

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sports Scholarships

Sir:
I would like to criticize the students of Dalhousie and in particular, the odd quip made by the writers of the Gazette about the so-called half-hearted attempts made by our luckless football team.

Those boys are out on the field practicing hard, five nights out of every week and playing on a sixth night. When they play, they play with spirit and drive. No blame can be put on them or the coaches for not being able to produce a winning team, for they are not able to compete with the systems of other universities and the resulting teams. The blame should be placed on a certain number of students and on those responsible for running the university. Dalhousie is too full of "nobodies" who are not willing to contribute their talents to campus life and are interested only in getting from the university that which will be to their own personal benefit.

Athletics have always been a means of identifying universities to high school students, and as can be seen, Dal has little attraction in this respect. I would suggest then, that a scholarship system open to those of good athletic ability and average scholastic ability (Matric average of 70-80%) would attract many to Dal as well as bolster college wins and morale. An all out recruiting plan in the Maritimes and Upper Canada would be more effective than the odd university calendar that finds its way into that part of the country. It is obvious that Dalhousie has to change and adjust itself to the pace of modern times. The above suggestions I am sure would attract a more wholesome class of students and make one feel pride when he says he attends Dalhousie. This wider selection would do no harm to the

university, scholastically, and would probably do much to improve it.

So let us go out and cheer for our football team's heroic efforts and follow their example of college spirit. Let us hope that there are enough who care about Dal who will try and attract a more all round student.

Sincerely,
A DISCOURAGED STUDENT

Africville

Sir:

I was glad to see in Mr. Shultz's article on Racial Discrimination that someone has finally criticized not only South Africa and the Southern States for racial prejudice but also Canada. It is about time we stopped kidding ourselves about our "purity" where prejudice is concerned. But, here again, we're going far afield to find fault when we have the problem here at home. Is our criticism of others merely a cover for our own feelings of guilt? No, we hypocritical Haligonians refuse to admit we have a discrimination problem merely because there are no riots nor any written laws against Negroes. But Negroes are discriminated against! How many Haligonians give a second thought to the plight of the people living in Africville? Or, for that matter, how many Haligonians know where Africville is located and have seen it?

Africville is a community of Negroes who, for the most part, are assuming "squatter's rights" and have no assurance that their "houses" will not be demolished at any moment. For this reason, the houses were not intended to be permanent dwellings, but were little more than shacks "put up" to keep out the wind, rain, and snow. Most of them don't even serve that purpose well.

The children (there are quite a few) spend their time playing on

the city dump or walking along through the railroad track that cuts through the centre of the community. A few of the teenagers reach Junior High School before they seem to be overcome by the hopelessness of their existence and "give up". Very few, if any, ever reach High School. Is it worth getting an education only to find that you will be refused a job solely because you were born with dark skin?

What has been done about this situation? Very little, except a lot of sympathetic talking, which will not pay for a doctor to heal the infections caused by playing on the dump, or provide clothing for the shoeless, coatless children; much less, rectify the situation.

No, we Haligonians aren't prejudiced; but South Africans, and Americans are.

Sincerely,
CATHY ISNOR

Freedom

Sir:

I have read two letters from Eleanor Dunsworth, in your last Gazette, very carefully. As a result I feel that I should ask you a question: Is it true, as she writes, that many students are angered by the two articles involved? In fact, I found these two articles very interesting. They were the proof for me that Canada is really a free country, where one is allowed to express his ideas freely.

It seems now, that it is not so simple. Apparently a clever writer, although legally allowed, cannot write any more articles by sheer force of opinion. If this really happens, I'm afraid that I cannot say that Canada is an entirely free country.

FRANCIS CEIL
KATANGA

Sir

Mr. Abbot's analysis of the Katanga situation lacks depth. Obsessed with the virtues of authority, order, and stability, he has allowed his perspective to become clouded. While Katanga may have stood out in recent past "like a rock amid the surrounding chaos", it was a rock with a fault in it. When Katanga is considered in relation to the whole Congo problem, it becomes apparent that this stability could not last even if the U.N. had not invaded it.

The problem confronting the United Nations is this: Is the Congo going to maintain its territorial integrity, is it going to be made into a viable state, or is it going to be allowed to disintegrate through inaction on the part of the U.N.? If the second possibility is allowed to happen it is difficult to see how any sort of peace and order can long be maintained in this region of Africa. In order for the first possibility to be realized the present unitary constitution may have to be scrapped in favour of a federal constitution. In any case, it is certain that until the problem is solved any idea of permanent stability in Katanga is illusory.

Sincerely,
JOHN HARRIS
APPROVAL

Sir:

Please accept my admiration and approval of your first few issues. Finally the Gazette's pages are filled with interesting and thought-provoking articles.

Only one thing seems to endanger the purpose to which you are

working - the letters you receive from some of your critics. They seem very childish and out-of-place.

Miss Dunsworth's outraged "How dare you!" brings a smile to the lips of everyone who pictures how she must have vainly searched the Bible for the "newly discovered" document. How serious a person she must be not to see just a little bit of truth or a hint of logic in this irreverent (and slightly heavy-handed) but high-spirited story Berth Control!

Perhaps our smile should be less kindly towards our Frat men who thunder on about morals and rights (yet timidly hide behind pen-names). Each, ramming into gear a tongue whose brain is not engaged, ignores the Gazette's acknowledgement of fraternity rights. The editorial demanded no external controls; it merely asked the fraternities to answer, for themselves, the question: Should colour or religion be given precedence over character and friendliness? It suggested that fraternities could be an important influence in lowering present barriers, and thus come much closer to their ideals of brotherhood and mutual understanding. This appeal to the thoughtful and generous seems to have been above the understanding of the stubborn and selfish, who always seem to write more than others; to the detriment of all.

I hope your "Letter Page" will become more than verbal face-slapping: "Who the hell does he think he is?"; "If you can't print anything better than that trash . . ."; "And God has commanded that everyone must . . . therefore"; "This prejudiced, distorted attack is an insult to . . .". Certainly student articles are imperfect and sometimes crude, but they shine compared to the hatefulness and logic-go-round of some of their critics. Let the letters contain more views for consideration rather than scorn for the "erring one".

You on the Gazette are doing fine, let's get some better letters from thoughtful readers.

Sincerely,
PAUL PATTERSON
CONGRATULATIONS

Sir:

I would like to start this letter with a word of congratulations for having stirred up a few controversies on this too-long moribund campus. Although many (including me!) cannot accept all of your stands on various subjects, it is most gratifying to see that someone is doing some thinking of their own, and, what is more, is stimulating others to do the same.

Let's take birth control as a convenient starting point. I, too disapproved of your re-print on this subject ("A Story of Berth Control"), but on the grounds that I felt that it made light of the most serious problem facing humanity in the future-overpopulation.

But I would like to ask Miss Dunsworth, for example, just how she intends to control the "population bomb"? Produce more food? This merely postpones the day of reckoning. Her other suggestions? Rhythm, for example. This has one sad weakness. Since the human female is not a machine, her body chemistry has an odd habit of acting just a little irregularly, as many have found out the traditional hard way . . . Continence? This suggestion is an affront to human dignity especially where it concerns the marital re-

lationship, and it, far more than contraception, goes against the "natural law" we hear quoted by Mr. Brazier. However, in reference to Miss Dunsworth's reference to 'smut' and to 'sick punning and very poor satire', I wonder if she would have been so 'irate' had these same literary techniques been applied to, say, N.S. Khrushchev and his partners in the Soviet Praesidium.

Frats

And now, how about Frats? I take strong issue with and "bitterly resent" the premise that exclusion of anyone from any group on such contemptibly superficial grounds as stated in the two pro-frat letters, is anything else but completely immoral. The comparison between the Frats and the Knights of Columbus is laughable - this organization states openly that they function as a group intended for Roman Catholic men and no one else. If the frats want to put up a sign on their dorrs "non-whites not wanted", this would make them contemptible, but this bland hypocrisy as practised at present makes them sickening to any person with taste and decency.

I noticed that the two gallant young gentlemen who rose to the defense of these worthy organizations are, indeed, true products of the black ball system - they failed to permit their names to be used here, either. Of course, in their defense it could be argued that to sign one's name to such a letter requires a little courage. More, for instance, than to damn a man by the dropping of a black bean into an opaque container.

UN

Kudos to Mr. Abbott regarding his article on Katanga vs. the UN. However, wasn't he just a little hard on Sweden for her role during the Second World War? She could have been of no assistance to the Western Allies as she would have been morcellated in 1940, as were her neighbours, Norway and Denmark, by the then superbly trained, splendidly equipped, coldly efficient and expertly led Wehrmacht. Sweden also accepted many refugees, including Jews, whose fate under Nazi-ism has been only too well documented. What would have been their fate had this country, too, been firmly ensconced under the Hitlerian heel?

However, re Katanga itself, this is a coldly realistic account. Mr. Tshombe, no matter what his reasons, kept order. Civil order is the basis of civilization. Without it, nothing else can exist. To attempt, in the name of the law, to break the one regime in the country which maintained it, seems to me to be the height of irony, and sounds like something one would read of in Wilde, or perhaps hear in some Gilbert and Sullivan Operetta.

Thanking you for your time, and keep up the good work.

Sincerely,
Andrew White

FOUND

One pair of black frame hearing aid glasses. Serial number 13152. Found at the foot of the steps leading to the Physics Building last Wednesday. Please get in touch with room 127.

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