

The Dalhousie GAZETTE

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Our Leader Speaks

For the first time this year, the Gazette has abandoned its policy of attempting to carry nothing but impartial and unbiased reporting on its news pages. Although leeway is obviously to be found on sports pages and on the features pages, the Gazette has made it a policy this year to attempt, as much as possible, to present unbiased news to its readers.

We have made an exception in this issue. The exception is to be found on page one, under the three-column headline "Dief The Chief, Comes To Dal." Below the headline, there is two short paragraphs of writing, and then several inches of blank paper.

Undoubtedly, many readers will object to this sort of gimmick; many will ask whether this is the sort of thing we mean when we say we attempt to present unslanted news.

Under most circumstances, the Gazette editors would agree with them. Any sort of gimmicks in news reporting is a repugnant sort of thing.

However, we think that any of the several hundred students and faculty of this university who heard the Prime Minister of Canada speak last Friday would agree with us that little else can be done.

For obviously some sort of report must be made; a speech of the Prime Minister is not a common occurrence, and any publication which purports to report the news must make some mention of it.

Having agreed that a report is necessary, the Gazette would rejoice if any member of the Prime Minister's audience would approach us and inform us just what we should report. Although there were several Gazette reporters and editors present, almost all came away empty-handed, devoid of any sort of notes from which one might mould a news report.

How, indeed, is one to report a speech in which nothing was said?

Although Dalhousie was proud to welcome Canada's Prime Minister, we regret the fact that Mr. Diefenbaker insisted on addressing the students present at a "nursery" level. The jokes and pious platitudes to which the gathering was subjected was fit more for a tea-party meeting of elderly conservative ladies, than for what we might hopefully refer to as the elite of this generation.

It is small wonder that students revolt at being told continually that they are the nation's future leaders, if the nation's present leaders treat students with such marked intellectual disdain.

It has been suggested by various students that the Prime Minister really didn't intend to put forth any policy statement or thought-provoking speech, but rather he came to put across that nebulous thing which politicians call an "image". This is interesting, and perhaps even worthy for a politician when he is out in the constituencies attempting to be either elected or re-elected to some sort of office. But for the leader of the county speaking to the "leaders of tomorrow", it seems a questionable practice.

The Prime Minister undoubtedly left the feeling among the students that he was really an awfully nice fellow, and was, in fact, once a student himself. Perhaps we should learn

from his speech that if we try very hard to be Awfully Nice Fellows we too can lead our country to greater things.

If such speeches are the products of great Prime Ministers, we see why Gordon Sinclair commented recently that Mr. Diefenbaker was a great Prime Minister — the greatest since Louis St. Laurent.

A COMMENDABLE MOVE

In an unusual and courageous move, the administration of Bishop's University at Lennoxville, Que., this year decided to permit male students of legal age to drink in their rooms.

A recent editorial in the Bishop's student newspaper pointed out that the effect had been a good one. While no statistics were available, in the opinion of the newspaper the behaviour of those students who live in residence had been better this year than at any time in the past.

The editorial goes on to say that the reason is obvious: "most students are adults, but when treated like children they are quite apt — as often happened in the past — to respond like children. When treated like adults they are far more likely to demonstrate an adult sense of responsibility . . . also nothing so removes the glamor from breaking a petty rule on the sly and getting away with it as removing the rule itself."

The Gazette congratulates the principals of Bishops for his liberalism, his courage, and his faith in his student body. All too often these days the men responsible for student discipline and control are afraid to do anything which is even slightly out of the ordinary. Instead, they hide fearfully behind the heavy cloak of conservatism which has covered Canadian universities for so many years.

It takes courage to stand up to the straight-laced moralists of our time and to tell them that their ideas are antiquated. In this particular case it would seem that the stern moralists who had gloomily predicted universal inebriation and unrestrained hooliganism have been proved wrong, while those who argued for the benefits of greater freedom coupled with greater responsibility have been proved right.

However, it would seem to us that the most beneficial aspect of such a decision lies in the immense faith and respect which the Bishop's administration must have for its student body. Such actions which show a true understanding for the students position and which indicate a willingness on the part of the administration to train him fully for his future life are very rare indeed.

We can only hope that by the actions of such men as the Principal of Bishop's, more university administrators will learn the value of bending a little to student requests in such matters.

LITTLE MAN ON CAMPUS



"A WORD OF WARNING — THIS PRE-MED STUDENT YOU'RE DATING FANCIES HIMSELF SOMETHING OF AN OPERATOR!"

The Critical Eye

PROPAGANDA IN THE "FREE" WORLD

It has been nearly 200 years since that great American hero Patrick Henry cried aloud: "Give me liberty, or give me death". At that time he was arousing animosity against that great oppressor of freedom and the "American way of life" — British colonialism.

Today we find ourselves in the midst of another great outcry against those who interfere with our concepts and ideologies. Only this time the foe is depicted as being far more hated and cruel than Britain ever was in the 18th Century.

In fact, the current outburst of anti-Russian and anti-Communist propaganda has reached such proportions that every man in a position of "power" has left it his duty to comment on our relations with Russia, and on such corresponding issues as nuclear arms.

It is extremely unfortunate that men of importance in the community should consider it their duty to increase the volume of Anti-Russian literature. Yet such events are taking place every day all across the country.

To illustrate the foolishness which often results from such a speech one only needs to recall an interview which took place during the recent American election. At one point in the campaign a Republican nominee said that communism has all the ingredients of a "fighting faith." He listed this as the ability to:

- 1) "Lift its adherents above the dread sense of being alone and make them feel themselves members of a brotherhood."
- 2) "Make its adherents believe that in working for the objectives of their faith they

are moving in step with nature or with the forces of history or with Divine will."

3) "Give to its adherents a sense of being lifted above the concerns that consumes the lives of the non-believing."

He then went to add the Russians have nothing to offer the world but negations.

It is unfortunate that this candidate did not pause to reflect on his statements and to realize how perfectly he had summed up the "American cause."

Yet it is statements such as this which are making headlines all over the "free" world today, and which are causing the Western peoples to become as indoctrinated with the ideals of democracy as the Russians are with the ideals of Communism.

It is indeed time that the press and the public realized that it is false to assume that because a man is educated in one field that he automatically an authority on everything else. We admit that everyone is entitled to his own personal opinion in world matters, but the time has come when the press should stop publicizing the views of those people who are no more qualified to discuss international affairs than is the average Canadian. For in most cases speeches on topics of such major importance are given by people who are as acquainted with the effect of a nuclear war as an engineer is with the symptoms of malaria.

It is perhaps an equally good idea that politicians and community leaders stopped giving their opinions when they are not called for.