



Council Comments

by Al Robertson
SC President

Although I quite doubt that you noted the absence of my column in last week's issue of the Gazette, the explanation is that I got wind that one or two of the articles might be a little off-beat, and being a chicken at heart, I wanted little part in the effort.

After some arbitration and discussion, we find ourselves faced with the prospect of a mid-term break stretching from Munro Day, March 12, until the next Wednesday, March 18. This should give the students some time to make a comprehensive review of the year's work, and make the not-so-good students serve time. I've been told that the faculty, in most respects, was pleased with the results of last year's trial break, judging mainly from the attendance in the libraries. Our reason for placing it some time before examinations was two-fold: so that it would not serve mainly as a cramming period, and so that there would be sufficient class time after the break for any puzzled students to ask a few questions. I should point out that our main bargaining factor this year was the fact that last year's break was not abused as much as many thought it would be. It is for this reason I caution the would-be playboy who plans to take full advantage of snow-covered mountains or sunny beaches at Fort Lauderdale.

Student Council elections are just a little over a week away. Who's going to represent your faculty in the Council? Who's going to help in deciding for you how your money is going to be spent? Who will decide whether you need a winter carnival next year? Do you know? Or are you interested?

CLASS ORIGINS DECIDING FACTOR NO LONGER

HUNGARY (CUP) — The premier of Hungary has announced that the class origins of students will no longer be a deciding factor in admission to higher education.

Premier Janos Kadar, while defending the orthodox view held by

the Sino-Soviet bloc that students be admitted by class origin quotas, heavily favoring students of working origin, said this attitude is no longer useful and is "directly harmful to the building of socialism."

No stratum of Hungarian youth should be discriminated against because of the former position of the parents, the premier said. Under this new policy non-communists will be advanced to leading professions he said.

The new policy is aimed at prevention of alienation of sectors of the population which, in 1956, led to the Hungarian Revolution, observers say.

Observers say Party members and workers are "not surprisingly, less enthusiastic about the new tolerance on the part of the regime."

Debaters compare old Rome to U.S.

"The sentimentality towards pets today corresponds to the humanizing tendency of the Romans towards the Barbarians."

So claimed Chris Marshall, member of the Mt. Allison debating team supporting the resolution that "Rome in the Fourth Century was the same as the U.S. today", against a team from Dalhousie (48) Saturday. Taking the affirmative, Marshall and Keith Ward devoted most of their time to haranguing their Dalhousie opponents, Peter Nicholson and Arthur McDonald, on the superfluous nature of their argument. The argument proved to have the superior merit, however, for Dalhousie won the debate.

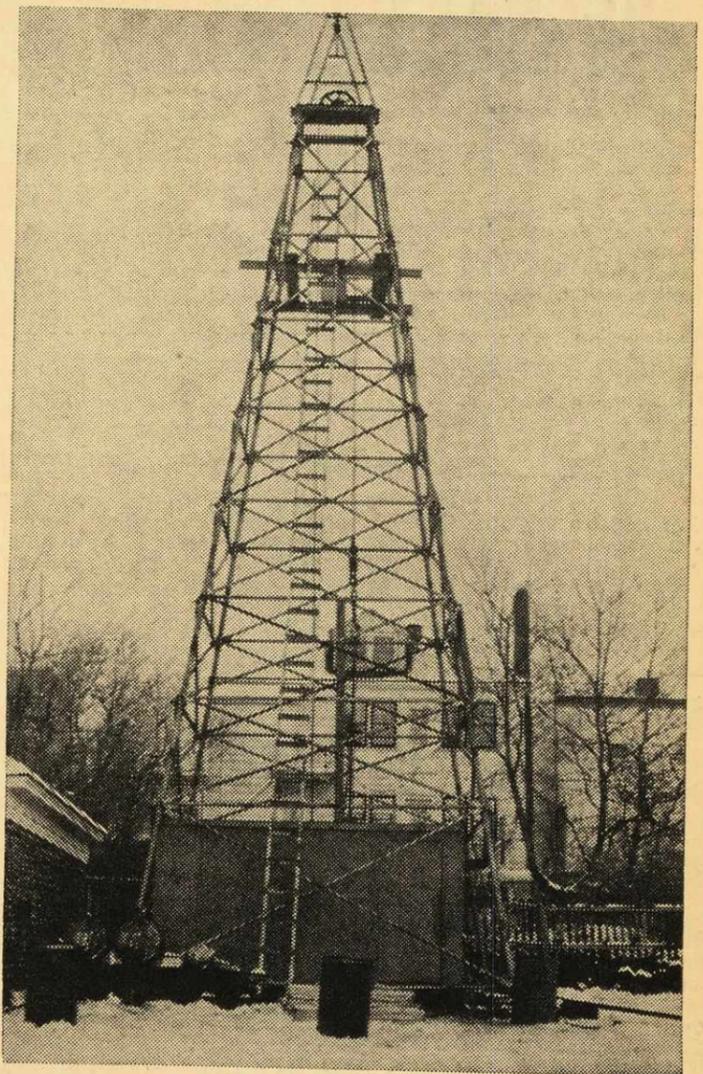
Ward stated that there was a "basic relaxation of moral discipline and a corruption of the people." He added that stoicism had ceased to be the answer to everything in Rome, and correspondingly the "big stick" philosophies no longer suffice in America. Ward came out with the astonishing statement that there was a "dying of the classics in the United States", just as there was a cultural stagnation in Rome.

Marshall said that both societies had developed an insatiable appetite for induced excitement, such as the big spectator sports. Moreover, he claimed that all the Dalhousie team had done was to "find differences between societies." After enumerating the approach that he would take in his argument, Marshall ran out of time and had to withdraw.

Basing his argument on the existence of different social structures, Nicholson claimed vast differences in such matters as the freedom of the common man, governmental philosophies, and the opportunities for enterprise. "Rome had a feudal system with a privileged few, while the United States has a democratic social order." Moreover, he claimed the Roman political system was unstable, while the American form of government is "sound".

Of the two teams, Dalhousie's appeared much the superior, as the judges' decision indicated. Their preparation was better and their delivery fair, although Mt. Allison gave them barely enough material on which to exercise their talents.

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U.W.O. STUDENTS PROPOSE COMMUNIST PARTY ON CAMPUS

LONDON (CUPU) — Ontario premier John Robarts has blasted a proposal by two unidentified University of Western Ontario

students that a communist party should be started on the Western campus.

On a visit to the campus, Robarts said "I don't think a communist party is a good thing anywhere."

Robarts said there was no need to be introduced to communism in order to learn about it. If it is to be understood, it can be studied, he said.

"But," said the premier, "I am certainly not advocating the formation of a communist cell on the campus of the University of Western Ontario."

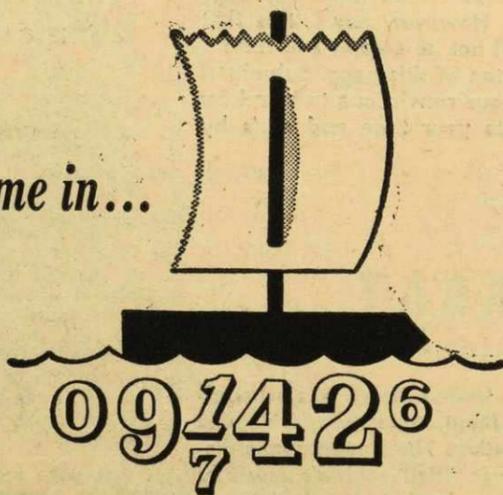
Meanwhile, the University of Western Ontario student newspaper, The Gazette, has invited a local communist party chairman to speak at the university.

"... We are not declaring ourselves to be communists," Gazette Editor-in-chief Shari Craig said. "In sponsoring this lecture we hope to ensure that Western students interested in learning about communism will more fully understand the thoughts and ideas of this political organization."

Miss Craig said the invitation of a communist to speak on the campus would round out the Inter-Political Council's program of political speakers.

Maurice Crosby
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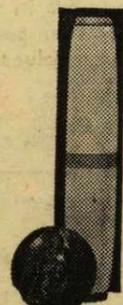


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