

Editorial

Cruelty's the issue, not religion

The students at St. Thomas Aquinas School have won a victory in the last week. The school regulations have been relaxed. A committee has been established to provide extra-curricular activities for the students in their parish.

While it is a mark of their genuine concern for education that the administrators of the school were able to accept the concept of a more human mode of discipline, the reforms attained were the least which the students could possibly have accepted. While, then, the students made a definite gain, we should remember that their gain is really only an achievement of what must minimally be expected.

These minimal expectations, however, are not present in virtually any other schools in this area. While St. Thomas Aquinas school happened, for reasons of proximity to this campus, to be the school which was pictured in our article, the conditions which we found there are present in almost any other school in this area. Though there may be differences of degree, qualitative differences are almost non-existent.

Apparently this point was not understood by some of the members of this parish. At various times, in public and in private, the Dalhousie Gazette was accused of being anti-Catholic, the dupes of a protestant-atheist conspiracy. It should be made clear that the Gazette was expressing amazement at the conditions which pervade the whole school system, not simply those which characterize one particular school, or the Catholic schools in general.

The cartoon on this page may similarly be construed as being anti-Catholic. Such is not the case. It expresses not a disrespect for the Catholic religion, but rather a respect for it. Surely it is a contradiction within a Christian religion that its educational system is the inhuman one which was represented in last week's article. And that is what the cartoon represents. . . the contradiction between Catholicism's humanism, and its educational system.

We are not, then, attempting to be anti-Catholic; neither are we attempting to attack the personalities involved in the

Aquinas school. What we are attacking is the structure which allows an alienating educational system to develop. This structure, we feel, must be destroyed in the interests of education and intellectual freedom, to be replaced with a more democratic and productive educational structure.

Beginning after Christmas, the Gazette will examine in more detail other segments of our educational system, for the

Aquinas situation is no more grotesque than the rest of the structure still is.

As students, it is a necessity that we examine the structure of education in its totality. The question of what is happening on our elementary and high schools is of primary importance to us in the university, since these schools are determining our future universities' future development.



letters: What's the raison d'être of the Student's Council?

Would someone please inform me as to the raison d'être of the Student's Union Council. I am obviously labouring under the misbelief that its immediate purpose is to deal with problems arising on Campus. It appears from extracts of business discussed in recent meetings that the Council thinks more of strikers in Truro than it does of urgent problems on Campus. They also seem to be under the impression that they can waste valuable time passing Idiot resolutions which are then not carried out by the President. I refer to the childish resolution concerning the Telegram which appeared in the latest issue of the Gazette. I will not add more to what has already been said by other students in the latest issue, except to ask whether the Student's Union ought to be rechristened The Pupils Union.

Among urgent business on Campus are the Parking situation, Use of the Canteen by employees of Dal, Gymnasium use, and a hundred other things. I am most unsatisfied at the Parking Problem on Campus as are many other students. Why is it that the Staff have allotted to them about 98% of all available spots? What is going to happen when the parking lot in front of the A and A Building is taken up by the Life Sciences Building? I pay \$8 for a permit to park on Campus, yet it is almost impossible for me to find a parking spot. Why should the Staff who also pay \$8 for a permit get so much more for their money? I have noted incidentally that it is only on very few occasions that the staff parking spots are ever all used up.

The other day I went into the Barber Shop in the SUB for a haircut but was unable to find the Barber. I then went to the canteen and found the barber in there being amply entertained by a female student.

I do not mind an employee of Dal having the privilege of use of the canteen for meals, snacks or drinks, but I do mind when they start spending all hours in there. I believe that the Barber is not even an employee of the University but rents the shop so that he can carry on business in the building. I am willing to be corrected on this point. However, the fact remains that the canteen should be for the sole use of the students and alumni and that employees should be provided with a separate room. I suppose I am really too old fashioned.

Last Friday I went to the Gym for a game of squash in the evening. I was stopped at the door and

told that the Gym was closed unless I wished to buy a ticket for the Basketball Game which was about to start. I must have been mistaken in thinking that my fees payed for use of the Gym and facilities for the duration of the Term. Why is it then that I have to pay to get into the Gym when there is an evening Basketball Game on? Seems crazy to me.

I close by challenging the Students Union Council to do something about the problems outlined above. I don't suppose anything will ever be done but even if it is and a resolution is passed, no action will ever be done. The president is in the habit of quashing any resolutions passed. (M. Pickford)

Film Society's disadvantages

To The Editor:

Good news! A King's College Film Society will begin showings after Christmas. It will cater to society member's needs, unlike the present Dalhousie Film Society. The showings will be held in a small hall, not the expensive Labyrinth where the Dalhousie Film Society now operates on a one night stand for economic reasons. The King's Film Society will give a number of showings of each film so as to enable their members to still see a film if they missed the first showing.

The monolithic Dalhousie Film Society's disadvantages are the same as any huge structure poorly organized. Examples of this, other than the film society, are the residences, so nicely criticized in the last issue of the Gazette; the lecture system, which "educates" masses at minimum costs and leaves them alienated by its impersonality; the Dalhousie Gazette, which concerns itself with problems of

every minority group conceivable, but leaves the individual university student alone except for occasional scorn for his desire to get an excellent mark when he should be concerned about "revolting" for academic freedom.

This is one Dalhousie student that feels that the disregard of the student's needs has gone on long enough and that the much larger Dalhousie could well take a lesson from the smaller King's College, which it nearly absorbed. You reported in your last issue of the Gazette that some members of our student council see this problem of bigness, but what they are doing about it is nothing as far as I can see. King's College is doing something in the form of its personalized film society. I believe that it deserves your support. It has mine, as does any sensible decentralization.

Richard Rogers
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