



Inaccuracies on Campus Cops

To the editor:

The story, "Campus Cop inquiry on" which appeared in the November 25th issue of the GAZETTE, stated that the two student members of the Senate Committee on Campus Police were Brian Smith and Jim Coalles.

As chairman of the committee, I feel obliged to ask you who the hell is Jim Coalles? I should like to point out that the two student members are Mr. Smith and myself, while the Senate is represented by Professor W. Charles and Professor A. J. Coles, director of the School of Physical Education.

Perhaps I should also clarify any confusion that may have arisen as to the finishing date for the Report as the Nov. 5th article stated December, while the Nov. 12th editorial gave March as the date of completion.

As I explained to the GAZETTE reporters, before

both stories appeared, the Report will be in two sections. The first will deal with the immediate problems of the present administration structure of the student force, and the second will attempt to answer further reaching questions, such as "Should we have a campus police force?" "If so, what powers should they be given?"

The date set for completion of the final report is March, while hopefully the members of the committee will be in a position to make some recommendations on the first section in December.

The November 12th editorial stated that the "Senate enquiry will do little to change things." I firmly believe that this is not so. It would appear that the editorial writer apparently agrees with me.

Two paragraphs after the above quotation, while referring to St. F. X.'s student police being able to "bust heads anywhere in town", he states, "that may sound extreme, but it is typical of what can happen when student police powers are not carefully studied by committees and the student body."

Isn't the senate enquiry a "committee"? In fact, isn't that the exact name we have been given by Senate? Have you not been informed that we plan to have open meetings? If not, you can refresh your memory by reading the November 5th article in your own publication. Do not open meetings signify that we plan to solicit the opinions of the "student body"?

I trust that the two Dalhousie

GAZETTE reporters that I encountered will busily prepare submissions for the Committee. It would appear however, that I wouldn't want them to draw a detailed blueprint.

They tend to make too many mistakes.

Peter Harvison,
Chairman, Senate Enquiry
Committee on the
Campus Police

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Yes there were inaccuracies and inconsistencies in the two stories we ran about the campus police. We apologize to those concerned for the mistakes and any results coming from them. Thanks for pointing them out.

Shortcomings in university system

To the editor:

Today I joined the hundreds of other students of this university who have decided, for various reasons, to drop a course.

It is not an easy decision to make at this relatively late stage of the year, since it is difficult to find a substitute course. Furthermore, most students feel compelled to drop courses part way through the year, not because of their own shortcomings, but because of the shortcomings of this university system.

To illustrate my point, let me take as an example, the course I have just dropped — Psychology 201. This course is taught in four autonomous sections, each with a different instructor.

The first section dealing with tests and measurements, has become one of Dal's worst instructed courses. This class was so poorly instructed that the teacher found it necessary to greatly scale the marks so that a larger percentage of the class could pass.

This scaling helps to conceal the poor class instruction and also the fact that very few people actually understood what was going on. But it certainly does not conceal things from the students in this course who know they gained very little in terms of knowledge. This I discovered by finding many people who admitted they got marks as high as 90% through random guessing.

What is even more remarkable is the fact that this same class was instructed by the same professor last year, and the scaling of marks had to be at least as great this year.

I am aware that such incidents of incompetence are not isolated. Therefore I am puzzled as to why this sort of thing has been tolerated for so long.

As students who pay \$725 a year for our university education, is it too much to expect competent instructors as well as adequate lecture rooms?

The individual departments are indifferent to this problem and are not making the effort to rid themselves of incompetent instructors within their departments. It is clear that if any improvements are to come about, they will certainly have to be initiated by the students who are fed up with second-rate instructors.

In its past few issues, the Gazette has published a number of articles which depict the same sort of troubles I have just mentioned. And while these articles have helped expose some of the hassles most of us face at one time or another, there are few solutions being offered to these problems. If we are really dissatisfied with the way things are going and want to improve this system, we must begin to replace rhetoric with performance.

Why for instance, is there no opportunity for students to evaluate the performance and capabilities of their instructors. If this type of evaluation were carried out and the results taken seriously, it could only lead to an improvement in the education we now receive.

Hopefully, the Students Council as well as other groups of people, will take time from their busy schedule and act on this matter.

Dave Retson

Talkback to rep Evans

To the editor:

Recent publications in the Gazette about the Student Union meeting in Shirreff Hall on Oct. 25 have prompted me to reply to Mr. Evans' doubts about the legality of the meeting.

His attempts to adjourn the meeting and his previous comments, which consisted mostly of verbal "volleyball" with trivial points of procedure and Roberts Rules of Order,

were viewed with distaste, or more like disgust not only by myself but, I am sure, by the residents who were present at the meeting. It is a shame that council had to put on such an "exhibition" in front of what was the largest audience we had all year, because it not only confused and annoyed the students present, but made council appear to be a bunch of bureaucrats bogged down in petty procedural details.

Mr. Evans appears to be unduly concerned with the problem of double franchise for residence students. He states that the constitution is unclear in this matter of double franchise when it clearly states (By-law 12, section 10) that no student has the right to vote twice. I am prepared to inform all residents of Howe Hall not to vote for their faculty representatives as they now have their own voting reps on Student Council. Mr. Evans' time, I think, would be better spent researching various constitutional changes made by previous councils which were not ratified by the required Student Union meeting. I refer to matters such as the power of signing officers in the Student Council which was changed without (to my knowledge) being ratified by a Student Union meeting.

He also expressed annoyance at the lack of publicity given the Student Union meeting. I personally saw that the residents of Howe Hall knew of this meeting and I know that Vicky Adamson (the Shirreff Hall rep) did the same for her constituents. I saw no such attempt made on the part of Mr. Evans to notify his people, i.e. all science students.

This letter will, perhaps, clear up somewhat, an over-worn issue and, I hope, end any useless discussion on the topic. I hope now that Student Council will be able to get back to the matter of seeing to the needs of the students of this university in preference to quibbling over legal niceties.

Arthur Turner
Howe Hall Rep

AUCC problems

(cont'd from p. 1)

Norm Wickstrom, of Simon Fraser University, remains on the Board from last year as the fourth student representative.

Others newly elected to the Board of Directors: Dr. Robert E. Bell, principal of McGill University; Dr. Ernest A. Sirluck, president of the University of Manitoba; André Côté of Laval University; C. Boucher, of Sherbrooke University, and Mme. Andrée Lajoie of the Université de Montréal.

Elected president of the 64-

member association was Louis-Philippe Bonneau of Laval University. The new vice-president is A. W. Carrothers of the University of Calgary.

Among the resolutions passed onto the Board of Directors with the good wishes of the plenary were motions to petition the Council of Education Ministers to establish a national task force on student aid and to support the recommendations contained in the federal government's Committee on Youth Report on broadening student financial assistance.

In other resolutions the plenary recommended the establishment of special commissions on the subjects of continuing education in Canada and the status of women in the university.

During the week, much of the talk at the conference centred around the problems of under-enrollment, cut-backs in government financing and the massive unemployment crisis, however, no formal proposals were dealt with to handle any of these problems.

AROUND HALIFAX

FRIDAY, NOV. 19

Public Address at Family Planning Federation meeting. Hon. John Munroe, Federal Minister Health and Welfare. 8:30 p.m. Tupper Medical Building.

SUNDAY, NOV. 21

Atlantic Symphony Concert, Cohn Auditorium.

Tony van Bridge in "GKC" at Neptune Theatre.

TUESDAY, NOV. 23

Art Films on Flemish Painting, Mt. St. Vincent.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 24

Black Theatre of Prague, Cohn Auditorium, 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, NOV. 25

"A Generation", Dal Film Society.

FRIDAY, NOV. 26 &

SATURDAY, NOV. 27

Glenn Yarbrough Farewell Concert, Cohn Auditorium.

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