

## Hire education?

Tuition goes up-services go down. Pressure mounts on students to enter lucrative professional fields, to take certain courses useful in the job market, to show society in dollars and cents the value of an education. Welcome to Dalhousie Trade School - "An Institute of Hire Education"

Within the next few years tuition here will probably rise to \$1000, with no increase in services. This in addition to a decrease in the amount of bursary money. Even the administration should be decrying the obvious trend yet it has remained strangely meek.

People complain about reliance on outside teachers and experts, yet when it comes to the indigenous population education takes a back seat. Is it perhaps significant that the two most powerful countries in the world have the two highest percentages of university trained people.

While in the Maritime the crunch comes even harder, the poorest become poorer. While academic admission standards are lower higher tuition is limiting it to those who can afford it, this indicates a trend toward university for the dumb rich.

If governments want to cut down on the size of universities why not raise the academic requirements. In England universities are free and they are also truly universities. There are plenty of trade schools for those that want them.

Here we are fostering mediocre institutions of higher education with the stress taken off the "higher".

The Gazette supports a demonstration for better education in Canada. March 25th at Victoria Park has been proposed and if, at the organizers meeting, the decision is too hold it then students should get out there rally for a better Canada. The date might be a little awkward with exams coming up but the issue is so vital, not only for next year, but for the future of Canadian Universities.

The Dalhousie GAZETTE is the weekly publication of the Dalhousie Student Union. The views expressed in the paper are not necessarily those of the Student Union or the editor. We reserve the right to edit copy for space or legal reasons. The deadline for letters to the GAZETTE is the Monday preceding publication. No unsigned material will be accepted, but anonymity, if necessary, will be granted. The Dalhousie GAZETTE, Canada's Oldest College Newspaper, is a founding member of the Canadian University Press. The Dalhousie GAZETTE office is Room 334 of the Student Union Building, telephone 424-2507. The subscription price is \$5.00 per year (27 issues).

Assistant Editors

CUP Editor
Dai Photo Editor
Business Manager and Advertising Director
Circulation Manager

The staff and contributors for this issue included:

Susan Johnson Ken MacDougall Harvey MacKinnon Valerie Mansour Alan McHughen Donalee Moulton

Bernie Helling Ervin Fraser John D'Orsay Dan O'Connor Dave Purcell Jeff Round Bradley Warner Cate Young Greg Zed Michael Greenfield

Wayne Ingarfield

Richard Coughlan

Dave Grandy

Joe Wilson

## Letters

## A seal expert??

To the Gazette:

I have spent the past two years at Dalhousie secure in the knowledge that anything printed in your newspaper is largely ignored by the general public. But since there is some possibility that your publication might have some impact on some individuals, there is a limit to the amount of nonsense (not to say horseshit) one can tolerate in print.

In your March 11 edition, a front page story deals with the "thousands upon thousands of infant seals" which are "clubbed on the head and skinned, while still alive' in the annual seal hunt off the coast of Newfoundland. There is much talk therein of plaintively moaning mothers, little mounds of flesh, slaughtering in a mindless manner and other tear-jerking topics. The suggestion that the Greenpeace Foundation was taking meat out of the mouths of Newfoundlanders is belittled, but that may have been simply because the suggestion had been made publicly by a politician, Fisheries Minister Roméo LeBlanc.

A number of anomalies surface from his article. Perhaps the most basic is the total indifference that Greenpeace, the Gazette and most of the rest of us feel toward "infant" or "baby" cows as we dig into a meal of calf's liver. Further, the phrase "baby seals" was unknown to the English language until Brian Davies and his misguided friends began this little crusade; the things were and are whitecoats, but who would cry over that.

The article is quite right in saying that these pelts are used to manufacture fur garments. What is quite flatly incorrect is the contention that these animals are skinned alive. Any defect in the pelt, any rip or tear, will reduce the value on the market, and therefore the skinning must be carefully, and skillfully, handled. A live pup will struggle and squirm if a sealer tries to skin it, much as you would if someone tried to skin you alive, and it is therefore impossible to take a marketable pelt from a live seal. No sealer is going to risk his life on the ice, and then throw away the money (which is his whole purpose of being there) by spoiling a pelt.

The seal hunt is not pretty. It is a messy, bloody affair. But so also is the scene in any slaughter-house. The Newfoundland seal fisherman is a skilled tradesman who produces a marketable commodity in order to earn money. Some might object to a person living lavishly on the proceeds of sealing, but who would deprive a Newfoundlander of \$3500 out of his \$7000 a year income by disallowing the hunt? Certainly not Greenpeace who made peace with the Newfoundland fishermen this week, and agreed not to obstruct them. They realized that they would be taking the meat out of Newfoundlanders' mouths.

Seals are a natural resource like fish, timber or petroleum. The only real issue which this controversy raises is the conservation of the resource. International agreement has set the quota for this year at 127,000 pelts. The Federal Government has agreed to this number but Greenpeace thinks it is too high. We laymen have no way of knowing who is correct, so, unless the Gazette is going to hire its own experts and make its own studies, it should keep its uninformed opinions to itself. At all events it should refrain from printing such mindless, emotional guff as appeared in this issue to which I referred.

It took the Greenpeace Foundation and NDP leader Ed Broadbent a trip to Newfoundland and a talk with Newfoundland seal fishermen to convince them that Newfoundlanders are not barbaric babykillers. There is no reason to believe that the Norwegians are either. I would suggest that the **Gazette** try meeting with some sealers before revealing any more of your ignorance of this matter.

Sincerely yours, Joseph Hutchings Law II St. John's, Newfoundland

Ed. Note: If you had taken the time to watch the news articles about the seal hunt which have been on television every night since the controversy erupted, instead of making snide and "uninformed" opinions about both the Gazette and the purpose of the Greenpeace expedition, you would have been able to present a more digestible argument.

[a] The Greenpeace foundation consists of well-informed scientists and laymen from around the world and are not your cliched "bleeding heart liberals" [your implication].

[b] Their purpose is to hinder the seal hunt, of which 12 of the 13 ships participants are foreign. Greenpeace has publicly recongized the Newfoundland sealhunters right to capture seals for meat. However, they and we do not condone hunting white coats for a market which is doubtful in its objectives [at best]. You do.

[c] You seem to forget that there is an obvious bias in the reporting from the established press.

[d] When the law did not encompass the Greenpeace Foundation's actions, the law was merely changed to make the actions illegal.

## A CASE OF CENSORSHIP

To the Gazette:

The threats to freedom of speech are usually thought to originate from sources outside the media, eg. governments or corporations whose best interests often lie in a silent press. People rely on the media to be a 'watchdog', the communities eye on the centers of power. Unfortunately that often turns out to be a naive assumption, the people who run the various media have an opportunity to be manipulators and therefore to be manipulated.

The student press is, fortunately, free from many of the pressures imposed by governmental or monetary interests. The editor of a student newspaper can be quite relaxed in the area of newspaper content. Still, the editors are saddled with the difficult responsibilities of the job. Content must be factually correct and non-libelous.

However, last week the Gazette abused its power and deliberately censored some material. Although the incident meant little to the content of the article it contradicted the purpose of a student newspaper and in principle is important.

The incident involved Ken MacDougall's column. He had sub-headed the column and some of those sub-heads were removed. It would be a lengthy and largely useless exercise to describe the emotional and personal reasons for the censorship. At the time there were those who thought the subheads had a viscious connotation; some thought that students would fail to comprehend the intention of the sub-heads; finally there were those who did not agree with the content of the article and were only too happy to water it down. The line between editorial responsibility and censorship became, for a moment, blurred and with only myself dissenting the line was crossed.

What was censored was neither libelous nor, to use a nice non-legal term, viscious. One of the sub-