The Dalhousie Gazette

Canada's Oldest College Newspaper

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Nixon at a cost

On Saturday, January 20, Richard Milhous Nixon was reinaugurated to serve the people of the United States and indeed the rest of the world, for 4 more years.

During the past four years, Nixon has certainly done his share of serving. He has served the people of Vietnam with tons of bombs. He has served the people of the U.S. with increased unemployment, inflation and Watergate. He has served the press with his personal version of what censorship entails.

Perhaps Nixon did his best job in serving his friends in the Pentagon and corporate structure. Concessions galore were given out to these two groups of "public servants"—all in the peoples' interest, of course.

Not everyone was happy with Nixon's service, though. Latin American peoples and Canadians fought for their identity while Nixon began a blatant take-over in both areas. Nixon tried to serve two delectable Supreme Court judges — only to find that Congress did not approve of the menu. This "man of the year" did much more, but it's probably all "in last week's TIME".

Nixon was all smiles while he attended the five inaugural balls held in his honor. Why shouldn't he be? He has four more years to serve the people. He has four more years to promise things and subsequently deny them.

The White House is one mile from Washington's worst slums. It's 1000 miles from the Michelin Tire Plant in Nova Scotia. Yes, the White House is at least a few thousand miles from the villages of North and South Vietnam.

Nixon can continue to serve the slums with promises of prosperity. He can continue to serve Nova Scotia with assurances that his actions are just. Finally, he can continue to serve the Vietnamese with promises of an end to the destruction of their country.

But, we must remember that the people of the slums have given their dignity. Nova Scotians have given their money and the Vietnamese have given their lives. The real question is when will Nixon really start serving these and other people? When will Nixon make good and stop just giving our menus with high prices?

Or does "The Man of the Year" have to worry about such things?

Soc dispute escalates; Ombudsman investigates

The troubled Sociology/Anthropology Department is sure to become even more divided than it is now in the next few weeks as the investigation into the actions of Professor J.J. Mangalam gets underway. The investigation, being carried out by the Ombudsman's Office at the instigation of the Sociology students, seems to be aimed only at Dr. Mangalam in relation to his treatment of the Graduate programme and its students.

The graduate students have been attempting to make changes since last summer. The dispute began with the arbitrary imposition of the "core programme" on graduate students after they had announced their intentions to study at Dalhousie. This new programme was substantially different from the one which they were led to believe was in effect, and imposed certain standards and restrictions on areas of concentration.

Little consideration was given to their complaints, so as a result, several students dropped completely out of the programme (see Ian Johnson's letter to the GAZETTE, Nov. 24) Five remain in the course and conflicts continued, particularly with Mangalam and Department Chairman Don Clairmont, who refused to discuss the complaints.

Severe deadlines were imposed, and one student, Daniel Lingeman (whose story appears on p. 3) was suspended in the second year of his two-year M.A. programme. Strangely, he was informed of Mangalam's decision within days of signing a letter of opposition to the core programme along with many other students. Harassment has continued throughout the term, even after a "compromise" was reached. Lingeman was given a deadline to complete some assignments for early in the new year and at that time, the Department would make a further recommendation. There hasn't been one yet.

The Department is being attacked from other areas as well. Sly attempts to remove "dissident" and "radical" professors were initially bungled, and faculty meetings since have attempted to improve the hatchet job. But the Department is too badly split. The failure to plant S.D. Clark as Chairman and the inability to dig out the "bad" faculty elements left Chairman Don Clairmont in a rather tenuous position. He subsequently resigned his Chairmanship.

He is still acting Chairman (a successor was supposed to be appointed by January 1) but undoubtably the shots are being called by the master executioner, Dean of Arts and Science, Guy MacLean.

Indicative of this is the fact the entire dispute is being kept as quiet as possible. So it is now up to the Ombudsman's investigation to speed up the resolution of these problems. But it must not confine itself to J.J. Mangalam — the Department from top to bottom must be examined. Last year, the Pouchinsky "affair" was neatly covered. This year, with a better organized Sociology/Anthropology Course Union and a greater understanding of the people and circumstances involved, a whitewash will not occur.

This year, the dispute involves many people. Firstly there is the Graduate student programme and its particular cases; secondly, the tenure cases of Profs. Grady, Schliewen and several others are not being treated according to regulation; thirdly, who wanted S.D. Clarke as Chairman and why; and fourthly, did Don Clairmont resign from the Chairmanship or was he pushed.

This year, it is also doubtful that the Course Union will let "due process" run into exams and the summer vacation. The proper channels game has almost been played to the limit. Sociology Anthropology students will not wait very much longer. Neither will we.

