

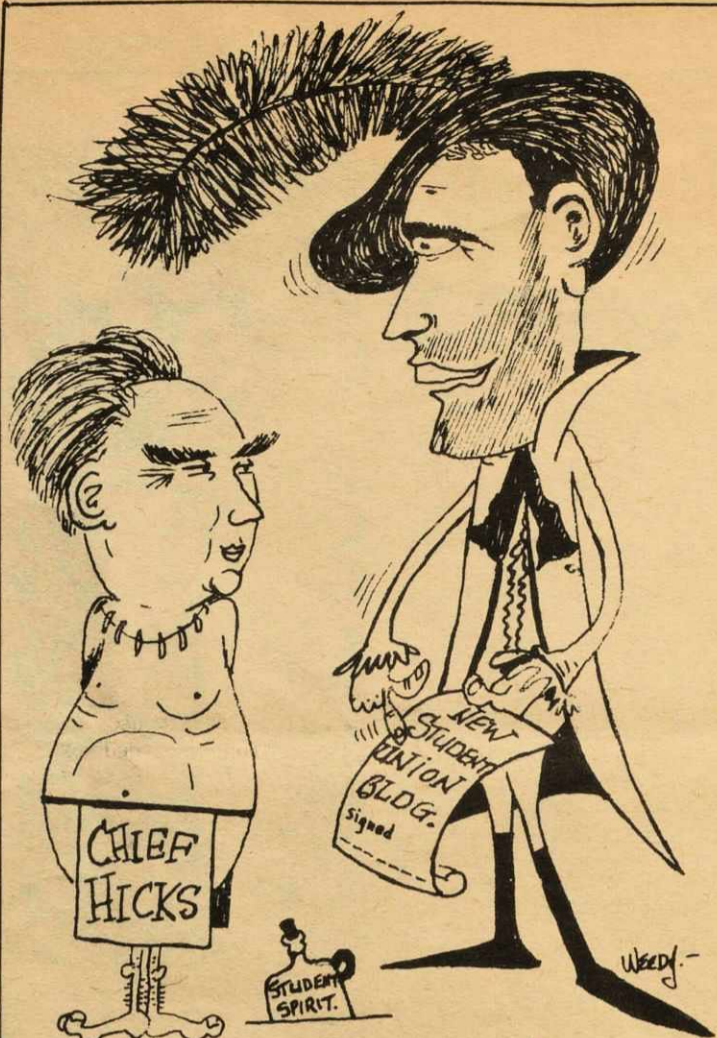


The Dalhousie GAZETTE

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SORRY HERRNOORE, I HAVEN'T GOT A PEN - BUT I'M ALL FOR IT...

"on the best way to melt summer icicles"

Three minutes to read this sincere mumbling — a small fragment of an hour, and that hour a small fragment of a day — another day of failure to re-examine the relationship between Administration, Faculty, Student Council, and the Students themselves.

The three limbs of our "unified" University body grow increasingly apart from one another, distending without co-ordination into eventual uselessness to each other, and thus to themselves.

The administration is today fighting to meet increased students enrollment — but in filling desks with fee-carrying CUS cards, they necessarily sacrifice to the absolute concept of a "total" student body, the individual student, searching for self-expression, experiment, and creativity. We consider here, not the total student population, but the total University Body, consisting of various limbs, co-operating to produce a co-ordinated whole — none of the parts losing contact with another.

The current example of ineffectual co-ordination exists in the Administration's refusal to commit itself to the students on a construction date of the Student Union building. Aware of the SUB campaign's 50 year history, they patiently considered pleas from the SUB fund drive. They realize that Dalhousie students pay nearly one-third of their council fees to the fund, sacrificing \$27,000 in possible alternatives annually, for the benefit of future incoming classes. They realize that more is given annually by the students to a SUB building than is allotted annually for books in the University Library — yet they refuse to offer a definite commitment beyond an impotent agreement "in principal."

The Administration thus refuses to accept the student as a mature and responsible member of the academic community, capable of accepting the University's lack of money — and of accepting the priority given to equally urgent needs, but totally incapable of accepting indecision. Surely the expansion is to benefit these same students and they ask only to know what to expect from their sacrifice.

While the Administration continues to orient itself more towards the American universities' authoritarianism, it regards the students as a single absolute object, rather than an aware group of individuals, and refuses to offer positions on the Board of Governors either to student, or to members of the Faculty.

The Faculty, then, in meeting the expansion, becomes increasingly impotent in deciding University policy.

Invaded annually by swarms of "flabby navels" and expected to meet demands of maximum "plant" efficiency, they apparently exchange University education, a gradual process of experiment and assimilation, for the reproduction of "knowledge" within a classroom's four walls.

Surely the "end" is no mere recital of facts, but rather the dissemination of knowledge. Surely a 55-minute lecture is no end in itself, but only a means to offer knowledge to an individual student. How, then, can a professor achieve this end without understanding the individual?

Supposedly representing these individuals is the Student Council. Here again, expansion has brought an element of impersonality. For only a small number are active, only a small number initiates ideas, and they fail to get co-operation, both from their associate and from the other organs of University government.

These "associates" complain of nuclear ends, but fail completely to define their means. They present no detailed and thought-out philosophy of Student Government. The constituents themselves, in turn, succumb to the paternalism of their Administration and blandly accept a misrepresentative Student Government.

The Administration at the same time peers down from its ivory tower, upon the supermarket of its own creation.

Before it is too late, our present system must be re-examined. Expansion is crucial, but self-expression and creativity — the essence of University life — cannot be prostituted to this "abbatoir". We cannot effectively add flesh to the present structure without adding sinews, strengthening the whole University structure into a unified body.

Perhaps the criticism of the separate limbs of a University body is unrealistic — perhaps the problem is already solved and the body is already functioning with maximum efficiency — or perhaps, my convictions are deeper than the ability to express them.

GOLDWATER and the future

by Michael Vineburg (Special to the Gazette)

Most Canadians watched the recent Republican convention with a mixed attitude of horror and smugness. Adopting a "holier than thou" attitude, we reproached our American neighbours for elevating Senator Goldwater into the race for the presidency. We assured ourselves that such radical views would not receive such widespread prominence in Canada, and commended ourselves on our reasoned detached view of politics.

Could the Goldwater phenom be repeated in Canada? Yes, and in a slightly different context, it will.

American Internal Conditions

To understand Goldwater's appeal, it is necessary, to examine socio-economic conditions which spawned him. The present trends in America have left many dissatisfied. They regard their nation as the strongest on earth, and yet they see its will flouted by inconsequential nations following petty policies. They believe that the spreading federal bureaucracy is encroaching upon their freedom of choice and turning America into a mechanized society. They view with alarm the statistics heralding the new wave of immorality. They worry that the great power of the union bosses, and chiefs of the political machines, combined with the deterioration of the average citizen's values, may turn American democracy into mobocracy.

Senator Goldwater feeds off these anxieties and feelings of discontent.

Canadian Parellel

Although it springs from different causes, the same mood is present in Canada. While America suffers from racial tensions, we are incapable of resolving the issue of biculturalism. While the Americans only talk about re-establishing a balance between federal and state powers, several provincial premiers act to divide our nation. While America has a distinct national identity, we lack any sign of a Canadian "self". While many Americans are dissatisfied with their national policy, three out of every ten Canadians are so discontented that they favour union with the United States.

We have lost faith both in our public figures and in the institutions which must serve us. The emotions which the flag issue has unleashed reflects the discontent and suspicion existing in Canada. Our nation provides a fertile breeding ground for extremism.

In which political party will this trend manifest itself?

Socred and Conservative

Most observers would agree that the supporters of a free enterprise, anti-collectivist viewpoint are generally found in the Social Credit and Progressive Conservative parties.

Social Credit doctrines seems particularly receptive to extremist ideas. As their philosophy is built around a misunderstanding of certain basic economic principles, it is only natural that they should show their ignorance in other areas. Bob Thompson, leader of the "orthodox" Socreds, has been involved in many

right-wing organizations. He has advocated a realignment of the Canadian political parties between left and right to give the people a "choice, not an echo". Real Caoutte has publicly praised Senator Goldwater for his defense of free enterprise and his condemnation of socialism. The general outlook of Social Credit, simplifying everything, into black and white terms, would appear to be the seed-bed of the Canadian brand of right-wing extremism.

The Progressive Conservative party has managed to completely change its image during the past few years. Previous to Mr. Diefenbaker, most Canadians regarded the Tories as bloated capitalists interested only in the maintenance of the status quo.

Under Mr. Diefenbaker's leadership, many would argue that the party has been more progressive than conservative. The Tories augmented social welfare, asserted the government's role in regulating the economy and launched ambitious construction programmes. While resisting needless change, they adopted a progressive outlook in keeping with the nation's needs.

Their philosophy of government is probably expressed by Edmund Burke's famous statement: "the vision to create... the courage to retain".

Goldwater & Tories Differ

Although the Goldwater movement is generally labeled conservative, it cannot be termed such in the Canadian context. There are a few similarities and many differences between the Canadian and American conservatives.

Goldwater conservatism blends American chauvinism and virulent individualism. He appeals to those who wish to exercise American might to the fullest in Cuba, Viet Nam, and China. Those who favour a return to uncontrolable individualism also support him.

On the other hand, the Canadian Tory has generally embraced Burke's notion of traditionalism as the cardinal issue of their faith. The necessity of change must be proven to him before he will accede to it. He desires an ordered society, and harbours an ingrained suspicion of change. In this context, it is easy to understand the conservative's attachment to the British connection, the old flag, the old constitution,

and the old leader — all of which have probably outlived their usefulness.

Rush to the Right

Canadian and American politics are clearly moving to the right. The growing affluence of our society makes this trend inevitable. As wage scales climb upward, people naturally place a higher value on liberty than on security. They do not need the government to protect them from the forces of competition. They become more suspicious of the politicians' attempt to intercede in their lives.

When the citizen can take for granted the necessities of life, they turn their attention to loftier goals — the preservation of their individuality and freedom to chart their own course in life. Freedom from restraint becomes the premier prize.

Left Historical Curiosities

In such an atmosphere, the Liberals and N.D.P., whose philosophy is based upon Depression economics, will find themselves intellectually bankrupt. As hardship breeds collectivism, so affluence breeds individualism. The slogans of the left will become mere historical curiosities as time will pass them by.

The Canadian voter of the 1980's will be faced with two alternatives. He may choose to follow the path of individualism, of laissez-faire, or of responsible conservatism affording equal opportunity to all and aiding those unable to help themselves.

Goldwater, "Progenitor of Affluence"

The political columnists have pictured Senator Goldwater as a throwback to the 19th Century; a man whose views do not reflect the current situation.

This is false.

Senator Goldwater is the inelegant, unpolished progenitor of the age of affluence. The Republican presidential nominee will be defeated next month, but the future cannot be denied. The American people, followed by our own nation, will reach that economic plateau at which it prefers to seek freedom to live rather than freedom from life.

During the past thirty years, the political pendulum has been swinging to the left; it is now swinging back.

