

WORDS FROM THE WISE ...

"Atmosphere of fear" in Soc. dept.

To the GAZETTE:

I am writing as a student of Sociology in response to a letter published in a recent issue of the GAZETTE in which Dr. Donald Clairmont, former Chairman of our Department, denied giving certain reasons to your reporter concerning the firing of two professors in the department. As someone who intends to become a Sociologist (if he can survive the department) I am bothered by the fact that Professor Clairmont has denied giving low course enrolments as the grounds for the dismissals of Prof. Poushinsky and Prof. Schliewen.

If Prof. Clairmont did give these as reasons he must have known them to be false. If he did not give these grounds, we are still left with a mystery. Why were these young members of the Department let go? What are the grounds which have been given to them for their terminations?

As a student I only know what I and my fellow students can see for ourselves in the classroom. From that evidence in my case, I can conclude that by reputation Prof. Schliewen is known as a tough, conscientious teacher. But from some of the things that Prof. Clairmont has been saying in his course this year, it is clear that he has strong, personal objections to Prof. Schliewen. He also has taken opportunity in the class to denounce a group in the department's faculty whom he calls the "opposition," and has made it clear

Gardner — "Bombastic oratory"

To the GAZETTE:

In reference to Mr. Gardner's recent article of March 23, may we please express a feeling of disappointment in his extravagant attempts at impressing the student body with his command of the English language. While we respect his efforts to explain a very difficult situation, we wonder whether the overall effect of the article was diminished because of the extensive use of the unfamiliar vocabulary.

Although such terminology as "contumely, eschewing, terpidity and omniscient" are impressive in themselves, one is forced to ponder as to Mr. Gardner's ability to communicate to the majority of the student populace. Perhaps in future Mr. Gardner should submit his reports first to Mr. Gerald Clarke, Communications Secretary, to ensure that the basis of his message is obvious to every student.

For Mr. Gardner, may we reiterate that your bombastic oratory was little more than an exercise in futility. We can only advocate that in the ensuing interlocutions on collective choice your conceptual framework be delineated in the vernacular. In closing, Mr. Gardner, may we quote from Matthew 13:19:

"When anyone heareth the word of the Kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart."

Yours in loquacity,
Hertwig and Reynard

Unfair reporting

To the GAZETTE:

Your misspelling of the Student Union President's name is certainly forgivable in the ambient journalistic clime of Halifax. Stan Beshunsky can take consolation in the fact that his name will not be mangled by your reporters.

It is scandalous, however, that a paper of your great merit and reputation for fairness should have failed to report on the fortunes of one of the more prominent political teams in the recent Student Union elections. We are referring, of course, to P. J. Hertwig and W. L. Reynard, who seemed to be the "dark oxen" of the campaign.

We who voted for these candidates deplore the egregious manner in which the real issues raised in their campaign were ploughed under by the Gazette and the SUB bureaucracy.

The Turned-Earth Collective

to us that Prof. Schliewen's departure is the result of Prof. Clairmont's personal decision to settle scores with any one of his colleagues who has challenged his authority as Chairman. Again, none of us students know exactly what has happened in faculty meetings, but we are all well aware that Professor Schliewen was one of the authors of a report which criticised the way in which Professor Clairmont had allegedly violated departmental rules in making policy.

Many of the students in the department have become discouraged by our discovery that our teachers have

been punished for disagreeing with their Chairman. Some of us have had our education short-changed by the atmosphere of fear and suspicion which we felt in the department this year. Those of us who still wish to pursue our studies in Sociology would like to have a direct answer to the question: "Why have Schliewen and Poushinsky been fired?" Since Professor Clairmont is the one who has responsibility for such decisions, we want to request that he tell us why they have been removed from the classroom.

name withheld

Soc. student forced out

To the GAZETTE:

School's out for Dan Lingeman; J. J. Mangalam, Don Clairmont and most of the Faculty in Sociology have decided he should go. The rest of us in sociology, and all of you in the other Schools, Faculties and Departments can "rest assured" that the business of learning will go on as it should once we have put the "troublemakers" out to graze.

Why has Lingeman been forced out of his graduate programme? The reasons given by Professors Mangalam and Clairmont seem to point to Lingeman's opposition (along with the other graduate students in the programme) to the imposition of a new programme after students had accepted admission. Why should Drs. Mangalam (ex-chairman of Graduate Education) and Clairmont (ex-chairman of the Department) want to punish a student by forcing him to lose a full year of studies towards his M.A.? And why don't they let Lingeman have a fair hearing of his case in the Department?

But this is supposed to be a liberal arts university, where all viewpoints are allowed to be heard, expanded upon, studied and analysed. But where is the academic freedom? To us this is an essential part of university, and at Dalhousie it tends to be denied. We

ask you, the students and professors to think about why?

Why is it like it is? In whose interests is it like it is? Maybe an answer to these questions from the administration would be in accord.

You may be thinking that it will end in a few weeks or when you graduate. But how can it? University prepares you for life. A life of oppression. They won't hit you with strap on hand; they are and will continue to hit you with an assassination of the mind and your self. It is never too late to fight for yourself and your friends.

Lingeman is one student in sociology trying to express himself about his problems and those of others in his Department. When will we all wake up to see that his problems are our problems. And when will we all see that successful efforts to deport Dan Lingeman will make all of us more vulnerable to intimidation in the classroom?

Someone once said: "You are three people in one — that which others think you are, that which you think you are, and who you really are."

Who are you?

Don Cantley
Marshall Landry
Doug MacLeod

Student discipline policy needed

Controversy raised

To the GAZETTE:

It was with completely incredulous amazement that I read your cover story (Dalhousie Gazette, March 23, 1973, No. 22) concerning the charges laid against a Dalhousie student for shoplifting in The College Shop of the Student Union Building. What I found most unbelievable was this statement contained therein:

"The Student Union made attempts to have the charges dropped because pressing them would benefit no one, yet give the student a criminal record."

Whether or not the student is to indeed acquire a criminal record as a result of his actions will be ably discerned by a court of law, a court in which this same student will have ample opportunity to defend himself.

The Student Union should by no means act as a buffer between the due process of the law and an accused student. Let it offer moral and financial support if it so desires. But to have it step in and demand that charges be dropped without any justifiable reason other than a misguided desire to do good, is to have it endorse the attitude (already too prevalent on the campus) that there should be one set of laws and values for Dalhousie students, and an entirely different code of ethics for the rest of the world.

Kathleen S. Reardon
Student — 2nd yr. Arts

To the GAZETTE:

In its article "Beware of College Shop Stake-Out", the GAZETTE seems to be insinuating, though without actually saying so, that shop-lifting, when committed by a student on university property, is not at all the same as shop-lifting by an ordinary citizen anywhere else. But since universities are integral parts of the larger community which maintains them, the suggestion that students should receive special treatment if detected in criminal acts will seem to many people a peculiarly offensive argument for class privilege.

If a student commits a criminal act, why should he not have a criminal record, and why should a criminal record not debar a student from a particular profession? A law student who has "made a habit of pilfering" (GAZETTE p. 9) would seem about as suitable for the legal profession as would be a pharmacy student who made a habit of administering mild poisons to strangers, for the pharmaceutical profession.

The GAZETTE should get down off the fence and give us a clear statement of its policy on student crime.

C. R. Hallpike, D. Phil.
Research Associate

Editors note: The GAZETTE feels that a reply is necessary to the questions being raised by these and other concerned students over the student discipline situation. An editorial has been written to this effect (see page 4).