

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## LAWYERS

Sir:  
As a member of the undergraduate class of 1961 and a member of the class executive, I must disagree with the election of two lawyers to the executive of the class of 1962.

The most important students in a university are undergraduates. It is during the first four years after high school that a student learns to think objectively and exercise some degree of flexibility in the learning process. It is in these years of undergraduate work that the student is cast forth from the paternal wing of the secondary school system into a university where he sinks or swims on the merits of his intellectual ability, rather than his ability to memorize.

Perhaps because of this insecurity, coupled with the number of undergraduates, the spirit of a university lies in its undergraduates.

Post-graduate students are not the spirit of the university, as clearly evidenced by the withdrawal of the law students from Dalhousie activities over the past two years. They have had their day, and their main responsibility is to get the necessary training to enter their chosen profession.

In addition, their spirit often lies with other undergraduate schools. Have you ever seen a St. F.X. graduate attending a Dalhousie post-graduate school cheer for Dal at a football game between the two schools? Who does Mr. Christie, the invalidly-elected president of the class of 1962, cheer for in competition between Dal and Kings (his alma mater)?

Post graduate students have had one chance to serve as class officers as an undergraduate. Why deprive undergraduates of the right which is clearly theirs?

In conclusion, it seems to me that three moves would clear up the whole question and create a solution along meaningful lines. One, the council of students should

take a greater interest in control and support of the activities of the graduating class. Two, since Dalhousie has so many post graduate faculties, two graduating classes should be formed, one for the undergraduates and one for the post-graduates. The two could co-operate on matters of social functions for the two classes.

Third, in line with the above move, the university should divide its morning and afternoon convocation into one for undergraduates and one for post-graduates.

Sincerely,  
Peter Green  
President, Class of '61

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DEBT ?

Sir:

During the last few weeks we have all incurred a debt to Mr. Abbott for his lucid exposition of the thesis that black is white (except in the case of human skin). However, in the last issue he used the distinction between a wrong action and an error of fact to advance the extraordinary notion that race discrimination is perhaps only factually (and not morally) wrong. Could you, Sir, please urge Mr. Abbott to elaborate on this seemingly unpromising suggestion?

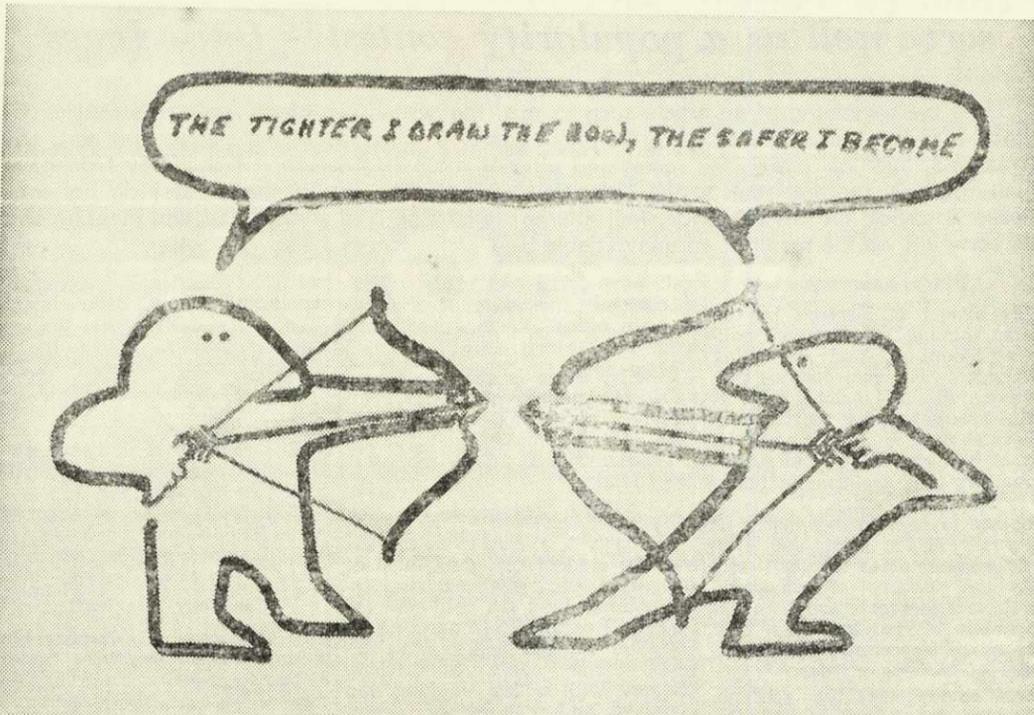
Sincerely,  
William H. James

## CULF TO MEET IN OTTAWA

OTTAWA (CUP) -- The Canadian University Liberal Federation will hold its annual convention in Ottawa January 27 and 28.

Simon Venne, president of CULF, is making the announcement said that delegates from university or college clubs in every province are expected to attend.

The gathering will deal with the problems of organization, with discussions on Confederation, and



THE 50-MEGATON DRAW

## The Congo--or our coffee

(Ed. note: This is the second of a series of eight articles on NFCUS)

by Bruce Rawson  
NFCUS Past President

'I thank God for the spectacle of student picketing -- even when they are picketing me and I think they are wrong. I thank God for students protesting and freedom riding, for students going into the fields with migratory workers and marching off to jail with our segregated Negroes. At least we're getting somewhere. The colleges have become boot camps for citizenship and citizens are marching out of them.'

---Governor Pat Brown of California

At an international meeting in Holland this summer I happened to mention to the president of the Congolese Students' Federation that NFCUS (the Canadian students) may have to abandon their international program for lack of funds.

### LEADERSHIP

'No you can't,' my Negro friend will be addressed by the key leaders of the Liberal Party.

'At no time', asserted Mr. Venne, 'have I experienced such enthusiasm for our leader and interest in our policies. At the same time, I can never remember when a Prime Minister has been so unpopular with Canada's students.'

Chairman of the CULF Convention in Michel Robert of McGill University.

pleaded, and when I persuaded him I wasn't joking he said "Maybe we could help you in some way; we need your neutral western leadership!"

Financial assistance from the Congo -- that's a twist! Involvement in international affairs costs money -- it costs each of us the price of a cup of coffee. Let's hope we can afford it.

Not only Governor Brown but a great number of Canadian students are beginning to give serious consideration to the international aspects of the NFCUS program. There is a quiet revolution in the university student community from St. John's to Vancouver.

### INTERFERENCE?

Some students seem to have felt that our resolution supporting USNSA (the United States' equivalent to NFCUS) on its enlightened stand on the 'sit-in' strikes might be construed as unwelcome interference in the internal affairs of another country, and that international diplomacy is the right and the duty of various national governments and the United Nations, not of a student organization.

This latter idea is most annoying. As you know, representatives of 95 per cent of Canada's university students, at the Kingston Congress this fall, unanimously decided to concern themselves with situations where human rights, academic freedom, or material well being of student were involved.

Our rising social conscience is evidenced in this involvement. All over the world students are being arbitrarily imprisoned, murdered or tortured. A protest to the nation guilty of these actions is bound to be called unwelcome interference. Does this negate our right to protest? Such expression, based on reliable information is the duty of all of us. Even if the opinion of students differs from that of national governments, it is not necessarily invalidated.

### FUTURE LEADERS

And internationally we are not always dealing with oblivious government officials. Our meetings are with students who will be members of their country's governmental hierarchy in the near future. This is particularly apparent in the underdeveloped countries where the students of today are cabinet ministers tomorrow.

Students have been looked upon in the past as a harmless and privileged group, and perhaps even irresponsible. But recent events in South Korea, Hungary, Turkey and Japan have shown that students can, and do, wield a positive force in international affairs. In 1948 we were forced to split with the International Union of Students because of Communist infiltration. We set up the 73 nation International Students' Conference in order that our problems and ideals could be discussed outside the confines of Communist ideologies.

It is apparent that Communist youth and student organizations are attracted to Latin America South Africa and Asia (the underdeveloped areas). The Communists spend incredibly large sums for propaganda programs and handsome salaries to their highly trained, permanent "student" officers. How can a nationalistic, emergent country evaluate 'democracy' rationally when Communism offers immediate support and assistance 'in the struggle for independence,' and we offer nothing but philosophy?

I mentioned earlier that the leadership of the underdeveloped countries will shortly be in the hands of the students of today. We must, therefore, increase our support, where our conscience permits, and establish active contacts with this embryonic, developing leadership class.

In the past we have built a strong reputation for impartiality. Canadian students are in a unique position. We are not an imperialistic, colonial, or militaristic power, therefore, we are not feared. At the last ISC meeting our delegates spoke fluent French, English and Spanish with some Hebrew and Arabic, and were able to successfully translate the feelings of the North Africans and the South Americans to such groups as the Scandinavians.

Responsibility is a key word. Let's hope our students' councils will consider their international opportunities. Or would you ask the Congo to pay for our coffee?

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