

LETTERS

CRITICISM ET AL

DEMOCRACY

DISGRACEFUL

Sir: Every American and Canadian, I hope, is proud to say that they live in a free democracy, where, by the very meaning of the word the people govern themselves. It seems a shame that in the world today, where this privilege is constantly being threatened, we do not find it asserted in as many ways and places as possible. Specifically, I am referring to the recent Student Council nominations for society representatives (January 25). Through these nominations, I assume, that the various campus societies are represented on the Council by elected members.

The manner in which the Science Society has proposed candidates for Student Council representatives this year is disgraceful. No meeting was held and there was no attempt made to gauge the wants of the Society as a whole. The entire affair was only just short of blatant rail-roading. I should like to see more effort made by the Science executive towards the fulfillment of their responsibilities.

Yours Sincerely, George Thornhill, Science '64

UNORTHODOX

Being a Science Society member, I feel that I should have a vote in any nomination for a representative that we may choose. There was never a general meeting of the Science Society for this purpose. It appears that this Society's nomination for candidates was a hastily prepared fools-cap page of signatures, not representative, in the least, of what should have been decided before a general meeting.

I wish to protest the unorthodox manner in which the Science Society decides upon its nominees for the position of Science Representative to the Students Council 1963-64.

Yours Sincerely, MARLENE MILIGAN

WHY?

The Science Society is a new group this year. We all agree that the Ball was a complete success. The interfaculty teams have, and are, doing well. It's too bad that such a group cannot carry the enthusiasm behind the achievements into fields of equal, if not greater importance. Our Students Council functions as an integrated and necessary part of the university. Our democratic privileges must be exercised through it in every possible instance. A nomination conducted in the absence of the students being represented is not a nomination at all.

Why didn't the Science Society call a meeting of the Society as a whole to nominate the Science Representatives to the Students Council for 1963-64?

Yours Sincerely, ALLAN SHAW

GROSS BREACH

Let's keep as many of our democratic rights alive as possible.

Sincerely, BARRY HARGRAVE

A gross breach of democratic principles has just been perpetrated on this campus. To wit: both nominations to the position of Science Representative to the Students Council were advanced and approved by a few members of the executive without reference to the body of the Science students as a whole. I protest.

Dan Mooney, Science 4

WHO WAS TO BLAME?

I should like to make some comments on your infamous issue of Jan. 9. There can be little doubt that this issue was degrading to the Gazette and to Dalhousie University as a whole. After reading this issue I wondered who was to blame. I suggest it was not the editor or the staff of the Gazette, but the student population of the university as a whole.

wastebaskets about the canteen and the common room. This was not including the countless numbers of them which had been abandoned on tables and chairs whose readers were obviously not interested enough to even put them in the wastebasket. We, the students, pay approximately \$7,500 a year for this paper. Treating this or any newspaper in such a fashion is slapping the right of freedom of speech in the face, a right which few people are blessed with today.

It is necessary here to point out that one of the foremost prerequisites of a good newspaper of any description is an interested and attentive group of readers. It certainly does not speak well for the students of this university that the Gazette should have to publish such trash as it did two weeks ago to initiate any kind of controversy or criticism. And what criticism did the issue arouse? Aside from a few indignant remarks made in the canteen there were exactly five letters written to the editor. In an interested student body of our size, fifty such letters would have been approaching a reasonable minimum to such an issue.

A rather outstanding example of the lack of interest and spirit in our university is the forthcoming Students Council elections. At the time of writing I had heard of no one who had actually committed themselves to run for any of the offices on the Students Council. Much less had I heard of any comment about them. The Students Council is the most important student organization on our campus. It controls and spends our money. I cannot conceive that every student can afford to give away \$34 a year and not care what happens to it. If we are not interested enough to see that the right people get on the executive of this Council, then why have one at all?

As a matter of interest I observed what happened when the issue of Jan. 23 was placed on the bench outside the Gazette office in the Old Men's Residence. These issues were placed on the bench at approximately 12:45 that afternoon. By 1 p.m., fifteen minutes later, I counted no less than five of these issues in various

In closing, I should like to leave the "numbered" readers of this letter with this question: Can a newspaper be better than its readers?

Sincerely, JOHN S. PAYZANT

EDITORIAL

ELECTIONS: A FARCE IN ONE ACT

Place: Dalhousie University. Time: the weeks leading up to the Student Council elections. Actors: members of the Council of the Students. Audience: the student body of the university.

Explanation: every year a farce sponsored by the Council of the Students, is presented for the benefit of the students of Dalhousie University. The story centres around the election of student representatives to the Council of the Students where they perform such generally uninteresting functions as controlling student activities and administering a budget of some \$70,000. Action is usually slow to start with but speeds up as the actors gain confidence in their roles to the extent that confusion often reigns by the time the curtain falls.

Past history: every year a new plot is used with different problems being presented and different Council members or candidates playing the lead roles. Last year the leads were taken by candidates running for the positions of president and vice-president of the Council, the only trouble being that there was some difficulty in finding students to play the lead roles. This had the effect of prolonging the farce beyond the desirable limit.

This year the leads have been taken by actual members of the Council who have formed a committee with the sinister title "The Council Election Committee". There are four main leads and several minor ones, one of which is played by the Council president, who also helps to write the script. However, the script was completed late this year and rehearsals did not get underway until it was almost time for the production to appear.

The farce has a certain preliminary ritual to it, almost sacred in its own way. The ritual can be found by those interested in the Student Handbook under the title of Constitution of the Council of the Students, Article 7. The actors were so rushed this year they did not have time to perform the ritual, much to the disappointment of certain scribes on the campus who are traditionalists. Thus, in order that the ritual may be carried out, the farce has been extended a week - just like last year.

The finale of the farce usually takes place on a Friday when the whole student body actually gets a chance to participate in the proceedings. The idea is that students tick off on a piece of paper the actors they think have done best and then the paper is slipped into a box and the actors with the most votes win. However, the only actors eligible are those termed candidates in the program and apparently this year not all the bit-parts taken traditionally by candidates have been filled. Another draw-back is that not all students vote for their favorite actor. However, this all adds to the desired confusion and once the farce is over for the year, everyone goes back to work and live happily ever after.

CHILDISH AND IMMATURE

We feel that it is about time that something is done about the childish and immature behaviour shown by some so-called Dalhousie college students.

The latest incident which has provoked the writing of this letter is the defacing and disappearance of publicity posters of the Dalhousie Winter Carnival. These posters were more than the usual type of campus publicity, as they were composed of pictures of the candidates for the Miss Snowball contest. These pictures entailed a great deal of time and money and were for the benefit of all, not just a few. Without them it is going to be very difficult for the voters to know for whom they are voting.

Maybe this letter will be read by those responsible for taking the posters and will make them realize the necessity of returning them and the pointlessness of their actions.

Sincerely, JUDIE BOLLMAN, SANDRA HOUSTON, ANN SUYDAM,

Members of the Dalhousie Winter Carnival Publicity Committee.

PLEASE ENTERTAIN

In your issue of January 23, 1963, it was stated in an article entitled "Report on Council Meetings" that the Students' Council discussed the possibility of a campus radio station or something similar. May I make the following suggestion as to the establishment of this station.

It is my feeling that we should try to improve what we have right now. I am referring to the CJCH radio show (using the word show very loosely) ON CAMPUS. This show, which is supposed to be a show for and about student life on the "camp" here in the Halifax area falls, in my estimation, well below par. Many of your readers will no doubt have heard COLLEGIATE originating at CJCH radio a few years back. I think this program generally topped the material presently emanating over the air waves from 6:20-8:00 on Saturdays.

It is hard to believe Messrs. Miller, Major, and Dix have a formula for the music that they play in this period; if so, it has yet to be discovered by the listener. The fact that the words "On Campus" are mentioned so many times that the listener tends to be brainwashed is only a passing criticism. One could very well summarize and say that the content of the show adds up to absolutely a big fat zero. The only good things

are the pauses that arise within this show; they are an added blessing.

So I graciously ask Messrs. Miller, Major and Dix to revise their policy about the show and to realize that a radio listener is not a person to be jammed filled with words as well as music. Gentlemen, please entertain!

With a solid improvement in the situation, the committee who is looking into the matter mentioned in the article will have a strong foundation to build on.

Sincerely, G. Harris, Science 3.

THE PIN TRADE IS BIG BUSINESS

Pin making was introduced in Gloucester, England in 1626. It prospered and soon employed 1600 persons, an enormous number for one industry in that day. It is estimated that the U.S.A. alone now uses over 14 billion pins a year, plus an annual one million gross of safety pins. The word "pin" is also used in mechanics. The crank-pin of a steamship's mainshaft may weigh a ton, but the pin in a watch-plate can barely be seen by the naked eye.

What we want is not young men with fire in their bellies, but men scientifically trained so that we old Blimps don't get the answer wrong.

—Lord Mountbatten—



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