

DAL GAZETTE

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A W.U.S.C. Report On Race Relations

Whether or not one has the courage to affirm one's self as a Christian, there is no doubt that as a thinking being one can stand with Miss Roper in her observations on the inconsistencies in the rationale for the existence of fraternities. Racial discrimination in any sphere is deplorable, and when its spirit pervades certain aspects of university life, it is particularly disturbing.

NO EXPERIENCE

For those of us who have had no experience of being discriminated against because of skin color or any other uncontrollable heritage, it is through the experiences of others and our own understanding that the weaknesses in our thinking can be brought to light.

The practice of racial discrimination was met in the direct way by those of us who were able to tour West Africa as representatives of WUSC. Race relations as we saw them will be described here some information on which the understanding may work.

The White - African relationship is not one to be described only in terms of race. It is the ruler-ruled relationship, teacher-student, employer - employee, master - servant, husband and wife. This does not mean that the whites are always in a superior role and the Africans in the inferior. We met African Cabinet ministers who had British undersecretaries or White stenographers, and other similar situations exist.

In any area where the question of race does not enter into the matter of these kinds of relationships, problems exist which are peculiar to the specific kind of relationship. For example, in Canada we do not hesitate to speak of an employer-employee relationship, but generally it is not seen as a point for discussion under the topic of race relations. It may be discussed in terms of the technical problems involved. Similarly one may speak of a relationship between the governed and those who govern in an impersonal way. In Africa however, all relationships are further complicated by the factors of social prestige and skin color.

PARTLY TRUE

It can be said that race relationships in West Africa are good; and this is partly true. There is no racial strife. There is no system of apartheid. On the other hand, Whites send their children to school abroad. They buy European merchandise in European stores or send African servants to shop in African markets. Some private clubs have restricted membership, and social contact is further restricted when Africans are not invited to European homes.

As for the Africans, the main irrationality of some of them, is to see the British as the lordly imperialists, and to lump all White into this class. It corresponds to the attitude some Euro-

peans have when they prejudice all Africans as inherently inferior.

One great difficulty is that there are so very few British in West Africa, and those who are there generally hold positions and lead lives of greater prestige and income than they would in their native lands. (This excludes missionaries, clergymen and teachers who clearly have come from the purest of motives.) White people cannot own land and therefore cannot be considered as settlers who have to face far more intimate problems than the temporary resident. In addition both the government of the Gold Coast and that of Nigeria have an Africanization policy which prohibits many Europeans from envisioning any long range plans for residence in these countries.

The situation is one which favors peaceful relationships, but as to whether or not they are good, in the sense of deep and lasting friendships and free social interaction, requires far more observation than we had time for. Evidence could be given of both good and bad relationships. Sometimes unfortunate cases involve skin color and sometimes it is differences of interests or tastes the same thing by which people of the same race are attracted or repelled.

ESCAPE PROBLEM

University students somewhat escape the problem because there are no White students at African colleges. White secondary school teachers we met generally were very fond of their pupils. Those most hostile to the Africans were, for the most part, commercial people or lesser officials in government circles.

The Africans are struggling for more than self-government of their country. They wish the world to recognize them as self-governing individuals, to accept them as persons in their own right. With university students especially we were moved by the intensity of this feeling. In the face of this desire to participate in a world community of university students, and in consideration of what one hopes to achieve at university, those who attempt to justify racial discrimination should take another look at their arguments, as Miss Roper has clearly pointed out, and consider what they would say to the students of newly-forming countries who look to us for guidance in the formation of their own educational system.

—Nita Sederis.

NEWS OF THE U'S

by Garry K. C. Braund



C.U.P. (wire service)
U.N.B. withdraws from NFCUS for 20 minutes over budget deficit. They agreed in the fall to support NFCUS. It was reconsidered and they decided to honor their fall agreement. Ed: 20 minutes to phone Beaverbrook "collect."

U of T (Varsity)
Two Negro students fair Accommodation Toronto restaurant owner, "Charge," violation of fair Accommodations Practices Act. Ed: In Toronto?

C.U.P. (wire service)
Historic agreement was signed in Windsor, Ont. Assumption U. and Essex College became affiliated. Ed: Let no man put asunder.

C.U.P. (across the board)
National CUP reject 3rd classification . . . Dal suggested a third classification based on number of publications plus enrolment . . . vote 9 pros, 11 cons with two Maritime universities missing . . . R. J. Rankin's offer of a trophy still holds. Ed: Is silent.

U. of Ottawa (Fulcrum)
Mid-year Ball, Peter McAvoy chairman. First campus-wide social event of its kind. Ed: Reason . . . no night life in Ottawa. Dialogue no doubt . . . "I'd ask you for the next dance only all the cars are full." Don't loose the ring in the sand.

EDITORIAL

Well Done

Although the Board of Governors and the Senate have broad interests in campus affairs, from the students' point of view no group plans a more vital role than does the Students' Council. It is appalling therefore that so few students take advantage of its open meetings. Perhaps this is an indication of contentment—that the student body is satisfied with the manner in which the council has tended its chores. Such an attitude is dangerous and can make for a conservative student government.

Fortunately for all concerned this is not the case with our present Student Council. Under the capable leadership of Doug and Elise much has been accomplished during the past year. Looking back at their election platform we see that they have kept their promises. First, initiation has been re-instated. Second, a secretary-treasurer has been appointed. Third, there is co-ordination of campus activities. Fourth, an effective publicity program has been developed. Fifth, the point system has been revised.

However a council's work is never over. To their successors falls much. Within a month nominations will be called for, and new platforms will appear. The following suggestion might well be considered. Forgetting the canteen and the new men's residence for the moment, Dal has been too long without a band of its own, a popular college song, and pep rallies. More student hours in the rink are desired. We should have an official graduation ring, and maybe a pre-Christmas forum, etc. What do you think?

Buy Pop — Buy Gum

The gym canteen was the subject of a very controversial debate on the campus last week. The council's decision to give WUSC the concession to run the canteen at all student dances was based on the recognition of the important education and charitable work being carried on by WUSC in the international field. There is no student levy at Dalhousie for WUSC as there is at most other universities, for example last year University of Alberta donated \$2500, Western Ontario \$1400, and St. F.X. \$400. It is hoped that the concession would make a similar levy at Dalhousie unnecessary.

Canteen facilities on the football field were also discussed, and several complaints were heard on the present services available. Nowhere does the football fan have to walk so far, wait so long and come back with so little than at Dal. It is quite possible that we shall find a canteen building near the field next year, or perhaps a canteen that will serve both the field during the fall and the rink during the winter.

Hats Off to Arts and Science

This, the largest society on the campus which has laid dormant for the past few years has suddenly forgotten that nasty word apathy, and come back to life. A successful ice carnival last fall precipitated their revival. A society fee was leveled on each student at registration this year which enabled them to get their spirit out of hock and win the inter-faculty rugby and cross-country battles. And there is plenty of fight left in them yet! Much credit for this fine showing goes to its president and his energetic executive.

Interfac Debating

February
8—John Charters and Ron Pugsley vs. Hector McInnes and Ryan Paquette
Chairman, D. Merlin Nunn
10—Fran Stanfield and Pat MacLeod vs. Colin MacKenzie and Deno Pappas.
Chairman, Garry Braund.
Place—Moot Court Room Law School
Time—1:30 p.m.
Regulations—One side submits three topics to other. The side receiving the topics must choose one topic PLUS the affirmative or the NEGATIVE.
Speaking Time—Seven minutes
Rebuttal Time—Three minutes

Letters To The Editor

Editor, Dalhousie Gazette

Dear Sir:
If you will be so gracious to allow me, I should like to write down, for the benefit of those interested, several remarks in reply to the letter which appeared in your last issue of the Gazette, and which was written by Sally Roper, Law '56.

Miss Roper informs us that the purpose of fraternities is "social" and the avowed "promotion of friendship." That, I may add, is one important facet of our general purpose—but that is not all. Unfortunately, perhaps, I cannot go into great details and explanations of what exactly we do stand for, but suffice it to say that our ideals are much more far-reaching than those implied by Miss Roper.

I thank Miss Roper for setting me to rights as to the correct meaning of the word "discrimination." I admit I was thinking only of the very unpleasant connotations of the word while disregarding its strict designation. Very well, "discrimination" means "to mark as different." Then I would suggest that almost every organization that exists in our society today is discriminatory. A student in Engineering cannot belong to the Arts and Science Society, because he is marked as "different" by that society. He is an Engineer. Therefore that society practices discrimination, but I would say quite justly. In similar manner I believe it quite unfair to attack Christian fraternities for not admitting those who cannot accept Christian principles. There are, after all, fraternities for non-Christians and they are perfect-

ly free to join them, if they so desire. I repeat, it is very unfortunate that there is no such group at Dalhousie.

We rush only those girls who, we believe, accept the Christian beliefs. If the unusual case does arise, when a girl not formally a member of the Christian faith personally accepts these Christian ideals, then she certainly can join either of the two fraternities for which I speak. Miss Roper very kindly quoted an example of such a girl, now an alumna member of Pi Beta Phi. But I assure you, such cases are few and far between. Generally we do not approach the non-Christian women students at Dalhousie because of the mere fact that we do respect their religious beliefs and to rush them would be to ask them to accept ours.

Miss Roper further states that "plain fact is that no Negro can be included" in our fraternities. May I emphasize once more that we can include them. I confess that my explanations on the matter were not apallingly expressed in my previous letter. I apologize profusely. Considering the feelings our Southern chapters hold on the matter, we would like to avoid any unpleasantness should a Negro member of either of our fraternities happen to come in contact with a Southerner. We assure you that we are thinking very much of the feelings of the Negroes in this matter.

Before closing, may I express my candid and utter amazement on realizing that there are people who air definite and strictly defined views on subjects about which they know relatively nothing.

JANET CONRAD.

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