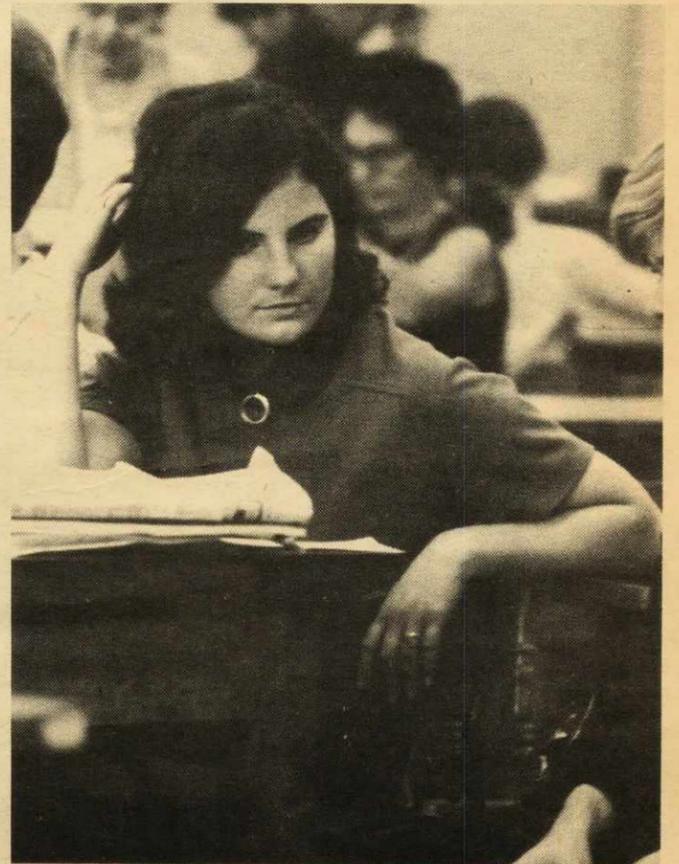


PHOTOS BY
STEPHEN ARCHIBALD

(Below, left) Big Brother, Bob Bagg, waved his red-banded arm as he awed crowds of frosh with his spell-binding oratory. The masses (right) were underwhelmed.

(Above) Registration brought over 800 frosh into the Dalhousie family last week, and made them fair game for membership-hungry society presidents like Artsoc chief Brian Ashworth (above, right.)

ORIENTATION



Student Power: A View From The Outside

Editor's note:

Following is the text of a script on "Student Power" by Nick Fillmore, broadcast on CBC Radio, "Opinion", Sept. 14, 1968. Mr. Fillmore is a freelance broadcaster and journalist.

The slogan Student Power will be on the lips of many Maritime educators this year. The mere mention of it frightens the university administration.

Although student Power hasn't threatened the authority of these administrators, they're scared because of what it has meant in Europe, the United States and other areas of Canada.

It was student leader Danny the Red who enraged Paris youths to burn because of ancient teaching and administration practices at the Sorbonne. And it was at Columbia University that students seized control of the campus because of poor administration.

Perhaps some Maritime administrators see the handwriting on the wall.

Student Power has flexed its muscles to a lesser degree in Canada. It's only beginning to fill its proper role. Critical conditions could arise at a number of campuses across the country this year unless student demands are met.

The Canadian Union of Students, representing 40 universities, recently stormed its way through a week of soul-searching. A strong united voice did not emerge from the meeting, but the unrest and the dissatisfaction were there. It can only be hoped that CUS does not get so carried away with condemning American imperialism that it forgets what it should be doing on the campus.

Maritime universities have given into minor pressures by granting students a token voice on governing bodies. For instance, Dalhousie University has agreed to seat three students on its 100-man senate,

while St. Francis Xavier has one of its 40 senators a student.

But the Maritime universities still maintain that students should not have a say in curriculum, the rating of professors or student discipline.

The university power structure believes no changes are necessary. For instance, it believes the old myth that anyone who really wants a university education can get one.

A recent survey by DBS revealed that more than half of a large group of university students interviewed were the children of proprietors, managers or professionals. Only five-per-cent had fathers classified as laborers. One-quarter of the students had to postpone their university training for lack of funds.

Think of the wasted potential.

Here is one field where Student Power can play an effective role. Through their power of numbers they can fight for free education. Too many students are falling by the wayside.

It is myth that a student can earn enough money in the summer to pay his way through university. The average of \$550 a student earns is only one-third the amount needed to send him through his year.

But these paycheques are still a necessity and student power should be used to make government and business provide more student employment, at all times of the year.

The past summer was the worst in 10 years for students in Canada. In Halifax, of about 1,500 who applied to Manpower, only about 600 got part-time or

full-time work.

But all we've heard from students about employment conditions so far is crying and complaining. Better they organize and take a tough attitude.

And what of the university curriculum?

Graduates complain that after 16 years in the classroom they have a hard time finding employment and a hard time fitting into a work-society. Something has to be wrong with the curriculum and teaching methods.

It's time Maritime students started doing more than complaining about the kind of curriculum they are fed. More than \$70-million will be spent on constructing buildings at Nova Scotia universities alone over the next three years, but I'm safe in saying there will be only very minor changes in course content.

Students also should be permitted to rate their professors. And the ratings should be taken into consideration when the staff is planned for the following year. Too many professors bore the students to death.

Students should have a say in the kind of discipline enforced on campus. Take the example of an Ontario university last year that barred a student because he was caught smoking marijuana.

Students should not expect to gain meaningful changes through the token power granted them so far in the Maritimes. They need a well-informed, strong, inter-university organization with enough membership to bring forth pressure. If their demands are ignored they have the power of demonstrations, boycotts and the walk-out.

Student Power can have an important role to play in the development of the Maritime university community. It is important to remember that most administrators in the Maritimes don't believe change is necessary. Maybe that's one reason why the Maritimes are still the Maritimes.