

Point and Counterpoint

“LET’S LET THE OTHER GUYS WORRY ABOUT THE MSELVES”

By A. WILLIAM SMYTH

The above heading for this article was a quotation attributed to myself, and out of context, it may seem a little selfish. The quotation was reprinted in the recent roll of toilet paper (some unspoken people prefer to call it the Dalhousie Gazette) which came out only 5 days late this time - surely a record!

At the time I made that statement, council was in the process of trying to decide whether we should side with the union or the Management at Goodspeeds Garage in Truro. What, may I ask, has that to do with us? What does the war in Viet Nam have to do with us? What do the Polish Seamen have to do with us? What does the Presidential election in the United States have to do with us? By 'with us; I mean the Student Council of Dalhousie University. Certainly it concerns us as individuals, but it certainly has nothing to do with the governing of the 4,000 plus students we have here at this University? In these matters, "let's let the other guys worry about themselves." We have enough problems of our own right here on campus to deal with which are far higher up the list of priorities.

What about the problem of CUS? Should we stay in it or not? What does it do for us? It costs us a dollar a head to belong, but all we get out of it are a bunch of ridiculous motions to support the N.L.F., and to pay to bring over some of these people to tell us their sad tales of woe. Rather than put up with a bunch of garbage like that, the money spent could in fact be put into building more accommodations for students. Do you realize that this coming Fall, there will be approximately 500 students without a place to stay? What is CUS doing about that? What are we doing about that?

You have people on this campus who have violated the laws of their native lands, and are now in the process of trying to assist their fellow countrymen to do the same thing. Are we concerned about this? No! But your student council at times wastes hours discussing matters of draft dodgers, illegal strikes, Black Power, and so on. The people who hold up council on these matters are the so called Leftists. I would simply prefer to label them as misfits. They really have no causes. Have you ever really listened to their speeches and dissertations on the evils of

Democracy. They really don't have a damned thing to say. As a matter of fact, if the normal, average, recognized citizen of today were to suddenly verbally agree with what one of these degenerates was saying, the latter would either shut up, or start arguing for the other (conservative?) side. These people have no cause other than to spend their wasted lives arguing for arguments sake. You may think I am full of hot air in what I am saying, but just try and do what I suggested sometime, and if you survive the shock, you will realize that these is a good deal of truth in my observations.

We have (and/or had) some of these people on this year's council, so I have had some experience with them. They act big, they act brave, they act bold, and they act as if they know it all, but after they have had their moment of glory by voicing a bunch of incomprehensible garbage while they have the floor, then their moment of glory slowly slips away. On two recent occasions, motions either introduced by or about these people were defeated. Their reaction, their mentality of three years old showed through as they sulked and stalked out of the room without attending the rest of the meeting, thus depriving their constituents of representatives on the student government body. These people are not there as private members, they are there to represent the people who voted them in, to speak for the general student body, and to run the student affairs of this University.

By the time this paper is published, there will be about two weeks left before nominations for next year's student government candidates close. I want you, as supposedly responsible people, to think carefully as to how you want the student affairs of this university run, that projects you want to see accomplished, and who you feel can truly represent you. We don't want another Simon Fraser, Columbia, etc. We have a good University, a good student body, a good faculty, and a university government whose ears are open and receptive to the ideas, suggestions, and problems of Students. **NOMINATE AND ELECT A RESPONSIBLE AND RESPECTED COUNCIL.** Get involved - don't just narrow yourself to the Commerce Representative. Look into the other faculties and help them select their best suited candidates as

well. Let's unite for once, and get rid of these long haired (and I don't mean Females) trouble makers. Let us show the outside world that we are responsible. I can't remember the exact source, but I recently read that the word 'student' in an official text was changed to read 'undergraduate', as it was felt that the word student had a sort of dirty or unfavourable connotation to it. That is us they are talking about. What about yourselves? How do you feel when someone asks you - 'What do you do' I tell them I'm a student, but I wish they wouldn't ask me questions like that. Let's do something about it. Let's bring back the word 'STUDENT' into respectable useage. It's your move Joe. (The foregoing is reprinted from that astute journal of opinion, The Commerce News and refers to an article entitled "Student Council: The Year of the Big Grope" on page seven of the January 23 edition of the Dalhousie Gazette.) Its author is the officially appointed and supposedly impartial Treasurer of the Dalhousie Student Union.

Discipline Ceases

NEW YORK (CUPI) - The discipline committee at Columbia University has ceased all punishment taken against students involved in the Columbia revolt last Spring.

It ended probationary terms and erased censures of individual students.

Though Students for a Democratic Society hailed the action as "amnesty", one of their demands during the revolt, the committee said it was stopping all discipline because of "inconsistent punishment and delay in processing cases".

The committee ruled that students now under suspension may reapply for the coming session and that evaluation of their application be based on "the student's conduct during the period of suspension and his willingness to rejoin the university community". This group includes Mark Rudd, SDS Chairman and leader of the Spring action.

Which Brings Me To My Point

Dear Sir;

Mortified as I am by some of the protest movements, I must grant my condolences to this menacing minority. They have not made it clear exactly what they wish to protest but it does sound like a good idea to destroy all that is tangible in the field of education. They do have a point when they protest the actions of an alleged racist who had already been suspended by the "blue meanies" of the Senate. And, after all, there is precious little left to protest, little that is new and different at any rate.

The students at Dalhousie already have representatives on the Senate, a liberal curriculum, a fine SUB in which to exercise freedoms of speech and press, and the exalted ability to get the hell out if they don't like it here. We are indeed fortunate in the fact that if we don't like our professors, cost of tuition, the "blue meanies" of the Senate, etc., we can all go somewhere else.

All of which brings me to my point, I propose that instead of sending nasty telegrams, for which we might lose our positions, we organize a mass protest march to protest protests. We could carry blank signs, barricade all the empty closets and bare walls, throw debris at each other, and call ourselves the Protesters Protesters Protesters or we could all stay at home, separated from the

rest of the group and be called the Protesters of Institutions of Students Starting Extra-Curricular Riots Society.

It was in the light of the fact that the student protest movement has reared its vicious and destructive head so close to home lately, in point is the occupation at S.G.W.U., that I felt called to take up my pen to strike a blow for freedom from the establishment; the "Protest Establishment".

Editorial Note. . . In taking up his pen and striking so decisive a blow, Mr. Billard summarizes very eloquently the stand taken by those fortunate enough to be able to treat such issues as "cost of tuition" in a flippant manner. Those who feel the crunch of higher fees, poor housing, uncontrolled rents and many other forms of injustice and exploitation, and others who place devotion to ideals before material comfort and security are becoming increasingly vocal. Their demands for justice are slowly evaporating the marshmallow euphoria of the complacent, even at Dalhousie. They bring change and a new order - and we suggest that if Mr. Billard doesn't like it, he can "get the hell out and go somewhere else".

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