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A POOR QUALITY COUNCIL

Now that the year is nearly half over, it is perhaps time to assess the work done by this year's Student's Council and to evaluate their accomplishments in the light of their election promises.

This is indeed a hard thing to do for virtually nothing has been done.

Nothing, for example, has been done about plans for a reunion of Dalhousie graduates during the 1962-63 term.

Nothing has been done "to rectify the longstanding problem of co-ordinating extra curricular activities of Forest Campus faculties" with those of Studley Campus.

The report of the Council president which was to be "published regularly" in the Gazette has yet to be seen by any member of the Gazette's editorial staff.

In fact all that can be said of this year's Council is that it is composed of a host of committees. There is a committee to look into the re-establishment of the Black and Gold Society. There is one on the mid-term break. There is one discussing the possibility of university crests in the rink. Another is called the Dance Band Liason Committee. There is also a committee investigating the possibilities of setting up a Public Address system in the canteen.

In examining such a bleak picture the only noteworthy point has been the work of Mike Jennings, Hal MacKay and Heather Hebb. With the exception of these three, the remaining fifteen members of the Council have done nothing.

It would appear to the Gazette that the president and vice-president of the Student's Council have failed to live up to their election promises, and that the Council has been turned into a series of committees whose prime purpose seems to be to do nothing.

We said last year that those who followed Cudmore and Dickson into office would have trouble doing a job of equal calibre, and we worried aloud that Dalhousie might suffer a sharp let-down this year in the quality of its student government.

It is regrettable that our worst fears have turned out to be so well founded.

THE WORLD'S AVERAGE MAN

Incredible as it may seem to us living here in prosperous North America, we are far better off than the World's Average Man. For he cannot read or write. He labours up to fifteen hours a day. He works on land he does not own. He and his family live in huts and they are usually hungry. He will die before he is fifty.

Yet despite his hardships and his sufferings he has great hopes for his children. He hopes that they will be strong and healthy. That they will be able to read and write. That they will earn a good living. That they will live to know the benefits of individual freedom in a peaceful world.

These are the hopes of the Chinese in China, the Negro in the Congo, the natives of

India. They are not merely ideals born out of democracy's womb destined only to live and die here in our Western Paradise.

It would do us well here in the West to realize this. To realize that most of mankind is working towards the same goals as we are and that we should be more tolerant of others' proposals for achieving these ends.

All too often these days our politicians and our diplomats are too quick to close their ears to any suggestions and ideas which are not their own.

It appears that we have lost sight, during the Cold War struggle with Russia, of the most singularly important entity in the world today. We have allowed our battle for power to eclipse in importance the position of the World's Average Man.

And so it would seem to be time that we paused for a moment and reflected on how truly fortunate we are. That we began to channel the efforts of the forces of democracy towards removing some of the hardships and sufferings which are so much a part of the life of the Average Man.

Surely this would be more intelligent, more humanitarian, and a greater product of democracy than spending our days running away from mock bomb attacks.

ELECTIONS INVALID

Last week the life officers of the Class of '62 were elected, with two members of the Law School taking the positions of President and Valedictorian.

The constitution of the Senior Class states that only students who do not already hold a degree are eligible for election to life offices. Both the lawyers hold degrees. For a number of years this rule has been ignored, although it was successfully enforced last year, with the result that no lawyers were elected to office.

There are two issues at stake here: one is that a rule of this nature should be obeyed unless revoked by members of the Senior Class - it is perhaps not unreasonable to expect law students to recognize this; and secondly that the rule in itself is a good one.

Members of the Medical Dental and Law Schools are all entitled to vote in this election, although very few can hold offices. In fact it is very rare to see meds or dents at the election meeting.

However, it seems strange that people who either barely know or have never met members of the senior undergraduate class, should be permitted to elect life officers of the Graduating Class of the undergraduate school. It can be argued that this Class embraces doctors, dentists and lawyers, but, if so, something seems to be seriously at fault.

We would suggest therefore that the elections held last week are invalid, and that the time has come when members of the professional schools should seriously consider forming graduating classes of their own.

LITTLE MAN ON CAMPUS



"WELL, THEN, IF YOU'RE NOT A MUSIC MAJOR - WHAT'S THE SINGLE FOR?"

The Critical Eye

Freshmen Standards Too Low

A recent examination of a study prepared for the March 1962 Canadian Conference on Education reveals that only one Canadian in three finishes high school, compared to two-thirds in the United States, and that only eight out of every one-hundred enter university. These statistics coming at such a crucial time in history have aroused great concern among our educational administrators.

Facts indicate that two-thirds of our labor force lack the basic education required for skilled and professional work. This undereducated two-thirds must then compete for the one-third of the nation's jobs that are open to the unskilled or semi-skilled workers. We have also been informed that education and training will become more and more important as the large population of students now entering secondary school begin to compete for initial employment which is becoming increasingly technical.

We may conclude from these facts that Canadians at present are not interested in encouraging their children to remain at school, are apathetic to our entire educational system and are more interested in drawing unemployment insurance than in training the minds of their children so that they may reach the university level.

In part we sympathise with these people, for we too are not rejoicing at the academic high-school standards which prevail today. If this is to be a technological age, an age of dividing and specializing labor, then we view with great concern the lack of more private and governmental aid to needy high-school students. The presence of improved guidance programs, with an emphasis on the value of a college education, and a carefully considered master plan, to be drafted by management, labor and government, for national manpower needs in the new age of automation are also becoming a necessity.

We urge such actions in order to have more mature students reach the necessary Grade XI required for entrance to the colleges, thus giving universities a greater variety of students from which to choose. For in our opinion a great number of this year's freshmen at Dalhousie are still too immature to be at university.

We should like to see more freshmen satisfy higher university requirements than presently prevail. This, supplemented by a first semester orientation programme, would be far better than having a class of sophomores who have obtained credits for most courses with a bare 50% and yet still remain uninitiated to the ways of college.

It is for such reasons that we would like to see Dalhousie's entrance requirements being raised to 65% average with at least 60% in any single subject for which a credit is desired, irregardless of whether such person be a freshmen or sophomore.

Such a move would, in our estimation, encourage many Canadians to participate more actively in solving our high school educational problems.

One result would obviously be the complete revision of the high school system as it stands today. If college entrance is going to be made more difficult, educators will have to meet this challenge by creating and improving courses in elementary and secondary schools to prepare the unwary students for what lies ahead of them.

At present, students attending high schools find themselves faced with little to encourage them in their efforts to attain an education which will be of use to them in the outside world. If university standards are raised, the high school system will be revised out of sheer necessity, and not only will the students, but the country as a whole will benefit from this move.