



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.

Editorials printed in the Dalhousie Gazette express the individual opinions
of staff writers, or the Editors. This must be noted in all reprints.

Volume 100, No. 4 Halifax, Nova Scotia October 12, 1967

KIM CAMERON
Editor-in-Chief

KEN CLARE, Associate Editor
LINDA GILLINGWATER, Managing Editor
MAUREEN PHINNEY News Editor
GUY MASLAND, GARY HOLT Sports Editor
PETER CRAWFORD, Student Council Editor
ALEX MACCLEAVE, Business Manager
JIM KING, Advertising Manager
LINDA AITCHINSON, Office Manager
STEPHEN ARCHIBALD, Photography
JOHN STILL, COLETTE MALO, Gazette Reviewers

Gazette Reporters: Bruce Gillis, Linda Bayers,
Dave Wilson, Kevin White, Chris Lobban,
Nick Pittas, Sharon Cook, John Bruce, Hugh
Fraser, Ron Hicken, Kathi Boyle, Bill Kerr,
Donna Whitman.

Councillors evolve

The Dalhousie Student Council is finally beginning to operate as a worthwhile legislative body.

This reflects, of course, a really remarkable change in its total outlook. The council has such a reputation for being a bureaucratic-administrative junior city hall, that it is now almost impossible to believe that it has evolved into something which is relevant to the student.

The credit for the change probably goes almost exclusively to Ashworth. Not that he seems to be indoctrinating the council and ramming his various ideas down its members throats, but he is essentially responsible for directing the council and probably has charted its recent course.

The main change in council functioning derives from the fact that it now considers itself to be a political being.

No longer is conversation being limited to questions of whether Fall festival will hire one band or two; to questions of whether the SUB will display white lighting or orange. These things have been left in the capable fingers of the various sub-committees.

Council is trying to establish overall policies; it is trying to develop ways of understanding and attacking such problems as our role as students, our governing body's role, our place in the University community, the determination of our environment, and the democratization of the university and the community so that higher education will in fact be universally accessible.

This is not to say, it should be stressed, that the calibre of the discussion which takes place is of such a level that criticism and analysis will no longer be necessary. In fact, sometimes the overall quality of the council discussions leaves almost everything to be desired.

But credit should be given where credit is due.

The very way in which the council is dealing primarily with political issues (like senate reform and universal accessibility) has separated it from the vast majority of small-university councils. Moreover, the council has the resources and the climate here to be one of the most progressive student governments in Canada.

It will be interesting to see how it develops.

No free rides

FAIR PLAY and good fellowship in national politics are welcome, if infrequent, virtues but inter-party amity may be carried too far in the November 6 by-election designed to propel new Conservative leader Robert Stanfield into the Commons.

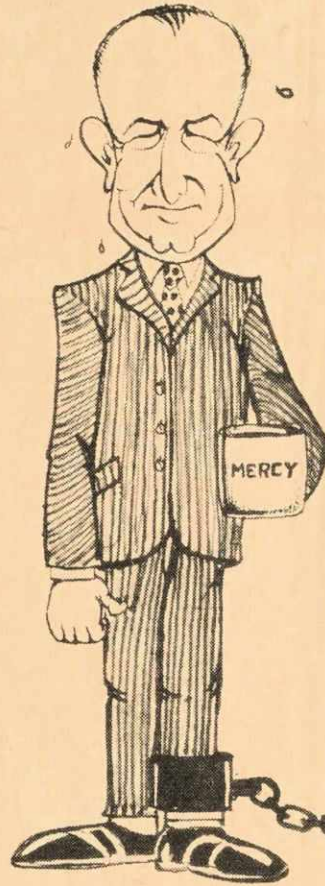
At the outset, both the Liberals and NDP piously said they would not contest the seat. If no one else did, then Mr. Stanfield would be an MP two weeks earlier, having been elected by acclamation on nomination day. But the apple cart has been upset by a Toronto Trotskyite who says he is going to run just to keep things honest.

Good for him. We wish Mr. Stanfield every success but there is a reason why he

should have a free ride into Parliament. It would be a negation of our system of elections. Liberal-NDP bonhomie is predicated more on the certain knowledge that their candidates would be soundly trounced than any genuine desire to help.

Trotskyites notwithstanding, Mr. Stanfield should be challenged firmly by representatives of both the other major parties. Even if his electors are pre-conditioned in his favor the new leader should still be forced to go through the motions of an election, fight his opponents with vigor, and justify his political existence.

Anything else would be to sell short the electoral process.



Letter

Mr. Kim Cameron
Editor-in-Chief
THE DALHOUSIE GAZETTE
Halifax, Canada

Sir:-
Being a novice not only at Dalhousie and the Maritimes, but also in Canada, my right to criticize should be restricted. However, after reading the last issue of your paper I could not resist asking you publicly a few questions. This action is not a reflection of sympathy or nationalism to my present milieu, but a reflex, sometimes called pity. The subject—the future of this country, Dalhousie, and especially of the organ of dialogue on this campus—the GAZETTE.

To measure the apathy of a people is one of those tasks to which most of us shrug our shoulders. At first it seems impossible. One way to measure it, is to locate all the group-activity and controversy in a particular geographic division. This can be done by keeping in touch with the local mass-media. Such method is possible because of two reasons, (1) The task of the mass media is to report such activities and (2) The amount of activity reported by the mass media can be treated as a sample of the total activity in the area.

What about our area? If there is any public activity we definitely do not hear about it. The reason is not far to find. The Dalhousie radio is dead and the GAZETTE if not dead mortally wounded. As a witness to this I shall point at your last issue.

As you ought to know the weekend of October 13th is a big one on our campus. Friday night we have the Forum, followed by a parade Saturday, etc. All this was conveyed to you in an article written for the GAZETTE by Mr. Ken Nedd, who slaves on the project in order to make you and me proud of the school we attend. The reason why the article did not appear in the last issue must have been the importance of such other news as whether Mr. Dave Osherow will be or will not be damned when he goes out in the rain. Incidentally, is Mr. Osherow seeking public support in some kind of election?

Naturally you are not to be solely responsible for the stale aura of public affairs here. However it is your duty to make people proud of the GAZETTE. I hope that you will try to do something about it. The result of your work can be a great stimulus to the public spirit at Dalhousie.

I should be glad if you publish this letter in the coming issue and a great dialogue will ensue, for dialogue is the basis of social life.

I remain yours
Daniel Czamanski

REPLY

Ken Nedd's article on the Dalhousie Student Forum was not scrapped due to lack of space, support, or interest on the part of the Gazette Staff.

It was not printed because it did not conform to normal news-story format; in fact, it had to be re-written. For those who may be interested, it appears below:

DALHOUSIE STUDENT FORUM SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

The Dalhousie Student Forum-well, this aims at excellence. For once at Dalhousie a new group comes to the scene. New ideas fill the air and with one helluva frantic effort shuffles these ideas into an exciting night of October 13th.

This Friday night will be a meeting ground for the university Student and Faculty to mingle with Haligonians at large. We shall question the reasons, laugh at ourselves and knock the crap in our society.

There are 4000 students at Dal, well, six of these will be chosen to speak, to shake our minds to its very foundations.

The fallacy of sex, education or dictation, the question of color might well be thrown at you. You will frown, you will tremble-you will stiffen with suspense at the chosen speakers of Dalhousie, but we promise you will laugh for the Jeckles and Hydes will be there.

This vivacious group of young musicians will drive notes and scales deep into your bones, and you will laugh dance swing to relieve the suspense of serious dissonance.

And I wonder, Education is supposed to be the basis for the whole forum yet a parade of mod-fashions has been arranged to gaze upon in awe or contempt -to congratulate or condemn our society.

Come to the forum, Halifax will be there, QEH will be there. You're interested in life - you will be there. There is room on Oct. 13 for you to think, for you to be startled by the voices of our crazy world.

Pantomimes, stories, jokes, and all, we promise you something fantastic if you give us your support.

Help to put Dal across and sympathise with the ambitious group who dares to undertake so startling a combination.

Voice of the student

Political apathy and the yellow sub

By NICK PITTAS

If we were to believe the political "Jeremiahs," exasperated cries of despair at the apathy of the masses for politics, we would then have no alternative but to bow on our knees and beg forgiveness for our great sin. Then we would rally around the flag of one of the three major parties that Canada is blessed with.

However, a little perceptive study would show that the root causes reside not in the laziness of the individual, but rather in the system which though claiming to thrive on political activism, in actuality fears and exists today only because of political apathy in society. What then are the real causes of political apathy?

ALIENATION

Under capitalism, the individual is controlled by a system of laws, whose true meaning is usually beyond his understanding. The alienated individual is tied to this system in its aggregate by the vicious law of value. The law works on all the aspects of the individual's life, shaping its course and destiny.

The laws of capitalism, invisible to the majority act upon the individual without his understanding them. He sees only the vastness of an infinite horizon before him. Of course in order to assure the insecure individual, the people who try to rationalize the system purport to draw lessons on the possibilities for success by pointing to the examples of people like Ford or Rockefeller. The amount of human poverty, and suffering required of others for the success of such people are never put in perspective. In any case the road to success is pictured as one beset with perils, but one which, it would seem, an individual with "proper" qualities can overcome to attain the goal of success. The reward is seen in the distance; the way is lonely. Further it is a route for cutthroats; one can succeed only at the cost of failure to others.

ever he was trying to do was dimly short of his objective. Surely the whole idea of having a programme of events is to give the audience an idea of what is going to happen, and some background on the contents of the programme. I don't want to appear ignorant but what in heaven's name does "analytical exegesis" mean; also "transpersonal expressions" and "chromatic alterations". None of the persons seated near me could explain their meaning so I took the pro-



Capitalist democracy's answer to political Activism. (WORKER'S VANGUARD)

How can the individual possibly see beyond the cage of his own material conditions, in a system of huge corporate alliances, where any governmental change is imposed on him by small caucuses, which neither understand nor reflect the wishes of the people. No one really expects fundamental changes in a system where elections give the individual at best only a chance to choose a charismatic politician rather than an ogre. Yet the general acceptance of the political

make for a more pleasurable afternoon's entertainment. 1. PARENTS - Please leave your children at home. 2. ORGANISERS - Close the doors to all latecomers. 3. ORGANISERS --Ensure that there are no disturbing factors such as fans or squeaky doors to upset the programme. 4. ORGANISERS - Write a readable programme.

Yours faithfully
Martin Pickford.

those entrusted with explaining the inevitability of class society, either through some theory of divine origin or a mechanical theory of natural selection.

Thus the masses are lulled, since they see themselves as being oppressed by an evil against which it is impossible to struggle. However capitalism differs from former autocratic systems, in that it bribes the people into believing that there is hope for improvement. That is to say the obedient will be rewarded, and the disobedient will be punished (if not by the system, then by the kingdom of heaven). POWERLESSNESS

The alienation of the people also leads to the growth of what is popularly known as the psychology of powerlessness. "What can I do about it?" is a question we often hear. "I'm just a student," or a worker, or a housewife, or an honest whore, is the feeble answer to the urgent call for action. It is easy then to understand why the system prefers political apathy to activism, or even better participation in the artificial aura of party political hoopla, model parliaments, and other such opiates. For if this situation were to change, if instead of trying to escape reality in the form of LSD or artistic "freedom" the students of today organized with militant workers, then the climate for real revolutionary action would indeed be all around us. NO ESCAPE

Escape from this system is impossible (can the hand be severed from the arm and still live?) Submission is contemptible, support is criminal. Opposition, it should be understood, is not only necessary, but in the long run inevitable. The peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America are already rising against their capitalist-fascist oppressors. The prosperity of the capitalist democracies depends on the prostration of these people to the rape of their resources, and exploitation of their markets. Hence the power-mad attempt of the US corporate-military machine to break the fighting spirit of the Vietnamese.

WHETHER THE STUDENT?

The League for Social Action offers the Dalhousie student the chance of breaking the mental chains of the system, whilst making no demands other than your initial interest. The other parties whether labelled NDP, Conservative or Liberal are composed of party hacks, interested only in furthering the electoral success of their masters. Sycophancy to immoral dogmas is their trademark. POLITICAL APATHY? IT IS NEITHER HERE NOR THERE.