

Coordination answer

It is not very often that the Dalhousie Gazette finds itself agreeing with anything the Minister of Education has to say about the state of post-secondary education in this province. But last Monday in an address to students at Mount Saint Vincent University the Gazette found itself in whole-hearted agreement with one point in particular that the Minister made.

The point that the Minister was trying to make was that in order to try to give better service among universities in Nova Scotia, he was going to have to receive some co-operation from the universities in question. Expansionist mentality is going to have to end, he said, and universities are going to have to learn to specialize more and rid themselves of programs that are duplicated at other universities.

The point is well made. At a time when students are seriously trying to mobilize and do their part to protect the right to a quality education, university administrations have maintained an ostrich policy of keeping their heads buried in the sand and totally ignoring any suggestions or attempts that would have them streamline their program in order to provide better service in areas where they already operate.

It is of course very much a matter of pride. A sort of "my university can do anything better than yours can". The problem is that these universities can offer you the world but all too often when you get here, you find the program you enrolled in, suffers from lack of money or overcrowding because the universities have tried to put too few eggs into too many baskets.

Dalhousie is a prime example of the above. We have a new Dalplex, a new dentistry building, talk of a new building near the Dunn building. We have many beautiful buildings housing many departments all over the campus. The only problem is that all the beautiful buildings don't mean a thing if what is taught inside them is of a poor quality because of lack of funds or overcrowding.

University administrators are going to have to sit down and come to grips with the 'facts of university life'. They are going to have to come to agreement about reduction of duplication of program, cutting of unnecessary programs and concentration on better basic education for the students. After all, the students are the reason the administrator is here, remember?

Margaret Fulton of the Mount has been trying to get these presidents together for quite a while now. No Response. Terry Donahoe has been pleading for assistance since he first started. No response. Perhaps Mr. Donahoe should start turning some of those "non-threats" he mentioned at the Mount into the real thing. Perhaps then and only then university administrators will shelve any grand designs for the "super" university they must all envision and awake to the cold grey facts of the financially troubled decade ahead.

Attention anyone who has an interest or ability in art! The Gazette is looking for people who would be interested in reviewing local exhibitions. Please contact Margaret Little, Entertainment Editor 424-2507.

the Dalhousie Gazette

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The deadline for articles and letters-to-the-editor is noon on Monday. No unsigned material will be accepted, but anonymity may be granted on request. Letters should not exceed 500 words and must be typed on a 64-character line and double spaced. Local Advertising is handled by DAL-ADS—the advertising department of Dalhousie Student Union. Tel: 424-6532. Ad copy must be submitted by the Friday preceeding publication.

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Letters to Gazette

Problem with Churches

The Editor,
Dalhousie Gazette,
 Dalhousie University,
 Student's Union,
 Halifax, N.S.

Dear Sir,

The piece by the Dalhousie Christian Fellowship ("The message—Is anyone out there listening?" Jan. 17) illustrates why people flock to hear Billy Graham. It's couched in the academically-respectable/theologically-obscure manner that seems to be the only alternative to the fervently-evangelical approach of people like Graham.

The DCF style appeals to the intellect; Bill Graham's approach is to the emotions. Neither seems to reach many ordinary people where they are, at their point of religious need.

It's no wonder that ordinary people are turning away from the established churches, and becoming adherents of "religionless Christianity", to use Bonhoeffer's phrase. They are seeking God in their own beings—and at the far reaches of the universe. Bible sales are booming, as people turn away from organized religion—and towards Christ and God.

Christ operated outside the theological establishment of His time. The Jewish establishment hated him. His words fitted the world of the ordinary person, and are as alive today as when He spoke them.

In their article, the DCF reveal the liberal bias of mainline religions. As William Sloan Coffin (a clergyman)

remarked: "A liberal is someone who thinks someone else has a problem." To this, the Black writer, James Baldwin added a footnote: "A liberal is someone who thinks he understands your experiences better than you do yourself." The question that the DCF should be asking is: "The message—is anyone in there (the churches) listening?"

Yours truly,
 Jim Lotz

Praise for the Fellowships

I would like to commend the Dalhousie Christian Fellowship for their article featured in the "Gazette" concerning the true nature of Biblical Christianity. They have shown the close relationship between radicalism and the Christian concept of reality. The role of the radical is not to "tear up by the roots" but to cut through to the root ("radix") definition of what ultimate reality is.

I was particularly interested to see the topic of the validity of the mind in relation to Christian faith dealt with. What we see all too often in our society is that by ignoring the mind, evangelization becomes merely technique. I am in agreement with the propositions of the Dalhousie Christian Fellowship concerning the Billy Graham Crusade and its message. Faith divorced from its object is not viable and

little more than auto-suggestion or mysticism. The stress of the centrality of the resurrection to Biblical Christianity is an important factor for all to consider and does much to under cut the criticism levied against a lot of modern conservative evangelicals. In the desire to expose these men as manipulators of a contentless religion they often expose the fact that they do not have a clear understanding of the basic principles of Biblical Christianity.

An individual's viewpoint is important in determining what he sees, not necessarily what there is to be seen. Unfortunately those who criticize without examining all the facts support the statement that "we see things not as they are, but as we are". The words of Alan Watts in his book entitled "Beyond Theology: The Art of Goodmanship" sum this situation:

"My previous discussions did not take proper account of that whole aspect of Christianity which is uncompromising, ornery, militant, rigorous, imperious and invincibly self-righteous."

Linda Ross.

Criticism Too Harsh

To the Gazette:
 Re the "review" of the half-time entertainment at Dalplex provided by the Dal Rhythmic Club which appeared over the name of Morpheasily Shwartz.