupy Kuwait. Nor should he be treated as anything but a murderous dictator, who certainly has no moral or other authority to govern

Iraq.

Before we get carried away, let's think for a minute.

Canada has made no announcements to invade South Africa, Ethiopia, Vietnam, or China. Yet, all these countries are governed by what could be described as murderous dictatorial regimes.

Canada's original role in the Persian Gulf was as a monitor. Soon, it became a participant in a naval blockade. Now, we are told Canadian's may have to die to "free Kuwait", not exactly a bastion of democracy itself.

Just what are Canadians going to die for? Why should Canada, always a strong booster of the U.N. and presently a member of the Security Council, suddenly change its tune and announce U.N. approval of actions in the Gulf is irrelevant?

American interests are dictating Canadian foreign policy. American interests are being dictated by multi-national oil companies. Is Joe Clark suggesting Canadians sacrifice themselves so American companies can hold on to their virtual monopoly of the oil industry.

There are some things worth dying for...American foreign policy is not one of them.

It seems to me Ottawa has spent too much time in Washington's bed.

Canadians should not stand idly by while their soldiers are being sent, by a morally corrupt government, to die.

This warning is not an over reaction. Real people, you may know may die, so Bush and his friends in the oil business can teach Hussein a lesson.

Not only is this sad, it is wrong. It leads one to state "something stinks in the (United) States' of Canada".

Alex Burton

Israel and gulf crisis linked

Paul Webster

It's been two months now since Saddam Hussein's forces descended on Kuwait, in a murderous display of violence not seen on the world scene since the U.S. invasion of Panama. Despite all the predictions and war-mongering by the likes of Henry Kissinger, very little has been happening in the Gulf. President Bush's ratings have slipped twenty points, the U.S. has been pushed a further \$1 billion per month into debt and the press, at least in Canada, has found new fixations. Comment on the Gulf crisis has become as limited as analysis was even as the story peaked.

The murder of 21 Palestinians on the Temple Mount by Jerusalem police on Oct. 8, and the retaliatory slaying of three (Jewish) Israelis Oct. 21 may have changed at least one aspect of the situation.

It has finally become clear that no attempt to understand the Gulf crisis can credibly ignore Israel and the Palestinians on the West Bank and in Gaza. Nor can the duplicitous role of the U.S. and its ever-obedient understudy, Canada, be understood without this broader approach.

In order to understand the link between the situation on the West Bank and Gaza and the Gulf crisis, and the implications of hypocrisy it poses to the US administration, it's important to know something about Israeli oppression

of the Palestinians. As University of Toronto Professor James Graff noted in the *Globe and Mail* Oct. 10, conservative estimates place at between 25,600 and 31,000 the number of Palestinian children alone seriously injured by the Israeli Defence Forces in the first two years of the intifada. A total figure for the death toll in the occupied territories since the beginning of the intifada 35 months ago is difficult to calculate since freedom of the press has been severely restricted in the occupied territories. Still, it is widely thought to be in the thousands.

Rather than negotiate with the Palestinians the right-wing factions dominating a country once re-

nowned for its attachment to decency, peace, equality and justice have initiated a program to settle 250,000 Soviet Jews on the land once inhabited and still claimed by the Palestinians. This program, directed by Ariel Sharon of Shatila massacre infamy, will yield tremendous political gains for the Israeli political right, according to Amos Perlmutter, editor of the *Journal of Strategic Studies*. It will leave the Palestinians as permanently homeless as the Jews once were.

Anyone who has visited Israel in the past five years is fully aware that the Israeli repression of the Palestinians is not merely political or military. It is social and very

much economical. Cheap Palestinian labour is the underpinning of the Israeli economy. Most of the very common racist Israeli jokes involve the theme of Palestinians cleaning toilets. These jokes are both revealing and descriptive.

So, where does the Gulf crisis fit in? Well, of course, it is U.S. military and economic aid, to the tune of over \$242 per capita, which keeps Israel ticking. Without it the Israeli Defence Force couldn't afford to exercise violent repression on the Palestinians. Over the years the U.S. has spent tens of billions of dollars on the development of the Israeli military state. And that state has subjugated the Palestinians as ruthlessly as the

Iraqis have now set out to subjugate the Kuwaitis.

Why then does George Bush rally to the Kuwaitis' defence while supporting the repression of another group of Arabs? Neither group is "communist" so it doesn't seem to be an ideological issue. Nor have the Palestinians (or the Iraqis) attacked the U.S. How odd that Bush should be propping up one administration hell-bent on repressing one group of Arabs while moralistically mobilizing the over-priced military might of America against someone else for the very same crime. The more I think about it the less sense it makes. But then, I'm not in the oil business or the weapons business.

LETTERS

Offensive

To the Editor:

I must begin by saying that I believe that my sense of humour is as well developed as anyone's, and I enjoy provocative cartoons with a political message. I find, however, that I must write to express my objections to the cartoon appearing on page 12 on the October 4 issue of the *Gazette*.

I object to the cartoon for several reasons. For those who have not seen the cartoon, it shows an old, overweight woman on top of her

desk, which is signed "Tuition Collection", attempting to take the fillings from the mouth of an emaciated, male student for his tuition fees.

While rising tuition fees are obviously of concern to students, why is it that it is a female that is portrayed in this cartoon? Students realize that decisions relating to fees are made at the Board of Governors level. How many members of the Board are women? How many senior administrators are women? Indeed, do we have a female Vice-president of Finance?

Why is it that the woman in this cartoon is an older, overweight,

ugly female? Without going into world, I object to the stereotyped portrayal that beauty equal goodness, and ugliness equals evil.

As well, this cartoon suggests that the collector is an employee, one who takes vigorous delight as stealing the student's fillings.

On behalf of all employees at Dalhousie, I object strenuously to this suggestion! Beside the fact that staff members have nothing to do with setting tuition fees, I can assure you that the staff I know are most concerned and responsive to the students they serve. Staff loyalty to students is outstanding!

The *Gazette*, as a voice for stu-

dents, has a responsibility to provoke debate among the student body. A student paper is being truly effective, I believe, when it is able to move the student body toward political action. Political cartoons should be vehicle for this, but in order to be truly effective, they should portray the reality of a situation. This cartoon, I am afraid, fails. It is no more accurate than someone who would portray all students as clever and rich—and owners of BMWs!

Bette Yetman
Executive Director, DSA

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