

We Get Polemics...

Student Council Counselling

To the editor

I have only been at Dalhousie University for one month and I have noted a smugness in the Student Council in particular and in the Dalhousie students in general. I went to one Council meeting and I had the feeling that the campus was having its policy decided by a small elite (the Council members) alone with no regard at all for the other 5000 students on campus. I came here and not once did my Arts representative appear or even her name and her address come to my notice until I confronted her at a meeting at Shirreff Hall. They should figure that we freshmen at a glance know if a student is a Council representative or not. Therefore it seems that the representatives are speaking and voting without any consultation with their constituents.

The Council chose all committee members that night from the Council members themselves without any regard to other students on campus. They gave the impression that they were the only ones capable of doing such tasks and that the rest of us were just clods. By this democratic method, they increased their own work load and decreased greatly the

efficiency of Council in general. Most members seemed unsure of facts and wasted time squabbling over details or the constitution.

Our esteemed president seemed to want to hold the reins so tightly that things got rather confused. Mr. Gillis went over the financial matters himself and usually ended up mixing it up and having to ask his Treasurer to explain something. Was not the Treasurer elected to be responsible for and knowledgeable on financial affairs? Granted Mr. Gillis should know about them but should let the Treasurer speak on matters he is responsible for.

Also, some of Mr. Gillis's secretaries were not present and when matters came up concerning their departments the executive did not know the details. If these secretaries are going to execute Council business, they should be there to defend and explain themselves.

It seems now that the present Council has been elected, they forget their electors and us freshmen and try to do everyone's job except their own. They run the whole business on

their own, aloof from the rest of the campus' feelings. Perhaps this could be because the campus as a whole is smug in its own way.

At several "CUS information" meetings, very few students showed up and those that did were either directly connected with CUS or else in the building, reminded on the spot of the meeting. And on October 23, how many students will vote and how many will know really what they are voting on? Will they vote on someone's opinion that is prejudiced or misinformed? And youth want the voting age lowered to 18 in federal and provincial elections! One must learn to accept responsibility along with the rights. People are not going to hand out rights when some group simply asks for them. Show some initiative and interest in student politics, (and not just electing your favorite friend at the spring election for President!)

All over the world there are people starving and in wretched poverty. Right here in Nova Scotia there are people living in tar paper shacks and living on a starvation income. Try driving on some side road outside of some town or city and see for yourself. Underprivileged and handicapped children are suffering due to the lack of human care and understanding! We all protest that the adult world is leading us to destruction and yet very few of us do anything except yell our mouths off and then go back to our books, the booze, the cigarettes and the car. Our whole character and reason is built on sand not rock. There are some who try very hard to do something and I commend these but the rest of us just climb on the band wagon when the protest begins and jump off when the real work begins. What we have been leading up to is the issue on C.U.S. I am not yet fully knowledgeable on C.U.S. yet but it seems to be a concerned union of students who are trying to better their fellow students in problems of housing, employment, curriculum and student rights. In the C.U.S. studies, they go into the economic and social aspects of the Canadian environment looking for answers for themselves and their fellow Canadians in similar distresses. No method is radical until it threatens to use or uses violence or it enforces something evil on (society) to a whole majority. One may consider this selfish but there is no sense to start a world wide campaign to remove hunger, poverty and violence until we our selves are freed of them. We can do more harm by doing a campaign wrong on foreigners than by doing nothing at all, for they will never trust us afterward. Why not let ourselves and Canada as a whole be a social experiment in trying to remove the above in an acceptable, human manner without ruining everybodys dignity at the same time.

In C.U.S. I see a means to start helping our fellow man and here we are ready to vote on its continuance and no one seems interested in even hearing about it. Dalhousie students are just as apathetic and smug as the establishment they are trying to fight. Perhaps this is why the Students' Council disregard us because we are acting like selfish apathetic brats.

Let's all re-evaluate ourselves and work together to form a more efficient council and a more meaningful policy for Dalhousie. Try to reach out to others and know their feelings instead of staying in our own little environment gouging our own mouths, minds and satisfaction.

Larry Baxter

Yeah Tiger Club!

To the Editor

Once upon a time a very small boy yelled a four letter word on a solemn occasion. The naive tot's exclamation elicited a response from his audience very similar to the reaction of most of the campus to your editorial of October 9, Crush the Tiger Club.

The money spent on subsidization of the editorialist's education at Dalhousie would obviously have been better spent on more bleachers, more football players, or on the hiring of a writer for the Halifax Chronicle Herald (the ultimate degradation).

Look, you leader of the masses (as you seem to designate yourself; and

do the masses agree?), if you are going to write editorials which offer constructive criticism, why get your only good point (fill the empty seats earlier) embedded in verbal diarrhea, so that even the anomic amongst your readers can't tolerate you.

Just because Norman Mailer often is capable of using fourletter words and slang to good effect doesn't mean that he is imitating your total mental output. Don't forget that he can write for the academic as well as the agan-glonic (empty-skulled) segments of the population. You can't.

Rod McInnes
5th year medicine.

I'm Me! I'm Different!

To the editor:

This is my first year at Dalhousie and probably my last - I find it a frustrating place for someone who wants to learn. It seems to me that my worth as a person here is dependent on my position on the yardstick of "academic excellence"! This position is determined by my term papers and exams marked subjectively by a prof with opinions and prejudices of his own. I have so far written two Philosophy 100- papers - worked my ass off for both of them and even enjoyed doing it. But for my efforts I got an average mark of 60% - which really hurt. I'm not average in anything I do. I'm me! I'm DIFFERENT! I didn't come here to find out where I stand in relation to other people. I came here for myself - to experience, to discover.

And it's this business of allotting marks that I find so frustrating. Even harmful. We soon get into the pattern of working towards them - instead of working to develop our own selves. Knowledge then becomes objective and not integrated within us.

The answer? TALK. DISCUSSION. PARTICIPATION. Which would con-

tribute to the development of personal outlooks, philosophies, standards. Tutorials are a step in the right direction but there should be more of them. Grads, undergrads, or just interested people could be found to lead them. I had a great Soc. class the other day - we all held hands and let our minds blow - then afterwards we discussed personal reactions. There were 400 kids in that class but that didn't matter - we were all participating, all communicating. Some of the curiosity and interest that had been passive for so long was aroused. And much more effectively than some stuffy old prof standing on his pedestal telling us How It Is. Didn't someone once say that university isn't an education in itself - but should only be a means of getting an education?

This place has such fantastic potential. People - all kinds - coming together - to think, to experience, to discover. Wow! But as it is, I can't fully realize myself here. To "learn" I need Give and Take communication but I'll have to go elsewhere to find it.

Susan Cumming

SUB Pub Club Gets Snub

One of the matters discussed at Thursday's (October 9, 1969) Student Council meeting was the progress of the application for a liquor permit for the SUB. Bruce Gillis informed Council that lawyers were attempting to obtain a "Club Licence" by which the entire SUB would become a "Club". Under such provision doormen (or policemen) would have to be hired to check all ID cards of anyone entering the building. No ID, no entrance (unless one could be signed in by a friend).

This means that all the university secretaries and office staff, all professors and construction workers would be barred from using the cafeteria, thus cutting off a source of wealth for the SUB. All alumni members who come to view the art films or art exhibits would likewise be banned. Members of the alumni are a major source of financial aid for this university. In the past, various rooms of the SUB have been used by members of the local community as a means of showing that we are not an isolated group (as well as getting money for rental). The creating, in effect, of a closed club, would be bad for public relations and renew the old suspicion that the university is an ivory tower for the rich. Therefore the provincial government will be much less sympathetic to requests

for financial aid, and especially student loans (after all, if we can afford a "Club", we can afford to pay the whole cost of our education.) Is there no way that we could get a licence for the Ladies Lounge only, as desired? If we are required by the N. S. Liquor laws to serve food, why not licence the cafeteria, or serve food during drinking hours in the Ladies Lounge? Why not a "Lounge Licence" or even a "Tavern Licence" (but only for a small part of the SUB)?

I understand that St. Francis Xavier has a licence. What is the status of the building or is it all licenced? Also, if the legal drinking age in this province is 21, will this mean that all those under 21 will be barred from using the "Club" (in the entire SUB)?

If the answer is affirmative, then about half the students will be barred from using their SUB.

I hope that we can get a licence for a small area (the Ladies Lounge), as originally requested. If the only licence obtainable is a "Club" licence, then we had better drop the whole idea, or be prepared to face the hostility of university office staff, construction workers, and the general public.

Judson Graham

Keep the S.U.B. Dry

After some thinking on the subject I just had to reach for the pen.

First, I have to admit that in reading the article in the Oct. 3 edition, I heard something about a Ladies' Lounge for the first time (this is my second year), which is most likely due to my lack of attention.

However, I have always been under the impression that the SUB is a place for all Dal students. Although I would be one of the "eligibles", I am concerned about the "poor little ones" who would have to resist this great temptation. Don't they help finance the SUB? I estimate that the great majority of students is under 21 and therefore not allowed in the bar. This means they would be paying for something they cannot participate in and enjoy. It seems to me that a bar would drastically change the atmosphere in the SUB. I cannot help pic-

turing people walking in "zig-zag" throughout the building. A lot of the privacy and the homeliness would be lost.

Also, we appear to have quite a lot of problems maintaining order and control in the SUB and a bar would not be much help in that respect, as I see it. Besides, what about all the friends and neighbours who would like to come?

It is very nice that all students over 21 would "automatically" become members, but maybe there are a few more weird and old-fashioned characters like me on the campus who want their fun away from the "odors" of books, professors and the same old faces.

I sincerely think a bar is a great idea (and it's about time too), but please separate it from the SUB.

Ruth Farago

The Tiger Club is Kinda Lovable

To the Editor,

Last week's football game (X) obviously aroused the same feeling of disgust in you as our Gazette did this week in me. While I agree with you in deploring certain patterns, I feel that your attacks in our Gazette were just as unreasonable.

Having gone to Dalhousie for four years, and been considered a "loser", I'm rather glad that no longer do I have to put up with the nonsense thrown at me by the very highly partisan students of our neighbouring universities.

Admittedly Dalhousie students did not display the maturity that one would have expected of them, but on the other hand, in terms of the student involvement elicited, it is worth the price. Certainly, the first, and I think relatively minor (compared to what has happened elsewhere) incidents should not have met with your excessive display. A good strong editorial would have been much more to the point, and would have greater effect.

You chose the Tiger Club as the object of your editorial. You have disappointed me by waiting so long.

Who has been able to get a basketball ticket lately?

How many people have attended the three Dalhousie football games? 4,000 plus each time.

The rink will be filled every game year, with a winner. 3,000 Dalhousie students can't be wrong. It is a minority of people who do not enjoy a well played athletic event.

Our recent athletic success, such as it is, owes something to the Tiger Club.

The people who have bought seats in the offending section are not necessarily members of the Tiger Club. There are also alumni, faculty and people who would like to have a good seat at a football game. There are also a few who seek to escape being slobbered over and insulted by our drunken fellow students. Those seats, and the opportunity to buy them have been there for a long time, and nobody has complained.

I think your argument is unreasonable. To smother it is your naive, self-righteous and unjust ideas of a class war ('56 v. '70) renders the whole proposition utterly ridiculous.

A reserved seat cost \$8 for the season. Why don't you buy one? Apply early, because Dal is a winner, and that section may well become like Maple Leaf Gardens.

Walter Thompson