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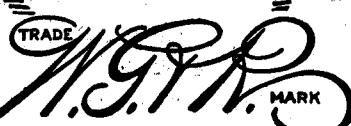
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CORRESPONDENCE

To the Editor of The Varsity.

Dear Sir:

In response to the request of the Varsity
for letters on the subject "Caput vs. Par-
liament," I should like to express a few
thoughts in defence of the Parliament
against some of the objections made in
last Wednesday's issue.

The difficulties that the author of the
article puts forth centre principally
around the following heads, and I shall
comment concerning these, namely:

(1) There can be no gain in leniency to
the student by attempting self-govern-
ment as English justice must prevail.

(2) Discipline by the student will have
to be much more thoroughly enforced
than it is at the present time by the
Caput.

(3) Because the laws are made by the
University authorities they should also
be enforced by them.

(4) We should follow such precedents
as Oxford and Cambridge.

(5) Any form of student control of dis-
cipline is almost impossible.

In the first place it is not the desire of
the Parliament to be lenient but to see
that justice is more fairly dealt to the
students. The point in question, in fact
the whole problem brings to one's mind
the courses of the war of the American
Revolution, and since history is one of
the best guides, may it not be cited here.
England (the Caput) wished to exact
money from the colony without repre-
sentation, and a revolutionary feeling at
once arose. At the University the Board
of Governors are endeavouring to carry
out discipline without direct representa-
tion. Why not let the students be dis-
ciplined by an organization of their own?
This is the system which England main-
tains and which upholds her English
Justice throughout the empire to-day.

The second objection admits that the
Caput has not itself thoroughly enforced
discipline, hence, we would say, it is to a
certain measure a failure. Accordingly
there is no second objection. Give the
Student Parliament a chance.

As for the third objection we need only
draw our readers' attention to the manner
in which universal law and government
in our country is carried out to-day. One
body forms the law and another body
carries it out. Why should not the system
prevail at the University?

In respect to the fourth difficulty, we
would wish to state that the tempera-
ments, manners, and personalities of
Englishmen and Americans are consid-
erably different. Caput control may work
well at Oxford and Cambridge where the
majority of students are Englishmen but
may not a different method of government
adhere better to an American student. A
better method would be to compare the
systems of our own Universities, as will
be indicated under the next difference.

Considering the last difficulty, we would
like to state that it is quite possible instead
of impossible for a student organization
to govern the discipline of its own mem-
bers. The mere fact that when students
appoint a representative to the executive
of a governing body, they feel duty bound
to uphold him in his actions, and thus a
sense of responsibility falls on each student
as to the conduct of every other student.
This accordingly tends to bring about a
higher type of manhood, a greater sense
of freedom, and more unanimity among
the students as a whole. On the other
hand, with a Board of Governors as the
ruling body, a student obeys certain laws
of discipline put down by the University
merely because he is forced to, but not
through any sense of duty to his represen-
tative, or respect for his fellow students.
Besides, student government is not a new
idea. It is carried out in other univer-
sities where the system has been very
satisfactory. Having attended McMas-
ter University for four years where this
system of government is carried out by the
student body, I can assert that the stan-
dard of discipline, the spirit of good will,
and the manner in which justice has been
dealt out, is quite acceptable to both the
Board of Governors and the student body.
At Queen's University where the students
are governed under a similar management,
satisfactory results have been attained.
Hence we see that the system is both
probable and possible. Here at Toronto
the Caput has endeavoured to maintain
discipline, but, as the writer in last
Wednesday's issue admitted, they had
failed. In the last few years the students
have been given more control, where
marshals, etc., have been selected, the
good results of which have caused most
favourable comment. Why then not give
the students at least a trial at full control?
C. S. ROBERTSON, S.P.S.

To the Editor of The Varsity:

Dear Sir,—

In Wednesday's issue of the Varsity
there appeared an article on the advant-
ages of Caput Control. May I be per-
mitted a few errors that your writer has
made in his very premises.

In the first place he, evidently, does not
know the nature of the power that will
be placed at the disposal of the Parlia-
ment. He states that, the Parliament's
authority will be only complimentary to
that of the Caput. This is erroneous, for
the Caput will place its full disciplinary
power in the hands of the Parliament and
will not even reserve to itself the powers of
a court of appeal. Thus the Parliament
full authority as an absolute disciplinary
body and will be enabled to work in the
full consciousness of what these powers
carry with them.

He says that there can be no gain in
leniency towards the student in self-
government. Surely the students have
not become so childish that they are not
willing to take the consequences of their
misdemeanours. If there are any who are
not, the prep. school is the proper place
for them and not the University.

He mentions as a reason for retaining
Caput control, the difficulty of disciplin-
ing the inter-year initiating parties.
To my mind the inter-year hustles are a
relic of barbarism that can be likened in
its brutality only to a Spanish bull-fight.
This University is too big for such things,
before long they will die a natural death
and the funeral obsequies will not be
marked by any great display of grief,
except perhaps by the man who has re-
ceived his ideas of college life through the
agency of the Saturday Evening Post or
the Blumenthal pictures.

He states also, that student discipline
is impossible owing to the loose college
spirit that is abroad in the University.
The time of the loose spirit has also passed.
The healthy interest that is being evinced
in the coming election is evidence of
this. Loyalty to the Parliament itself
will light such a fire of University spirit
in our colleges that the narrow faculty pre-
judices will pass like a breath of wind.

To sum up, your writer seems to imagine
that the students of this University are
not old enough to act as men and not in-
telligent enough to overcome the slight
obstacles that at present, stand in the way
of student discipline.

The Student's Parliament has entered
Toronto as the only means by which the
Undergraduate body can show them-
selves men capable of acting in a manner
worthy of men and the Parliament has
come to stay.

G. H. W.

THE REFERENDUM

To the Editor of the Varsity:

Dear Sir:

Permit me, sir, a little space to refer to
the referendum which is now before the
Undergraduates of this University.

One of the most frequent remarks con-
cerning this movement that one hears
around the 'Halls' at this time is to the
effect that so far the Caput administration
has been perfectly satisfactory. What is
the idea of the change?

Permit me, sir, to take issue with the
latter part of this statement. The Caput
is to be congratulated upon its disciplinary
administration in this institution but the
Caput has not, as many who are in a
position to know can certify, always
handed out equitable judgments. But
this through no fault of its own.

One of the most difficult problems in
connection with the administration of this
University's affairs is the securing of
evidence regarding undergraduate mis-
behaviour. Many absolutely will not
come out and give evidence before a
Caput body and if evidence is being heard
parts are suppressed which if divulged
would frequently place a new complexion
upon the whole question and conse-
quently upon the decision handed out.
This surely is not right.

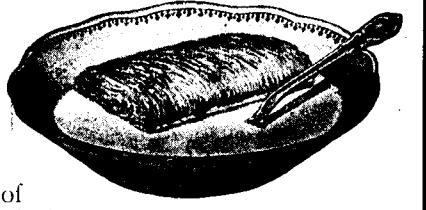
Now, sir, speaking from a knowledge
of the facts it has been undeniably dem-
onstrated recently that a committee or
council of students can secure more
accurate, more correct, and a greater
amount of evidence with less difficulty
than the Caput possibly could, in similar
circumstances.

Undergraduates will talk more openly
and freely with their fellows than they
ever will with any Caput body. That this
is true is evident for obvious reasons,
even if the demonstration had not been
so proof positive.

Now with the securing of the evidence
the sequel arises in the question of the
administration of disciplinary measures.

Continued on Page 4, Col. 3.

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