



Student Power

Cooperative effort is the key

The following article was submitted this summer to Dalhousie Comment, the Dalhousie Administration's magazine, by A.R. Smith, President of the Student Union.

To some, student power conjures up the darkest of images. Synonymous with student activism are Berkeley, Columbia, Simon Fraser, demonstrations and disturbances. An objective analysis of the changing role of the student and student unions in a changing society is often lost in the subjective reaction to the personal discomfort caused by changing conditions.

By A. RANDALL SMITH

PRESIDENT, DALHOUSIE STUDENT COUNCIL

Here, at Dalhousie, student power is projected in a more positive form. A student-planned and financed project, such as the new Student Union Building (to be opened in November) bears witness that not all is nihilistic and negative. The scope of student responsibility and resourcefulness is attested, not only in the physical presence of the S.U.B., but in a host of activities on campus, of benefit to the entire university community.

SAME ROOTS

It is true, however, to say that the negative disturbance and the positive creation emanate from the same root causes. Both are symptomatic of the growing social consciousness of the university student and his deep desire to affect the environment of which he is a part.

Those who seize on the extrinsic phenomena of the violent demonstration and the dramatic confrontation as evidence that students are an immature, ir-

responsible lot, are as guilty of misconception as the irresponsible individual who counsels violence and destruction of the social order as the means to create the new order.

It is a single characteristic of our age that the sensational and the superficial are seized upon as the substance. Nowhere is this more readily manifested than in the quick ability of the public to judge university students by the vocal minority who have anointed themselves as the vanguard of the new revolution — to the detriment of the university as a whole. The inchoate turmoil periodically evidenced in the marches, rallies and demonstrations, is the symptom, not the root.

OUT OF TOUCH

The frustration of the student is most acute in the case of his immediate environment, the university. Prime Minister Trudeau, Senators Eugene McCarthy and the late Robert F. Kennedy have attested to the growing acceptance of university students as a sensitively sophisticated and politically attuned force that cannot be ignored. The Business Community has launched a massive campaign to re-institute a means of communicating with the university graduate, circa 1968. Yet, many within the university community itself subscribe to Stephen Leacock's dictum that the outspoken and critical students should be dealt with by putting them in jail, and sending them a Latin grammar book and a prayer book.

Today's university student sees the university not as a knowledge factory but as the time in their lives for broadening expanding horizons, and keen questioning and analysis of values. So do many others in this community of scholars; but students get the distinct impression that our previous generation rather expects us to do some soul-searching,

critical analysis; and then re-affirm the existing structures and institutions. Simply propounded, this sounds patently ridiculous; but after long and endless analysis this is how it appears to the youthful.

DISTORTION

The vocal demands of students to be represented in the decision-making and policy planning and direction of university affairs is translated by some to mean students want to run the university. This is distortion of the truth. Students want to be full citizens in this community, and history has taught them that rights are not preserved in a vacuum. Without enfranchisement students recognize that they are voiceless for, no matter how enlightened and benevolent others may be, paternalism is a static state in a dynamic society. Hence they seek formal recognition by acceptance on the policy-making bodies of the university.

More important, they seek a voice in setting the course upon which they must travel. Students want to set the goals of their own lives. They want to give voice and reality to their dreams and aspirations.

TWO-SIDED

Many years ago, Sir Francis Bacon wrote: "Young men are fitter to invent than to judge; fitter for execution than for counsel; and fitter for new projects than for settled business."

Becoming full citizens of any community means accepting responsibility as well as receiving rights; assuming duties as well as appropriating privileges. Neither the paternalist of the revolutionary can accomplish what the community can do when the members of that community decide to work together for a better way of life.

College Campus Cooking Column...

the

Chairman Bagg

"Jackhammer"

For some months now, those of us who devoutly scan the pages of all the American women's magazines have noticed an ever -- increasing tendency on the parts of food editors to reveal to their readers the favorite recipes of current Public Figures.

We are aware, to the point of intense boredom, of the fact that Richard Nixon has an obsession for flaming brandied fruit for dessert after his dinner; that Hubert Humphrey has a soft spot for his wife's home-made chocolate cake; that Lyndon Johnson dines frequently and enthusiastically upon barbecued Texas steer steaks which, he claims, no one can prepare in quite the same way as can Lady Bird.

As Canadians, our reaction to this trend has been one of characteristic apathy. Why, we ask, has no one taken the trouble to investigate the range of delicacies which delight M. Trudeau? Does his adept bilingual palate quiver at the thought of steaming

coq au vin, or has he a secret weakness for Hungarian goulash? Since we at the Gazette have not had the opportunity to speak with M. Trudeau about this matter, we have decided to tackle a Public Figure somewhat closer to all of our readers at Dalhousie -- Robert Bagg, the Chairman of the Orientation Committee for 1968.

During a brief interview with Mr. Bagg, whose busy schedule had not allowed him to eat his lunch until four P.M., we discussed the subject of food. (Bagg, incidentally, was eating peanut butter sandwiches a la Saran Wrap at the time, but assured us that this was a matter of desperation rather than of preference.) He seemed at a loss to choose a favorite dish from among the many foods which he enjoys. However, when the talk shifted to drink, a wistful look came to his eye, and shortly thereafter he gave us the recipe for his favorite drink, known as the Jackhammer.

"Jackhammer"

1/2 oz. elderberry wine
 1/2 oz. vodka
 1 oz. apple cider
 1 oz. thick cream
 1 teaspoon sugar

Shake ingredients in shaker with 3 drops of white vinegar. Pour over cracked ice in a highball glass. Garnish with a cocktail onion.