

NSCAD teaches Communism — propaganda

by Charles Spurr

"A statement of propaganda does not, indeed cannot, by its definition, communicate to its audience the fact that it is propaganda."

"NSCAD TEACHES COMMUNISM" reads the slogan on Peter Kavanaugh's new T-shirt.

Kavanaugh is one of at least twelve people who have bought copies of the red and yellow T-shirt designed by Roger Lewis, the student president of the Student Council of Nova Scotia College of Art and Design (NSCAD).

Lewis describes his T-shirt as an art work which represents "a celebration of a kind of left heritage" at NSCAD. He says, "I can't really say NSCAD teaches communism but it provides an atmosphere for left politics."

He says NSCAD is formed of the elements that make it up at

any given time and not something that people fill. "It (the NSCAD attitude) sets itself up as either right-wing sabotage or left-wing celebration," he says.

The "right-wing sabotage" takes place because it sets itself up for "abuse by rednecks and reservations from the administration," says Lewis. He is referring to the kind of art work NSCAD students produce such as a poster entitled "Oppose American Imperialism."

Lewis believes politics and non-student issues are important to students because student concerns cannot be separated from concerns of the general public. He thinks military expenditure is one of those issues students should address.

"Some people think this is communistic, although many

communists criticize it for portraying the Canadian capitalist as an innocent child, when in fact the relationship with American imperialism is far from innocent," says Lewis.

"Military expenditure doesn't contribute to the economy; we don't get many jobs from it, and it cuts into educational spending. The cost of one F-18 would provide free tuition for all post-secondary students in the Maritimes (about 31,000 students) for one year," says Lewis. He adds that 25% of all growth in the GNP is directly derived from post secondary education.

When Lewis talks about "left-wing celebration" he means NSCAD students actually take stands on these issues. "My stand on these issues is what a lot of people might consider within the realm of left views," Lewis says. For Roger Lewis, this is, indeed,

something to celebrate.

The idea of propaganda inspired Lewis to design this T-shirt as a form of celebration.

"I was thinking about posters and propaganda, and it was originally a poster idea. I wasn't thinking of what propaganda said but the motives behind it," says Lewis.

Apparently, however, the NSCAD administration is not celebrating with Lewis. They are worried about the public response and specifically the response of the Royal Commission on Post Secondary Education, Lewis says. "They are afraid the T-shirt will reinforce some nega-

tive misconceptions about the school."

Lewis had no wish to cause such a problem when he designed the T-shirt.

In doing his work he wants it to be made clear that there is a "very fine line between politics and art," and it's not simply one or the other. He prefers to create works that lean more towards the "post modernist" (i.e. socially meaningful) rather than the "modernist" (art for art's sake) tradition.

Then there are those buying the T-shirt. Peter Kavanaugh, for one, says, "I think my new T-shirt's just great."

More trouble at UNB

FREDERICTON (CUP) -- A committee investigating accusations of racism in the University of New Brunswick housing office has called for the resignation of a housing officer.

The Foreign Students Investigation Committee, set up by the UNB student council, wants the resignation of off-campus housing officer Helga Stewart because she refused to co-operate with the committee.

Committee chair Vincent Lien said "she has stifled our attempts to verify the practices of her office."

UNB student union president John Bosnitch said Stewart has "refused in every respect to attend committee hearings and speak to students to clear up questions they have about Accommodation Services."

The committee is investigating allegations that the housing office has made references to the race of potential tenants when talking to potential landlords. A UNB graduate student testified that he was asked by Stewart if he would "take Africans". He said she explained that some people "don't like to rent to African students."

UNB Dean of Students Barry Thompson arranged a meeting between Stewart and the committee but nothing was resolved.

The controversial story was first printed in the St. Thomas University student newspaper, the Aquinian. UNB has threatened the paper with a lawsuit for attributing allegedly racist quotes to housing director Roy Brostowski, but the Aquinian sticks to its story.

Forestry con't from page 6

9) "A forest is, essentially, a garden, and forestry is, essentially, farming." This is a silly and inaccurate analogy. In farming, the rotation is generally annual instead of 50-100 years as in forestry; and the use of chemical fertilizers, insecticides and herbicides is generally done on an annual basis and at relatively high dose rates in comparison with the infrequent and low-dose usages in forestry. It's a fact that, in Canada, forestry accounts for only 4 per cent of the amount of insecticides and 0.5 per cent of the herbicides that are used annually—most of the rest is applied in agriculture and around the home (for example, 2,4-D and many other pesticides can be purchased at

any gardener's supply outlet). Olie follows the above introductory statement with a paragraph that rather accurately describes how many farmers

growing annual crops proceed in their work—but the implication is that they don't! He may not like these procedures, but the intensive agricultural technologies that have been developed over the past several decades are responsible for feeding a large fraction of our overpopulated world.

10) A map of Nova Scotia was presented, with perhaps 75 locations marked on it. The map is labelled: "Aerial spraying-1983." In fact, there has been no

aerial spraying in Nova Scotia over the last two seasons—only ground applications have been approved by the provincial Department of the Environment. This is an important point, because much of the controversy centres around the application-specific problems.

These are the most important problems that I had with Olie's article. There were many others, but they were relatively minor and, frankly, I don't think that his piece deserves more attention. My hope is that not too many people will have been unduly influenced by this shoddy piece of journalism. Certainly, the Gazette did us no favours when it printed it.

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