

BACKLASH

U.S. NOT VILLAINS ---- COMMIES TO BLAME?

This article was submitted to the Gazette by a discontented member of the student body. To show that we're open to criticism we are publishing it in hopes of hearing from others on either the war, or the Gazette.

By BRUCE HEBERT

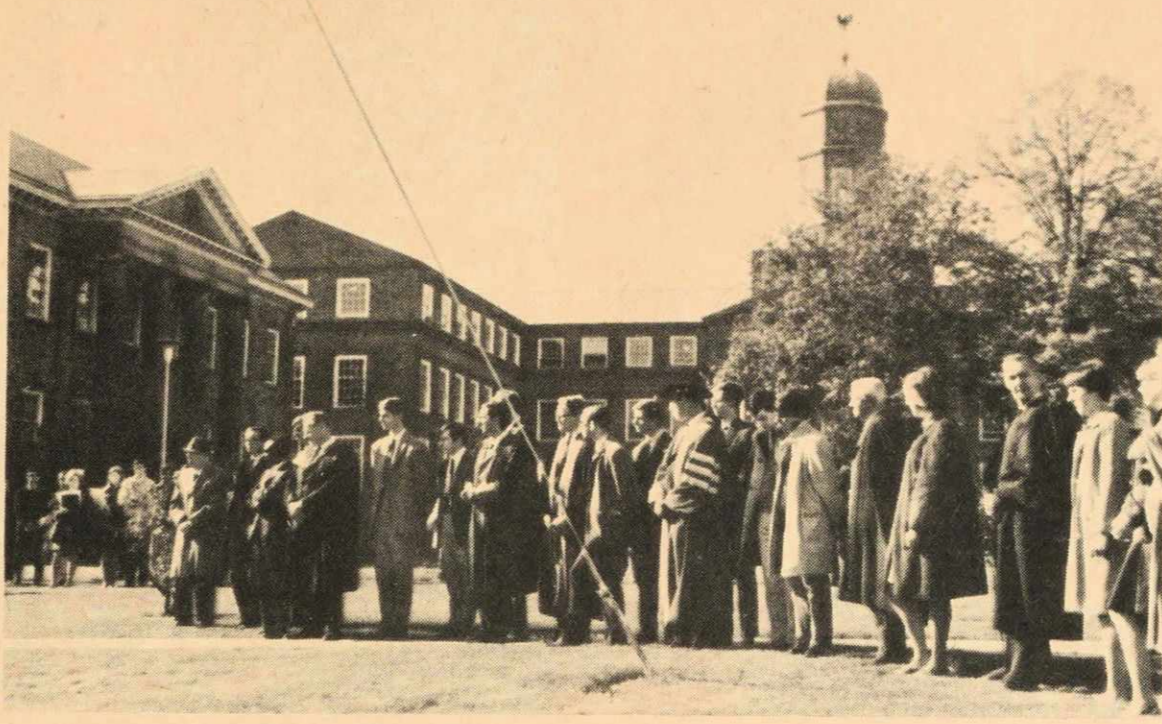
In recent issues of the Dal Gazette we, the students, have been handed some unbelievable trash, mainly due to the fact that three writers are not enough to fill the needs of a University with both the sophistication and size of Dalhousie.

Anyway, to the point. Of late I have noticed a rather telling trend in the Gazette to show only the Communist point of view in the Vietnamese War, I would like to point out that it is not U.S. Policy to kill, deface or otherwise maim civilian Vietnamese,

whether they be children, expectant mothers or defenceless men and women in general. Such persons are the unfortunate victims of a bombing policy necessitated by the North's escalation of the war (The increased insurgence of North-Vietnamese Regulars and vital war supplies.)

How can the Americans be labelled aggressors when they are simply trying to help an underdeveloped nation force back numerous communist backed invaders? Communist China, the conqueror of Tibet, the invader of India, is the true aggressor.

Comment is made on the Imperialistic attitudes of the U.S., but it might be pointed out that it is an exceedingly rare colony which is worth the deployment of 500,000 troops, plus countless millions of dollars. South Vietnam I regret to observe could never give the Americans a return for their money, and certainly never a return for their 12,000 dead; And the Americans, Capitalists that they are, would hardly make such a poor investment unless more important issues were at stake. And these issues, I believe are free thought, free speech, - freedom in general.



President Hicks and other members of University at U.N. day flag raising ceremony, Oct. 24th. Photo: Steve Archibald.

What's Wrong With CUS?

By BRUCE GILLIS

There are serious things happening to Canadian Universities these days, and it is easy to see evidences of the way things are changing all across the country, in the large and small colleges. Students are for the first time being told to make a choice .. are they at college solely to get an academic education, or is there a bigger role in society reserved for them? And if there is, just how big a role?

Students all over North America took part in peace marches this past weekend. They were alternately praised as conscientious citizens who were interested enough to take a stand for their beliefs, or damned as young upstarts and meddlers in affairs which they couldn't possibly comprehend.

This type of controversy is finding its most significant battleground not on the streets with the marchers but in the very structure of the student system of Canada.

Nearly three years ago the leading French speaking universities of the country withdrew from the Canadian Union of Students, the organization that until that time could say it represented virtually every college student in the country. It was a shock to the leaders of CUS. The French Canadian delegates had long been advocating a greater involvement of students in society, and the Union had consistently voted down their proposals for such things as student support of striking workers, student representation on government education committees, and other aims then seen as radical.

The rebel universities proceeded to set up the Union General des Etudiants de Quebec and stated from the outset that its aims were to further the interest of the student as a "young intellectual worker" who was to stand alongside the manual workers of society in their fight against bureaucratic domination. The Union quickly achieved some impressive results. They placed students on government education committees, supported strikes in Montreal, and made other steps along the lines of their declared aims.

Half a year later, McGill University got involved in the issue. As a Quebec University, was its place in UGEC or in CUS? In the biggest controversy in McGill's history a referendum was held in which the student body voted UGEC down by a one per cent margin. Meanwhile, other English speaking universities in Quebec were being faced with the same problem, and some of them decided that UGEC was the best place for them. Sir George Williams left CUS, and the organization began to see trouble coming.

In a second referendum, McGill changed its mind and voted to enter UGEC, while still hoping to remain a member of CUS. Since that four others have left CUS, including Bishops, St. Dunstons, and the University of Alberta.

Then last week Acadia voted to withdraw. The reason given was that it gained nothing by being a member. The University of Windsor voted by a 24 vote margin to stay in. UBC is holding a similar referendum on November 1.

It's obvious that something is wrong somewhere. There is a serious rift, not just in CUS but in student attitude all across the country. What it breaks down to is whether or not students should be more involved in society -- whether or not we should have more voice in our own affairs and in those of the country. The campuses that are leaving present two opposing views. Either CUS is "too activist" or it is not willing to go far enough in the opinions of the discontented schools.

Since the formation of UGEC, CUS has leaned more and more to the activist side, but how far it will go remains to be seen. One thing is certain: CUS must take a firm stand on its policy and stick to this decision. If not it will have dissatisfied members continue to drop out until it no longer exists. And it must show students what its value is. At present both its policy and its value to students are rather vague to everyone except its executive and some of the delegated to its congresses. They are not doing enough to enlighten the common student.

Announcing contest!

Fabulous prize for the most right-wing article of at least 1000 words to be submitted to the Dalhousie Gazette office before November 11, 1967. Articles must be typed and printable. The only restriction is that articles may not contain personal attacks on newspaper editors, or members of the Board of Governors. First prize is a year's subscription to the U.S. News and World Report. Second prize is a two year's subscription.

CANADA CAMPUS REPORT

ACADIA STUDENTS DROP CUS

WOLFVILLE, N.S. (CUP)—Acadia has dropped out of the Canadian Union of Students.

Students voted more than 3 to 1 against continuing membership in the union in a referendum Monday. Just over 54 percent of the students voted.

The referendum followed a council resolution three weeks earlier advocating immediate withdrawal.

In a dining hall speech at noon Monday student council president Bob Levy said "I feel that we have gained little in our association with CUS over the years and the fact that many of you ask what it is, is more than eloquent testimony to its irrelevance."

CUS president-elect Peter Warrin, who travelled to Acadia October 14 for the vote, said "One of the reasons the vote may have gone the way it did is people simply did not have information or familiarity with CUS."

He said the council had made up its mind on CUS and seemed to be looking for a ratification of that decision.

Of a total enrollment of 1,682 students, 905 cast ballots in the referendum. Of these, 287 voted for CUS, 618 against.

Acadia is the first CUS member to withdraw since the London Congress last month.

Last Friday University of Windsor students voted 576-552 in favour of the union.

The University of British Columbia will hold a similar referendum Nov. 1.

CUS DISAPPOINTED

OTTAWA (CUP)—CUS reacted to the Acadia withdrawal with a mixture of disappointment and mystification.

CUS president Hugh Armstrong Tuesday claimed not to understand the reasoning of Acadia President Bob Levy in opposing CUS membership.

Levy made it clear before the referendum that a vote for CUS was a vote against him.

Armstrong said that Levy was not at the congress, and he did not know how much he knew about the organization.

"I wish he had contacted us for information," Armstrong said. "I wish he had been at the congress."

He said Greg Warner, Acadia Vice-President who did attend the congress argued during the campaign that while CUS is a good organization, Acadia at this time is unable to take advantage of CUS's resources.

Armstrong pointed out Acadia has no chance at all of taking advantage of CUS resources outside of the organization.

"They can't become active in the union from outside of it," he said.

UGEQ EQUATES VIETNAM WAR WITH QUEBEC STATUS IN CONFEDERATION

MONTREAL (CUP)—L'union generale des Etudiants du Quebec has compared the struggle in Viet Nam to the struggle for freedom in Quebec.

In a joint statement with the departing National Liberation Front representatives October 11, UGEQ said:

"The present fight of the students and the people of South Viet Nam is very similar to the fight of the students and the people of Quebec for its right to self-determination."

It calls on the government of Quebec to disassociate itself from the Canadian government's policy of complicity in the war.

The NLF delegation said it fully supported UGEQ's efforts to bring about a democratic education policy, social progress, and the right of self-determination.

The statement condemned "criminal methods of massacre and mass destruction used by the United States, making South Viet Nam an experimental area for their engines of death."

BRITISH DEBATERS DEFEND STUDENT EXTREMISM, MILITANCE

TORONTO (CUP)—Should students have the right and the responsibility to be extremist and militant? Yes, according to 54 of 65 students who voted on the resolution at a York University debate Tuesday.

The visiting British Debating Union team of Colin Mackay, 23, of Oxford, and David R. Rose, 23, from Glasgow University supported the resolution against York debaters Shalom Lapin, 16, and Mel Lubek, 20. The British debaters will tour Canada debating with campus debating teams.

The basis of the British argument was that students are not regarded as students, but as "wards of the state."

Students should have the right and duty to put forward what they believe in. Opting out allows the establishment to take over," said Rose.

"Militance overcomes inertia," he said, "and with centralization of power we must be more militant in our attacks."

Lapin, debating the negative, contended while student rights are important the militant approach simply would not work.

"We are basically powerless," he said, "militant action is only futile and self-defeating."

He recommended students throw in their lot with professors, who he said have access to the real "raw power."

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