

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.

Gone with a whimper

With a whimper. That's how student power collapsed at St. Mary's after student leaders backed down on their demand for university autonomy.

Ironically, student power was not even an issue in the first breath of student activism since St. Mary's was chartered 127 years ago. It was a simple demand that power be taken from an outside body — the Roman Catholic Archdiocese — and that it be given to the university administration.

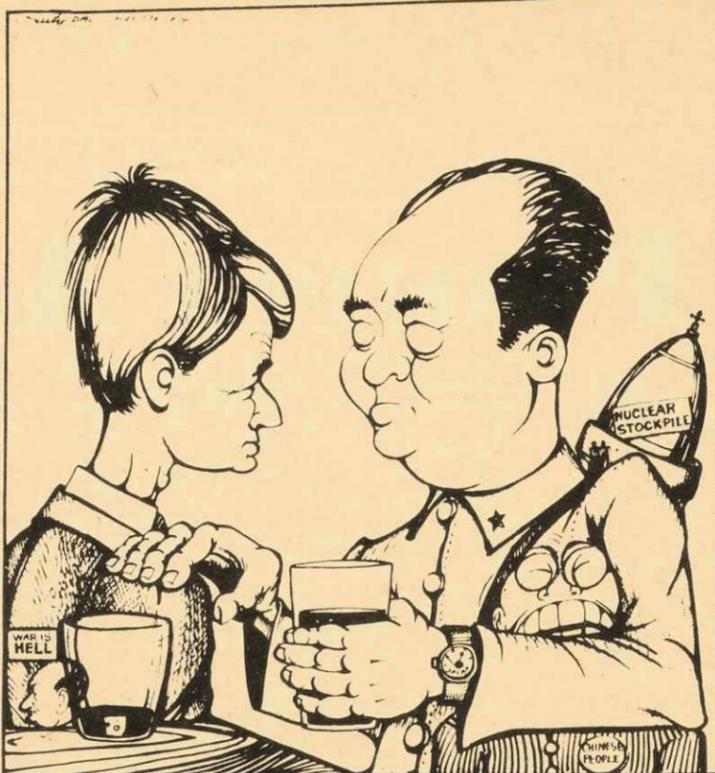
The student council was right in demanding autonomy for the university. But its demand did not go far enough and only in a very primitive sense can it be called a protest against the establishment. The simple fact is that student power was not raised as an issue. As a result, the students will be no better off within the university's power structure, even if the proposed changes in Jesuit-Archdiocese relations are achieved by the administration.

And once student power entered the situation, it was mishandled and finally aborted. Although the demands made were basic and conservative, student power was invoked in support of the Council's position and if it had been successful, would have been a useful precedent, a useful example and experience for future efforts towards academic democracy.

But the Council did not permit this to happen. Whether they developed a bad case of cold feet, or were under some sort of pressure, cannot be known and is largely irrelevant. The ludicrous fact emerges that the student body: in fact the entire student protest had to be rescued by the faculty and administration.

This situation is readily applicable to Dalhousie. First, the power of a student body united in a demand for basic structural reform in any university could be obvious in the same set of circumstances; to anyone visiting the St. Mary's campus this week, it was obvious. Second, it is equally clear that unless student rights are demanded and worked for by united and consistent student action, the best that can be expected is a situation comfortably favourable to the university's present power structure. The concession of three seats on the Academic Senate at Dalhousie does nothing to satisfy the students' right to representation, or the students' responsibility to participate in running the academic community, unless there is student awareness and student involvement in democratizing the university, and using student power wisely once it is recognized.

For a few moments this week, it appeared that the students of St. Mary's were going to achieve their goals, using their power as the 1250 most important factors in the university's structure. They failed. But there must be a determined effort on the part of student leaders here to reject tokenism, and the students of this university must take an active part in demanding their rights as integral parts of this academic community. Otherwise, the voice of Dalhousie's students, too, will sound as a whimper.



"BE RESOLUTE, FEAR NO SACRIFICE AND SURMOUNT EVERY DIFFICULTY TO WIN VICTORY, BE MODEST AND PRUDENT AND GUARD AGAINST RASHNESS" - Quotations From Chairman Mao Tse-Tung.

Letter: Winter Carnival

The Editor
Dalhousie Gazette
Dalhousie University
Halifax, Nova Scotia

Dear Sir:

At a General Meeting of the Student Pharmacy Society January 17, 1968, it was decided to express to Student Council the displeasure of the pharmacy students with the entertainment for this year's Winter Carnival. We feel that the CJCH-affiliated program is oriented towards the high school population of this city rather than the university students. From the point of view of this Society, we feel that this program is not university oriented and discourages university student participation. Student Council's acceptance of this program is inconsistent with past encouragement of total student participation in university activities.

Respectively submitted,
Derek F. Wentzell
President,
Student Pharmacy Society

CUS backs Moncton Union

OTTAWA, February 12, 1968 -- The Canadian Union of Students today issued a statement of solidarity with striking students at the Université de Moncton in Moncton, N.B.

The statement praised the Moncton students' "courageous resistance to the threat of greater economic barriers to higher education in New Brunswick."

"The indefinite boycott approved by a 95 per cent vote in a campus wide referendum demonstrates clearly that the Moncton students are no longer willing to compromise the rights of education when faced with unjustified government austerity measures."

The New Brunswick government has refused this year to absorb the operating deficits of the province's universities -- a practice the government has followed in the past. As a result tuition fees at Moncton have been increased \$75 to \$110, making the maximum fee \$625.

Ninety per cent of the Moncton students voted Thursday and Friday in a referendum calling for strike action if the fees were not held at their present level. Ninety-five per cent of those voting favored a strike if their demands were not met. Friday night the Board of Governors refused the demands, and the students struck en masse this morning.

"CUS finds it incomprehensible that the government of New Brunswick should place greater economic hardships directly on to students and their families after a year when federal spending on education has increased by 63 per cent," the statement said.

"The traditional solution to the problem of educational budgeting has been to pass the burden on to helpless and passive students. Drastic mass action in the form of demonstration or strike is the only effective means of retaliation. The Moncton students are correct in the stand they are taking and justified in their means of expressing it," the statement said. The students have vowed not to return to classes until the government accedes.

"A tuition fee increase symbolizes what lower income families in New Brunswick justifiably fear -- the overwhelming financial burden of higher education. An additional \$110 in fees will reinforce the Université de Moncton as a preserve of the rich.

"The crisis in the financing of education must be met squarely by government if education is to become a fundamental human right equally available to all, regardless

of social or economic background. The Canadian Union of Students strongly urges the New Brunswick government to reexamine its priorities and provide greater subsidy to the educational institution of the province."

Students at Mount Allison University, the University of New Brunswick, and College de Bathurst are planning demonstrations in sympathy with the strikers. These schools are also threatened by the government's action.

On "Why I am anti-American"

By KENNETH SAMBERG

Last Saturday night at the end of the late show I was prevented from leaving the movie theater by a throng of fellow movie-goers. It was at first incomprehensible to me why they stood stock still, until I turned around and saw Queen Elizabeth's picture projected on the screen. I am not sure whether the music in the background was "O Canada" or "God save the Queen."

Mr. Warnock, you complain that there is a lack of Canadian nationalism, and perhaps there is. I do not know whether or not national pride is desirable -- maybe in this world it is, because prejudice is often useful in countering prejudice. I think, however, that you overlook something damned important when you say "it is impossible to get the political establishment and the mass media to admit that there is any value in being a Canadian nationalist." Nationalism, Mr. Warnock, is not something you set out to create; if it doesn't grow up naturally, if it is not already the heart-beat of Canada, it is not likely that anyone can manufacture it. And if nationalism could be created solely through the efforts of the state and mass media, this shows not that there is a thriving love of country, but rather that the people are servilely at the command of those who control -- an unfortunate sign of 1984.

I also think, Mr. Warnock, that you are naive to assume that social systems are created as the result of some philosopher's having sat down and worked things out. Philosophers follow -- or rather serve to justify -- human desires; and not the other way around. Your own preferences of theories or philosophies -- "an idea of equality," "any concept of natural law," a "universal moral philosophy" -- betray the fact, not that you have discovered some transcendental Truth, but rather that you are as capable as self-seeking capitalists in the art of calling to your aid some philosophy to justify

your all-too-human desires.

Without approving of the general state of affairs in the United States, I will remark that your factual material is grossly distorted. I have no great admiration for those who devote their lives to accumulating wealth -- often at the expense of those who can least afford it; but is simply false that there is no humanitarianism on the part of wealthy people; it is false that millions of Negro tenant farmers in the South are "literally starving" (where did you hear that?)

I lament as much as you the prevalence of the profit motive and the single-minded pursuit of efficiency in American society. It may be no consolation, but such conditions (as you probably well know) are characteristic of much of Western society and sometimes of non-Western society. I do not mean to imply by this statement, however, that there are desirable alternatives now in existence -- on the contrary, I know of no system which combines humanitarian ends with free choice. And it is the lack of the last element -- free choice -- which makes me wary of your "massive government intervention." It is precisely the abandoning of individual responsibility to paternalist government which characterizes the tyrannies of the modern age. The State is not the solution; in fact, "what has always made the state a hell on earth has been precisely that man has tried to make it his heaven." No, Mr. Warnock, you are not the first to think of "massive government intervention". One is reminded of the fellow who, feeling ill, took some poison by accident to remedy his illness; his condition grew worse, so he concluded that he hadn't taken enough of the "remedy" and took more, and so on.

I have no system to solve problems which now plague -- and have always plagued -- Mankind. I know of only one possibility, quite remote: spiritual love.