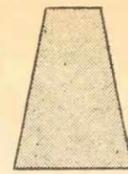


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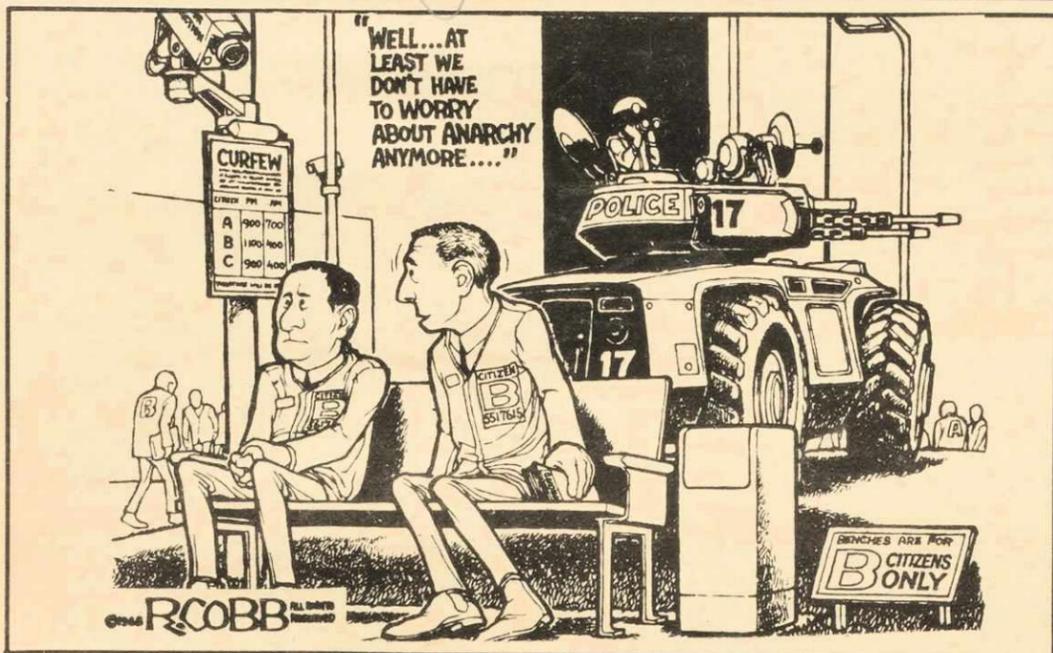
January 15, 1971

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Soc 100 crowded — again

If demonstrations were banned in Nova Scotia, the Sociology 100 class at Dalhousie would be non-existent.

Currently, over 1000 students are attending classes, en masse, in the McInnes Room of the SUB. This great innovation occurred during the first week of January, when classes were combined for the remainder of the term. Classes had previously been held in the Tupper Building and will be moving into the auditorium of the new Art Center.

Dr. Herb Gamberg, who teaches the class, has had previous experience in lecturing to large audiences. Two years ago, he taught a class of 550 students and says that a few hundred more does not intimidate him.

The biggest problem of a class this size, Gamberg says, is the comfort and convenience of

seeing and hearing. He said that the McInnes Room can not handle even 200 students for the purpose of lectures. For his own part as a lecturer, he finds that his movements are confined because of the stationary microphone and he feels he is talking to the mike and not to his audience.

In this type of class, tutors have become a very important element, for it is only through tutors that individual students can be evaluated in terms of developmental processes. Gamberg hopes that there will be a minimum of 10 tutors with no more than 15 students to each tutorial group. In this way, students can discuss their problems and participate in the kind of interplay that is lacking in the lectures. Gamberg has also made himself available to students with problems.

The Sociology Department has been attacked by some students for holding such a large class. However, Gamberg feels that the real issue is being avoided — that is, the lack of qualified staff in the university to handle a Sociology 100 course.

According to him, the alternative to the present situation would be to break the class up into ten sections and be content with a lower standard of lecturers. This would also mean detracting time devoted to other courses in the department.

He also suggested that enrollment could be restricted thus eliminating a large number of undergraduates from taking the course.

Gamberg feels that an attack on the content of the course and not on its size would serve a better purpose. Most of the students in Sociology 100, although a bit overwhelmed the first day, have adjusted quite easily to this unique environment. However, some agree that if it were not for the fact that Gamberg is an excellent professor, they could not tolerate their plight, and might contemplate dropping the course.

The problem of overcrowded classes is not new to the Sociology department. Last year over 700 Sociology 100 students were crowded into KC-1 at the beginning of the year. The room only seats about 450.

After various protests, the class was subdivided once, and eventually again. The Dalhousie NDY, one of the groups protesting the situation, pointed out at that time that approximately half a million dollars was being spent by students to attend that class. Allowing for professors salary, rental of the room, etc., there was a vast amount unspent, at least unspent on that course. Meanwhile, students were forced to stand to listen to a lecture for 2 hours each week.

The situation has not changed

Discipline — Senate style

by Gomer McTavish

The message of encyclical #57 is perfectly clear. The university administration is preparing to take a hard line on any interference with the academic output of Dalhousie University Ltd. For years the university calendar has stated that the Senate is empowered to "use all means deemed necessary for maintaining discipline"; this power has always explicitly included expulsion and suspension.

Encyclical #57 is not a new feature of university policy; the administration is merely restating its policy on discipline for public consumption. Then in a couple of weeks, or a couple of months, when the administration is in the process of using this power, Henry Hicks will go on TV, grimace at the viewing audience at home, and snort "Well, we hate to be this drastic, but after all, they were warned."

Perhaps to set the record straight in advance, we should not forget who it is who has been responsible for every major disruption at Dalhousie in the past three years.

In 1968, Henry Hicks reneged on promises he had made to the students and faculty of the sociology department and rammed a new chairman down their throats, in the process smashing the only democratically organized department in the university. The students reacted defensively by going out on strike.

In 1969, the Sociology 100 class was disrupted by students who were dissatisfied that the university was making literally a quarter of a million dollars off the class while over seven hundred students were jammed

from last year. There are more students this year, and they still keep packing them into one room to listen to a lecture every week. Course content is restricted when such a large class exists. The student is less likely to learn in the extra impersonal environment, unless from the sociological experience of sharing a learning environment with 999 of his peers.

The promise of tutors helps to alleviate the problem, by providing a chance for direct interchange between teacher and student, and between the students themselves. How often tutorials will be held remains a question.

As well, no one has seen fit to explain why the class has not been broken down into small groups with tutors for the entire course, rather than just once every week or two.

into one room, and as a measure of further economy, taught by one professor. The result of this disruption was that the class was divided into sections, funds mysteriously appeared for more professors and graduate assistants, and students could at last find a seat in class. (Now things are back to "normal". See story pg. 1.)

In 1970, in an attempt to stifle democratic change within departments, the Senate brought forth the George Report, which has the effect of insuring that any modification of departmental structure will take at least two years to be approved at all levels of the university bureaucracy.

DISRUPTION OF ACADEMIC AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

On recommendation of Senate Council, the following statement upon Senate's attitude to the disruption of academic functions and other activities within the university was approved:

The University has an obligation to preserve freedom of speech and assembly and to ensure the orderly conduct of its academic functions and other activities within the University;

the Senate therefore records its serious concern with any deliberate disruption, either by staff or by students, of classes, laboratories, organized meetings, administrative or other activities within the University;

the Senate, when it considers it proper, should take, or where appropriate recommend, disciplinary action which may include suspension or dismissal from the University, with respect to any member of staff or student who engages in such deliberate disruption.

Senate Minutes, Dec. 14

Arts Center Opens

The inauguration of the new Arts Centre will, finally, be held this weekend.

The leadoff concert will feature string bassist Gary Karr and will start at 3 p.m. Sunday, January 17.

Construction began on the center last year, with an opening date set for September. Various problems, including labour disputes, postponed the opening until January. But in anticipation of further difficulties, the official opening has been postponed until March.

The centre contains the Cohn auditorium, which holds 1040 people, a small theatre, an art gallery and facilities for the music and theatre departments.

It will be used for Dalhousie events and academic purposes, and will be available for rental by various community and commercial groups for performances.

On the agenda for the centre's main auditorium is Dalhousie University concert series, which found temporary quarters in the McInnis room of the SUB during the fall.

The Koeckert String Quartet and the Canadian Mime Theatre are scheduled for January 24 and 29 respectively. Future events include Ernesto Bitetti, Guitarist, the opera "Cosi Fan Tutte" by Mozart, and Les Grands Ballets Canadiens.

Admission for most events is free, and those which charge admission offer half-price tickets for students.

The Dalhousie NDY presented a brief to the Senate asking that the report not be put into effect until the fall term, so as to give student organizations time to prepare critiques of the Report. The NDY was cut off in the middle of their presentation, and the Report was adopted. The President's office was then occupied with the demand that a special open meeting of Senate be held to reconsider tabling the Report. When the meeting convened, the occupation ended.

It has consistently been the administration of this university that has been ultimately responsible for the major disruptions to take place at Dalhousie. By enacting policies like the George Report, and by deliberately making change as difficult as possible, the administration has made certain that conflicts will continue to arise.

The Senate of Dalhousie University may not believe in deliberate disruption, but it puts a hell of a lot of stock in disruptive deliberation.