

Campus in perspective...

...Ode to the struggling

Students in private rebellion against University's academic control

By Gazette Staff Writer

Some students in Dalhousie's student body are going to fail; others will pass but will not live up to their family's fondest expectations. Though these students are hardly the pride of Dalhousie they are often the ones who are really getting an education. For they are often in private rebellion against the control the University has over their souls.

The student who unquestioningly memorizes that which he is told and is adapted for spotting and succeeding in exams is often the very one who never questions the university or his own reasons for being there. He is by far the student that is best adjusted to living in society. He is the student that industry will eagerly hire. But has he had an education? Would he be capable of leading, inspiring or instigating anything other than that which he has been taught? There is no doubt that he will be a good upholder of society and its laws. But is anyone educated until they even for a short time feel confused, bewildered, insecure and questioning? Can anyone be educated without questioning the worth of the institution to which they have surrendered themselves?

I have seen students who, sitting gloriously on their pedestal of high marks, descend suddenly. They did not mean to descend

but something inside them began to tick. As they descended they dissented and in their descension they began to get an education.

The thinking student often has a grave problem. He wants to be unshackled. He wants to be more than a tool in someone else's creation. He wants to make his own binds and his own rules. He refuses to be held down. He becomes responsible to himself and to those things with which he himself chooses to be involved. He is no longer content as a subject. He wants to be king. He resents giving professors that which he knows they desire to be given. He wants to see through his own eyes.

Then why doesn't he leave? Sometimes he does. But sometimes he doesn't leave because the society around him believes in the importance of the University and he belongs and wants to belong to society. He must be formally educated because he has to become a "Something". Without formal education he can become only an artist, labourer or clerk. Some of these people do become artists, some labourers and some clerks. Most of them find that as an artist they are untalented and unsuited. Most of them find that dish washing, construction work, clerical work, and factory work entail the every day routine of eight boring hours which they can not stand. So our "He" comes back to school to the nice warm comfortable university.

It is not that he is against learning. Perhaps he has in him the makings of a politician, a professor, a veterinarian, etc., but he hasn't got the makings of a university student. Maybe he just belongs back in time when a man became a lawyer because he knew the laws of his country, or a professor because he could teach. This student feels that university has taken all the joy out of learning. He no longer picks up a book because in it will be revealed great mysteries. Now books are assigned. A certain amount of pages are to be read every night and these are discussed in class or rather the professor tells the students what he thinks is important about it in class the next day. So this same student who would never have picked up a book in his chosen subject without feeling the spirit of adventure take hold, will and does take up this same book when it is assigned, reading only what he has to read while his mind wanders and his soul is oppressed within.

But he is not a lost soul. On the contrary, he is receiving an education. His problem is gloriously his own. He must learn to adjust and if he has the strength to bear with the situation that is by no means ideal, he may discover how to give those around him what they want and still keep himself his own man. But this is very difficult and for that reason worthwhile. And yet because of this education he can remain like a prophet and foresee the changes

which are inevitable and thus help to usher them in.

I have noticed that most of the departments at Dalhousie are anxious to receive a better type of student. They want the entrance requirements to be stiffened. They install all kinds of requirements, prerequisites, qualifications, etc., in the hope of attracting the superior student. They look down with disdain on the first year ignoramus that they condescend to teach.

In behaving so, aren't the departments forgetting that they are there to stimulate not to take those who are already stimulated? Aren't they forgetting that they are there to teach not to take those who are already self-taught? Aren't they there to give rather than just take? The Departments at Dalhousie scorn the student that needs. They call the student that comes to them in need of teaching, a poor student. Hence all of those unstimulated first year students who have had very little given to them in all of their years at school find the same situation upon coming to the University. These students are not dunces. People, especially young people, are capable of amazing epiphanies which are not as rare or as impossible as we think. But it takes a rare teacher to reach any of these students. And hence those who need school most receive no help. And the universities blame their high failure rates on a poor calibre of students instead of a poor calibre of teaching.

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Duncan MacPherson, The Toronto Daily Star

A plague on both of your houses!

Fie on the Halifax Chronicle Herald and Mail Star!

These two reactionary journals ushered in Canada's Centennial by printing a full-length color photo of the Queen on the front page.

By so doing, they dramatically displayed just how far out of contact they are with the needs of this young country, and the young people who constitute the majority of its population.

Canada has possessed nationhood for 100 years but today it still faces the task of finding and maintaining a national identity. If we do not accomplish the task soon there won't be a second century for Canada.

It is a very good thing to be conscious of history and to honor those parts of the past, which were honorable. But it is another thing altogether, to indulge in demonstrations of blind 'flag waving.'

It might come as a shock to the editors at the Herald and Star, and others of that ilk, to find out that their displays of misguided loyalty often outstrip the British.

The monarchy is an integral part of British society, yet it is only in Canada that we insist on playing 'God Save The Queen' after every movie, sporting event and public occasion.

In England the playing of The Queen is usually reserved for those occasions when the Queen or a member of the royal family is present.

The preoccupation of some people in this country, particularly in the Maritimes, to play the part of the Royalist is a laughable if not pathetic ruse. They stunt the growth of the Canadian nation, by alienating the French Canadian and confirming his fears that his partners in confederation have no intention of striving to create a new society free from the errors of the past.

The task is to gain a reasonable perspective - to balance historical heritage and national identity. In its perverted form the choice (for English Canadians) becomes one of choosing between a form of 19th Century Empire Loyalism and Republicanism.

If the Halifax newspapermen couldn't find it in their Tory hearts to run a picture of Lester Pearson or the Canadian flag why didn't they settle on John A. MacDonald.

If this country does make it to the year 2067, I am sure the scholars of that day will look back on the actions of the Herald and Star as typical of a sickness that almost sabotaged confederation.

Fie on the Chronicle Herald and the Mail Star!

Now is the time to aid the SUB

The Gazette asks you to vote yes in the referendum being held January 25. We make the request with mixed feelings.

There would be no need for a vote if the university's board of governors had recognized its full responsibilities and provided the necessary funds for the proposed Student Union Building. The problem is the governors do not regard a SUB as an integral part of the university complex.

Apparently, they are unaware that the university requires more than a collection of lecture halls and labs to educate the student. They remain faithful to the current North American concept of the "degree-mill."

A university must be much more than this. It must be an academic community in the true sense. There must be an opportunity for an exchange or confrontation of ideas. And this can only happen when people are in contact - in community. To foster this sense of community requires the proper facilities.

As it exists today, Dalhousie is little more than a glorified high school. In deed, for students living at home the sense of community is non-existent.

The SUB is not a panacea that will suddenly cure all Dalhousie's educational ills - but it will help. Certainly, it is far more than a new home for the student council offices. The new building will be packed with conference rooms, recreation areas, theatres and lounges - places where people and ideas can meet.

Some people will say we are being too hard on the university, which is already committed to providing the land for the SUB plus a large cash grant.

But even this contribution, as grand as it sounds, is seen in a different light when one realizes that the new SUB will house the University's main cafeteria - occupying approximately one-eighth the total area of the building.

If the SUB is not constructed day-students will be forced to continue using the present

cafeteria in the Arts Annex which is a disgrace. It would be out of place in the 'boon-docks.'

Unfortunately, it is obvious that the university will not provide any more money for a SUB and if it is going to be built within the next ten years the students must pick up the tab.

The one saving point is that if the students do pay they will gain the right to administer the SUB. It will be the students' building.

There are a number of questions that can be raised and the Gazette feels that an attempt should be made to answer them.

QUESTION: Why not cut back on construction costs rather than asking for more money?

ANSWER: The proposed building will utilize a form of low-cost construction. In addition, the size of the building can not be reduced if it is to fulfill student needs for any period of time.

QUESTION: Why not build the SUB in stages as they are needed?

ANSWER: It will be. The SUB is designed to have another three storeys added when necessary. If you attempt to increase the number of stages of construction you also increase the total cost.

QUESTION: How was the \$10 figure arrived at?

ANSWER: A study was made using projections of student enrollment and cost figures.

QUESTION: Why should the students graduating next year pay for something they will never use?

ANSWER: They won't. The fee increase will not take effect until September 1968 and by that time the SUB will be open. The first people to pay the increase will be the people who are able to use the building.

Letters to the Editor

Nominate 'Spirochaete of the Year'

To the Editor:

There exists on the Dalhousie campus a unique creature whom we nominate for the title Spirochaete of the Year. Unfortunately the nature of its uniqueness prevents just recognition being publicly given, and we can only record its deed.

On December 8th the League for Social Action placed on the counter beside the cafeteria's cashier a jar in which contributions could be made to Medical Aid for Vietnamese Civilians.

In eight days the canteen staff, students, and construction workers had generously donated over five dollars. Unlike the charitable offerings of beer barons, oil tycoons, and the widows of industrial wizards, many of these people could ill afford the money they gave. Their contributions would not be "tax deductible" as business expenses; neither hospitals, nor medical buildings would be named in their honour; and their names would remain unknown even to the ultimate beneficiaries - the children and women of Vietnam.

Regrettably, both the contributors and the intended beneficiaries were betrayed by a spirochaete in human form. Between December 16th and 21st this thing oozed into the canteen, stealthily snatched the jar from the counter, and returned to the oblivion of the chance from which it had emerged.

After having deprived a few of the victims of some future U.S. terror-raid of the price of the live-saving anti-biotics, one wonders what it did with the five dollars.

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have been conditioned to feel as if they are just like us. Through the mass media we have allowed them to experience our way of life. We have given them our stooges whom they may elect as their government so that they may feel that they have freely chosen their leaders. These leaders levy taxes upon them to pay for their schools and hospitals, thus giving them a feeling of being self-supporting.

For years they have lived in happy acceptance of their way of life, but now they are beginning to rebel, just as their brethren in Russia and China rebelled against their rulers. Recently they rebelled in Cuba, only ninety miles from the shores of our great stronghold.

I am frightened as I see the revolution moving closer to our North America. We have not mistreated our masses like the Russians and the Chinese. We have given them all the rights and privileges to prevent them from re-

bell but our plan seems to be failing. To stave off the revolt a little longer, have given Americans the additional honour of becoming immortal heroes in the eyes of their fellow countrymen by dying for us in the exotic jungles of Vietnam. (meanwhile providing us with a little profit from armaments production). However, more and more of them are refusing to become heroes. They even protest against our war and send money and blood to the Asian hordes who fight against us.

Are they going to rebel even further? Will they soon demand to share our wealth and take over our factories which they built for us? Are they going to deprive us of their labour? Don't they realize that it is our right to rule? Do they think that they can overthrow us and rule themselves? Without us they will have no security, but this does not appear to frighten them. It is I who am frightened by the revolt that is coming!

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Series of Dialogues

From January 17, until the end of February
 Six sessions - Tuesdays, 12:30 Noon - 1:30 p.m.
 Room 21, A & A Building

Tuesday, January 17 - Fr. Pat Kiernans, SMU - "Myth & Religion".

Tuesday, January 24 - Dr. T. E. Flynn - English Dept. (Dal & SMU) - "Ultimate Questions in Contemporary Literature."

Tuesday, January 31 - Dr. Ravi Ravindra - Physics Dept. "Has Science Eliminated the Religious Quest?"

Tuesday, February 7 - The Religious Question & Man's Religion - (a) Judaism - Rabbi J. Deitcher.

Tuesday, February 14 - The Religious Question & Man's Religions - (b) "Christianity" - Prof. R. D. Crouse, Classic Dept.

Tuesday, February 21 - The Religious Question & Man's Religions (c) "Hinduism" - Dr. R. C. Chalmers - Pinehill.

The assigned leaders will open the dialogue with a statement lasting about 20 - 30 minutes - questions and discussion will follow.

Maritime Liberals

-Continued from Page 1-
 ticians but rather delegates will present their ideas, their solutions to problems in their century.

Sessions begin Friday evening, January 13th at the Dresden Arms with a reception and short keynote address by Nova Scotia Liberal Leader Gerald Regan. Meetings continue Saturday, with business and policy discussions and a special film of Barbara Ward's dramatic address to the National Liberal Convention. Sunday morning's special feature will be a discussion of the role youth should play in politics as discussed by a panel of youth leaders. The convention will adjourn Sunday noon after a session to hear plans for the National Student Liberal convention later in February.

Dal Film Production Unit

The Dalhousie Film Production Unit is sponsoring a film script writing contest. Any script thought worth shooting will be produced, probably in 8mm. Scripts are to be approximately 15 min. in length or less, and may use sound or colour as the writer desires. There is no restriction as to subject matter, but scripts are to allow for the film unit's interest in film techniques and in the aesthetic nature of films.

All entries are to be typed on film-script blanks obtainable from the Publicity Office, and are to be in the Publicity Office, on or before January 31.

"Student councils abdicate duties"

OTTAWA (CUP)—The chief architect of Canada's student movement has condemned student councils for abdicating their responsibilities.

Canadian Union of Students president Doug Ward suggested Friday (Jan. 6) in an interview he is getting fed up with student governments which give a higher priority to yearbooks and dances than to social change.

"If I were the student press or a candidate in the upcoming council elections, I wouldn't tolerate the neanderthal priorities of the average student council," the 28-year-old CUS president said.

"Student councils are acting as if the issues of most vital importance to students were yearbooks, dances, model parliaments and the budget of the outing club."

The CUS chief accused elected councils of "blissfully ignoring the fact that students are being

out off for lack of adequate preventative mental health facilities and for lack of decent aid programs."

Charging that potential university students are being funneled out of further academic study by a society that "doesn't really believe in accessibility on the basis of merit," Ward blamed student government for failing to take hold of the issues and become relevant to their electorate.

"The funny thing is that when student councillors go off to the faraway CUS congresses, they do talk about the contemporary problems of society, and they pass resolutions on them."

"And then they mandate the national office to work very hard at implementing social change in the academic community."

"But when they go home, they feel they have done their little bit," Ward said. "They go back to their council chambers, take

the line of least resistance in the policies they have formulated nationally, and settle into a year of tinkering with a budget devoted largely to issues irrelevant to their electorate."

Ward accepted part of the blame for this year's apparent collapse of social conscience among student government leaders, noting that a massive national headquarters reorganization, financial and personnel shortages all combined to keep CUS field workers away from campuses last fall.

He said he hopes this difficulty will be licked during the current term, when all eight CUS secretariat members take to the road for field work assignments.

And plans are already being made to provide field workers training for next year's CUS staff.

Another aspect of the current CUS hangups beyond Ward's control can't be licked by program

outlines, newsletters and other CUS publications.

It's the CUS chairman's bottleneck' which occurs when local CUS chairmen fail to pass such material along to student government and the student electorate.

Ward suggested the CUS secretariat can work indefinitely formulating implementation programs without achieving anything.

Right now, Ward says he is forced to rely on upcoming election campaigns to recoup losses incurred during this year's post-congress lag.

"Underneath it all, local campuses are going to have to resolve this tension between the way they talk to the outside and what actually goes on their campus, if student government is going to have any relevance at all, the upcoming elections are going to be fought on the issue."