

Editorial

Attack on the World No. 39

Student Radicals are apparently still in a euphoric mesmerisis after the recent CUS conference; I don't understand why.

It could be that because, after years of constant hammering at the politically right-of-middle-of-the road power base in the organization, they finally managed to pass what seem like reasonably left-wing policy statements. How long will it take them to understand the real meaning of the program which they successfully pushed through?

This may sound like a strange question when one takes into consideration the fact that the radicals themselves wrote most of the statements. But the fact that a six day conference could bring student leaders to the point that such policy statements could be accepted must mean something. And the fact that the statements were socialist-oriented, but never contained the word "socialism" (despite many unsuccessful attempts to have it included) must also have some significance. In fact, the significance is not really that hard to grasp that the result of the whole confrontation is a liberal acceptance of

'radical jargon', pet radical images, and romantic caricatures of the 'repressive' nature of a society which for many of the student leaders is repressive only in the most abstract and unrecognizable ways.

That this is so is documented by the fact that almost no action proposals came out of the conference. It seems strange that if the entire leadership of the Canadian Student Movement has engaged in a condemnation of Canadian and International Capitalist Society, they have not proposed any kind of concrete action to deal with their new monster-monolith enemy. It is probable that while they enjoyed the risqué student-rebel thrill of playing Saint Che for thousands of enraptured followers, and enjoy the masochistic martyr - delights of being despised by an equal number of disgusted rightists, they are not in fact ready to sacrifice even their typewriters for the "revolutionary" changes which are suddenly so dear to them.

In fact, almost no student councils have even attempted to explain to the mass of their constituents why they par-

ticipated in the intellectual word-mongering and jargoneering that the Radicals forced upon them. Worse still they are participating in exactly the same ways as they did before in the petty politics of deeper sandboxes.

Personally, I prefer the most extreme conservatives to the dripping mouths of the sometimes - Left.

If student leaders meant what they voted for, then the CUS representatives do something. Action is the highest form of education. The student is a worker. We are opposed to the nasty war in Vietnam and support the NLF. Oh yeah? We say action is the highest form of education. We say the student is a worker. We say we are opposed to all the things that Simon and Garfunkle were opposed to on their last album. We say, and Simon says (that should be Louis Riel).

If they didn't mean what they voted for, let them tell someone. Until they do they're costing the CIA unnecessary money.

Liberal Dilitantes of the world, unite.

Education Bill Divides the French

By The Christian Science Monitor

Paris

From the nation as a whole: general acceptance.

From students: reserve in some quarters, hostility in others.

Such were the initial reactions here to the government's new bill for administrative reform of France's system of higher education.

The bill, which gained approval from President de Gaulle's Cabinet Sept. 19, provides for considerable decentralization of authority in running the country's universities and research institutes. The bill now goes to Parliament, where it is expected to pass without delay in the next few weeks.

The National Education Federation says it is "very satisfied" with the bill, though regretting that it doesn't go "far enough" on certain points. The Federation of Parents' Councils calls the bill a "positive text".

Georges Vedel, president of a national federation of autonomous teaching unions, announces that it is "favorable, on the whole".

On the student side, however, there is significant reserve. It was the nationwide student rebellion last May which sparked the current government move for reform.

REFORM SUPPORTED

The National Union of French Students, whose leader Jacques Sauvageot played a key role in the May uprising, has announced that it will continue its "anticapitalist, anti-imperialist battle" and will not participate in the "capitalist university". Students now may be elected to school administrative councils, but the Union of French Students rejects any role in election of such councils.

The National Federation of Students of France is more reserved. It simply judges the reform bill "ambiguous and insufficient".

Among the political opposition to President de Gaulle, there is general accord on the educational reform.

The leftist newspaper Combat indicates that administrative reform is a nice first step. But what the country really needs is "a teaching and cultural policy" adapted to modern times, and then, administrative reform of schools and Lycees (or high schools) to follow the university reforms.

Both Combat and the Communist Party newspaper L'Humanite demand more "democracy" in higher education, meaning measures permitting more children of worker-class families to aspire

to higher education.

L'Humanite contends that the government's proposed administrative reforms follow what the Communist Party has been demanding all along. The only surprise, argues L'Humanite, is that Education Minister Edgar Faure could talk of such reform when his immediate predecessors never dared do so.

Many powers long held by the Education Ministry in Paris would, under the bill, be handed over to councils in each school and institute. The councils would be elected by teachers, nonteaching personnel, and students who had successfully completed one year at the school.

Letter to the Editor

To The Editor:

The resignation of Jim Barlow from the office of Vice-President of the Student Union presents a critical problem to our present Council. With six months still to run in the term of this council, it is necessary that a new Vice-President be elected as required by the constitution. This seems simple enough: an election has been called for October 2nd and nominations are now being accepted.

The difficulty arises when one looks at the function of this office. The Vice-President's job is: to assist the president, to act for him in his absence, and to represent him (and by extension the Council and the Union) in matters he cannot attend to personally. Furthermore, he acts as a sounding board for presidential proposals and ideas and he exists as a supplementary source of recommendations.

According to the present constitution the president and vice-president are elected as a team. This is the most practical method because it allows them

to give a unified direction to the Student Union. Dissension between the two would be detrimental. Any criticism of the president is then properly leveled by the Council.

Seemingly, the best one to decide who would work most effectively with the president is the president himself. This would suggest that any candidate favored by him is the logical choice. If the student union has expressed confidence in their president, his preference should receive their support.

If we see the truth of these conclusions, what need is there for an election? The answer is a technical one; the constitution requires that a by-election be held to fill a vacancy in the office of president or vice-president. It also requires that such a vacancy cannot be filled by acclamation. Therefore a democratic election must be held the outcome of which depends not on the personal and practical preferences of the chief executive but upon the traditional popularity-oriented campaigning of perspective candidates.

Outright support by the President of a specific candidate smacks of rail-roading but in the present unique situation he is deprived of his rightful prerogative of choosing his vice-presidential partner. Therefore a dilemma exists which places a vital responsibility in the hands of the voters: that of conscientious assessment of the qualifications of the candidates in relation to this unusual situation.

A workable partnership, then, is of the essence. The degree of co-operation and mutual understanding between the chief executive and his assistant will decide between a needlessly inhibited and awkward administration and one which operates smoothly and competently in the best interests of the student union.

GERI SADOWAY
ARTS REPRESENTATIVE

The Dalhousie Gazette

CANADA'S OLDEST COLLEGE NEWSPAPER

Published by the Dalhousie Students' Union
Halifax, Nova Scotia, 429-1144. Printed by
The Dartmouth Free Press, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia
Authorized as Second Class Mail by the Post Office
Dept. Ottawa, and for payment of postage in Cash.

Editor-in-Chief Ken Clare
Managing Editor Richard Daley
News Editor Maureen Phinney
Features Editor Kim Cameron
Sports Editor Gary Holt
Advertising Manager Alex McCleave
Business Manager Ron Sewell
Photography Dalhousie
Photography Department