

DALHOUSIE Gazette

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The Constitution Upheld

Last Thursday a Student Forum nominated candidates to oppose the two already nominated for the positions of President and Vice-President of the Students' Council.

In this manner the terms of the Constitution were complied with and due election of a President and Vice-President were assured.

One of the more disturbing incidents at the Forum were charges directed against the Students' Council of violation of the Constitution. In actual fact the Council did all in its power to avert a breach of the terms of the Constitution and in fact has done so.

Section 10 of Article 6 of the Constitution of the Student Council provides that:

Nomination of candidates to the Council of Students shall be made by the separate Departments or Faculties aforementioned two full weeks before election day and must be as great in numbers as one and one half of representatives to be elected. Candidates' names shall be submitted in writing to the Secretary-Treasurer of the Council of Students.

It is obvious that this section cannot rely to nomination of President and Vice-President of the Council.

In the first place, Section 10 refers to "nominations by the separate Departments and Faculties aforementioned". By Section 1 of Article 6 "Nominations of candidates for the position of President of the Student Body and Council of Students shall be made by the Council of Students." The same provision is extended to the nomination of the Vice-President by Section 2.

Section 10 also refers to the nomination of candidates "as great in numbers as one and one half the number of representatives to be elected".

Not only is the idea of a half candidate ridiculous, but sections 1 and 2 state that there shall be at least two nominees for the positions of President and Vice-President of the Students' Council.

It is obvious, therefore that no part of Section 10 can refer to the nominations of President and Vice-President. It specifically refers to representatives.

There is no other section that states any time limit within which nominations for President and Vice-President shall be made.

Therefore, the Council's action is calling a Forum to name candidates for these two posts was not in the least unconstitutional, as some have alleged. The time limit was not exceeded, as there is no time limit set forth in the Constitution.

All through this year the Council has displayed its great respect for the Constitution and never before Thursday was there any suggestion that the Constitution was broken by the Council.

Other elements among the Student Body have suggested various infringements on the Constitution such as suspension, in order to avoid political embarrassment, but the Council has at all times been firm in its determination to uphold the terms of the Constitution, one of the most liberal Student constitutions in the country.

Editors Take Stand on Freedom of Press

Canadian campus editors recently took a stand on their belief that a campus publication should have the freedom to print both sides of controversial issues. The decision of what truth is fit to print lies in the hands of the editor. He is the censor, if you wish to call him that, of the newspaper which is to reflect the opinions and events on the campus.

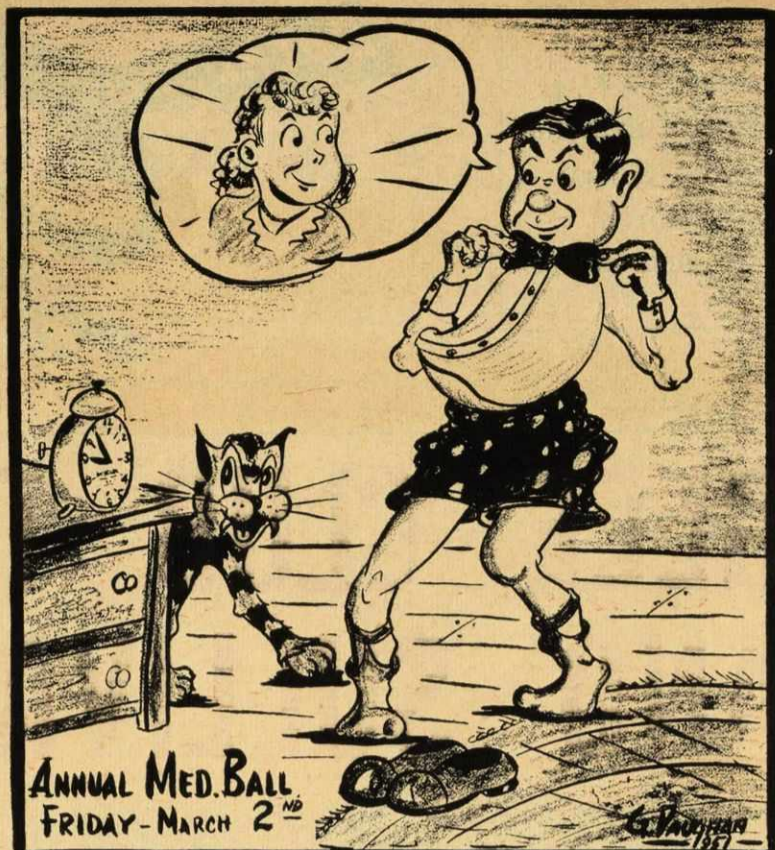
Mr. B. K. Sandwell, honorary President of the CUP for this year, noted the added responsibility that the editors have taken. He stated in Saturday Night on February 6, that "This resolution will impose on the editors who adopted it a very heavy responsibility and call for the exercise of the highest kind of discretion."

By their action college editors are maintaining the freedom that resulted from the Renaissance. The Renaissance, in effect, was a freeing of the quest for knowledge from excessive social, political and religious restraints. It suggested that significant truth could be gained best by an examination and weighing of both truth and falsehood. This significant truth is the same "objective" truth that CUP took a stand on.

Knowledge is invariably tainted with an "ideological" interest, but it is truth to those who believe it and practise it. To the Communists, Communism represents the Truth. To us it may be Falsehood. But there is no reason why "our" truth should suppress the "Falsehood" of an opposing belief.

Suppression of an opposing truth is worse than a free airing of it. If Canadian students believe

"He's Taking Miss Mary to the Ball"



in Democracy and have the courage of their convictions, then an opposing truth will not make them waver; but if students, who will be the future leaders of Canada, are not allowed to question Canadian foreign policy, the belligerent madness of America, or the hysterical timpo of the present-day life of American people, then there is very little freedom in Democracy.

Unless students are permitted to develop their mental processes and to learn to think in more than a narrow and restricted way, then there is little truth in freedom. Unless the CUP had taken this

stand now there would have been a tendency to stultify student thought through extra-curricular activities as well as through propaganda in text-books. The CUP has taken a stand that will help to free students from authoritarian molds.

A peaceful settlement of the controversy between Democratic and Communism without understanding, on both sides. Through letters to the editor and through columns in various student publications across Canada, students have backed up their editors. "Give us the means to learn truth and we will defend freedom and Democracy" say the students. Student support is the means for fighting stultified beliefs; students want the "objective" truth.

Futility

On the brink of death
I stand alone,
Helpless and terrified.
The nothingness of the past,
The blankness of the future,
They hold no meaning now,
Only the eternal present clutches me.

All around there is grey fog.
In the mist I hear the voices,
Human voices saying "stay,"
Celestial voices luring me on.
"Follow Christ the Lord,
He is your guide."
But he has died.

To go back to the mundane world?
There is no answer there—
To cross the chasm of death?
Is this not a treacherous snare—
I reach beyond the furthest star
But fall back into the slime.
I have gone too far.

M. E. N.

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