

Motto of L'AGEUM
"Service for the Student and for the Nation"

BY TERRY MORLEY
 We may be at the beginning of a new era for Canadian institutions of post-secondary education if our "separatist" friends from Quebec continue to be successful in spreading the gospel of "Student Syndicalism". The University of Toronto, more pro-French Canadian than Laval, is following the action on lines similar to those of a trade union. Jean Bazin, President of the Canadian Union of Students, has referred to University administrations as, "the monster", and even our own Peter Herrndorf has recognized that a change has taken place with student government. Could this French Canadian revolutionary movement ever come to Dal's staid campus... and whether it does or not, just what is "student syndicalism"?

Student syndicalism, as this article explains, is a French-Canadian idea for turning student governments into dynamic organizations analogous to trade unions. University students form a union in order to gain recognition for themselves as legitimate members of society who fulfill the useful social role of learning. The "syndicat" or union strives to gain for its members the privileges that go with full citizenship in society, such as a vote, and a right to a decent living as young intellectual workers. At the same time student syndicalists believe that students should use their collective power as a pressure group to help solve social problems unrelated to education. They feel, that even though it is necessary for any interest group to fight for better conditions for itself, it is also necessary for that interest group to recognize itself as an interdependent party of the total community. In this way student syndicalists propose to make the voice of the student much more effective in the nation.

"Hillis Hash-up"

THE first draft of the new student constitution is a total disappointment. The Constitution Committee composed of Law students Hillis and Hurst, has quite obviously not given credence to the experience of other universities. The constitution continues to be filled with meaningless verbiage about the powers of the Senate of this university (as defined by provincial statute) and thus it wallows in the slough of obedience to the paternal dictates of the "adult" administrators. The ideas "stolen" from other universities, to use Mr. Hillis' own words, are almost without exception completely inept, while the ideas whose genesis is the committee are without precedent and without sense.

THE following are some of the more obvious examples of bungling.

(1) THE "Student Treasurer Committee" consisting of a Student Treasurer, the Campus Co-ordinator, the Publicity Chairman, and the Commerce representative on the Council of Students, seems to be a catchall of ill-mixed bedfellows thrown together to satisfy some type of ancient patronage system. It is beyond the Gazette why the Campus Co-ordinator and the Publicity Chairman, both extremely busy student officials, should be burdened further with the function of "watch-dog" of the expenditures of student organizations. Surely it would be more sensible for the Business Managers of the major organizations to be appointed to the committee as assistant Treasurers. These are the people who should be concerned with finance.

(2) THE position of Second Vice-President is retained without any justification for its existence. Under the old constitution this position was always filled by a woman, presumably because the women found this the easiest path to representation. In the new constitution anyone, male or female can fill the position. Vice-Presidents are traditionally given such nebulous duties that they perform no function at all. The post of second Vice-President should be abolished.

(3) ALTHOUGH an executive committee is mentioned at several points in this voluminous document, no where is there a clause actually constituting such a body. We are assured by Hillis that this is just an oversight and that actually the executive is set up as under the old constitution. The problem is that Dalhousie has now reached the size where it is imperative that we follow the example of the older "multiversities", like the University of Toronto and put administrative people on our student government executive.

THE Gazette feels that our executive should consist of the President, the Vice-President, the Student Treasurer, the Publicity Chairman, the Campus Co-ordinator, a Publications Commissioner, and -perhaps most important - an External Affairs Commissioner who would be responsible for CUS, AMS, WUSC and all other aspects of our relations with the student community in Canada. We say, "most important" because certainly one of the most disheartening items in this dismal constitution is the crude attempt to downgrade the position of the CUS Chairman, and hence an organization which needs all the support it can get in important campaigns (such as the one to "freeze the fees".)

(4) SINCE it is undoubtedly necessary to appoint (rather than elect) the administrators on the executive to ensure at least competent mediocrity in fulfilling their duties, this action should be balanced by abolishing the position of member-at-large which has become nothing more than an at-large which has become nothing more than a senatorial appointment for members of the Dal Law School, (that grey-thralldom of bureaucratic competency.)

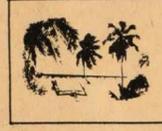
(5) THE proposal that the Constitution committee annually define the duties of the executive is a ludicrous and nasty bit of politics. The excuse offered by Hillis that the committee did not want to be in the position of laying out hard and fast rules for the executive is feeble; the whole idea of constitutions is to determine the power relationship between the various political organizations within the community. It may be difficult to determine these relationships but it is surely necessary to put them on something more than an "ad hoc" basis.

THESE are but a few of the blatant errors present in this first draft of our new constitution. There are, of course some good things about the draft, the chief of which is the campus "redistribution". The various faculties are to receive representation on the Council on the basis of their percentage of the total student body. Although this will mean that a couple of the tiny faculties will only be able to have a speaking representative without a vote, nonetheless it is important to remember that the concept of representation by population is crucial to the idea of democracy. In any democratic society individuals must be the basic unit of political decision-making.

BUT this one good innovation does not redeem the draft. Nothing less than a major repair job can be contemplated by Council when it meets this Sunday. There must be some thought by Council about a philosophy of student government (not necessarily the one presented elsewhere on this page, though at

least some of the ideas of student syndicalism are correct) but a philosophy which will make clear the role of the Council of Students within our Student Body framework.

WE expect Peter Herrndorf and his Executive to provide the necessary leadership in order that Dalhousie may have a viable constitution for the coming years.
 --- T.M.---



THE all new student register which recently fell into our frantic grasp for originality must be unanimously recognized as a masterpiece of world literature.

ITS immortal leaves provide a symbolic record of all that is great in the Maritimes. With the creativity of Hansard, the authoritativeness of Dick Tracey's "Crime Stoppers Text-book", the slashing wit of the Truro Telephone Directory, and the typography of the Amherst Daily, with astounding objectivity it delicately barges its way from the brief auto-biographies of Abbott, Alan, to Zwicker, Milton.

ITS very very late publication, halfway through the college year must be intentional; it demonstrates the authors firm grasp on the mutability of student fortunes. Its irregular, wobbling lines, its computerized symbols, its brilliant colors represent the intricately convoluted cortex of a masterbrain.

WITH this monumental epic to the mundane the student bard has done for the boring, what Homer did for the Greeks, Virgil for the Romans and Dante for God. No emasculation of the Anglo-Saxon tongue, this Gargantuan work will be remembered as a stirring challenge to future Directory Editors.

WHILE the intolerant might complain that Moses only took forty days it must be remembered that this former writer only had ten entries, allowing four days for each (at this rate our 64-65 directory would not have appeared before 1978), and was the whole time acting more as a copy-boy than as a true editor.

ON behalf of every student at Dalhousie we extend our heart felt thanks to the creator, sustainer, and savior of this handbook. Its entries are indelibly scorched into the tablets of our minds.

Or
 The
 Sneaky
 Stud

JAMES Bond, secret agent licensed to kill, is the sort who slips into an alley with his ethnic counter spy, the corpulent unscrupulous, and acne-ridden Ivor Bronzedenk... the evil Ivor offers the virile Jimmy a light, and always careful to avoid secret hidden drugs, 007 is careful not to inhale the deadly butane... but weakened from holding his breath, he gets bludgeoned by Ivor's even less sanitary valet, Isidore.

PERHAPS more pitiful than the movie, however, is the audience. With every inevitable conquest of clinical good over dirty evil, the audience puffs its collective breast, and looks forward to its next encounter with that sweaty satanic beach-God forever kicking sand in its collective face. A truly new breed of men daringly emerge from the theatre throw their tickets stubs on the shifty pavement, rip open the doors of their gleaming Plymouths, coolly and heartlessly in the battle of survival, they switch on their headlights, and with the wind searing their leathery faces, brutally pummel the asphalt between Gottingen Street and Spryfield.

GADGETRY not guile or guts makes Goldfinger palatable.

IF that sentence is gimmicky, it is only an appropriate way to treat the latest movie version of Ian Fleming's neo-westerns. Our fascination is with an affluence grown absurd as, conditioned by an increasing freedom to travel and spend, we gladly escape into the chic byways and boudoirs of a luxury world.

AFTER all, Bond himself is no inducement; despite his worsted suits, unfailing taste in wine, and unquestioned gambling skill, 007 is basically a boob. The original mechanical man, he fudges the assignment, seduces the less than alabaster virgin, and obliterates this edition's Odd-Job—all with a metallic equanimity. The big problem is he's both stuffy and stupid.

THE real hero is Bond's car, a gleaming Aston-Martin. The only character with both style and substance in the movie, it boasts a fantastic equipage including dual machine-guns beneath the headlights, razor-sharp hub caps to shred a pursuer's tires, and a passenger seat which ejects its occupant if he happens to look like an ex-member of the Viet Cong, work for Goldfinger, and be holding a pistol to Bond's throat.

BUT grandiose consumer toys, an array of pseudo-scientific gear, and stylish spas or hideouts are only so fascinating. By the end, no one really gives a damn whether the whole town of Fort Knox is gassed to death or whether Goldfinger does finally break the bank. Will the scene be more spectacular than the gilded ladies, golden Rolls-Royces, and pernicious laser rays which preceded it? Since the answer is no, the movie ends with an anti-climatic thud (or, rather, rustle); Bond and girl assume their usual, final positions beneath a parachute.

BUT since people love to watch gyrations - whether sexual or mechanical - however vacuous the context, Goldfinger will fill up theaters. And if you go, as you undoubtedly will, best lubricate yourself with a spot of wine. Chateaufeu du Pape '55, perhaps?

- Bartholomew Stud. -

PRESENT THEORY OF STUDENT

The theoretical construction of student syndicalism begins with a theory of the student. In Canadian universities the present role of the student is that of pure consumer. He passively collects the masses of data dictated by his professors. Examinations do not evaluate the development of his creative potential but only his fidelity to the formal curriculum. The student is not trained to transform the learning (he consumes) into something he can use in a socially responsible way. In this way he becomes alienated from his own studies, he is socially irresponsible, and hence he is rendered a dependent of society. The student depends on "aid - state aid, private aid, and family aid - for his existence. It is considered preferable to aid the student rather than remunerate him for work done within his social role. Our society does not recognize the student as having a role, an integral part in the social cosmos, preferring to treat him as privileged parasite.

Essentially, student syndicalism stems from a basic rejection of this philosophy. In its search for a new philosophy, or, if you like, in the search for a new student ideology, consideration is given to redefining just exactly what a student is. Because students share certain common experiences it is possible to describe the student world as an original and autonomous grouping defined by its function i.e. intellectual labour. Thus the student himself, is a young intellectual worker, placed, as a worker in the mainstream of the community making him in addition an active and responsible citizen with a definite societal role.

A DEFINITION

Keeping these things about the student in mind it will now be instructive to examine a description of student syndicalism itself. According to Serge Joyal, in a paper presented to the founding conference of the Union Generale des Etudiants du Quebec (UGEQ) "student syndicalism defends the economic and social interests of the student, it makes the student aware of his power in the social, political, and economic realms; it helps him to understand the solidarity of all segments of society, be they intellectual workers or manual workers; it is the directing force towards the socialization of the student; it integrates him within the nation by giving him the status of young intellectual worker, and thus of a fully participating active, responsible citizen; it transforms the intellectual conditions of the students task so that the school will no longer be on the margin of society."

Brave new words, but rather vague for all their revolutionary

fervour. It is necessary to look at the actual program of the student syndicalists, in order to fully appreciate the impact that the movement may very well have on the Canadian scene.

ROLE OF STUDENT COUNCIL

The student's council in the traditional university is analogous to the guild. It has no views on education, no long range philosophy; it initiates no reforms binding on succeeding councils and hence is unable to initiate many of the reforms that are most urgently needed. It does not insist on analyzing the underlying causes of social problems or students' problems, it seeks only short term solutions. The council is responsible for running dances, organizing carnivals, and appointing specialized student leaders (eg. the editor of the college newspaper). There is no general scheme of student activity, dynamism and direction

depend upon the individuals in charge. This minoritarian group is considered by student syndicalists to be utterly introverted alienated from evolution in teaching or change in society.

LAUNCHING OF SYNDICATE

The program of student syndicalism is aimed directly at this sterility of conventional student government. The first goal of the student council is to serve the students. This service must be based on the needs of the student as a young intellectual worker, and as a citizen of the nation. Thus the services must be primarily concerned with working and living conditions, and with the integration of the student into the community. The services are usually grouped under three headings:

1. Financial Services: scholarship's discounts, cafeterias, vending machines, fee reductions etc.
2. Educational Services: debates, conferences, lectures, publications, newspapers, clubs, etc.
3. Cultural Services: art center, theatre, etc.

FILMS

new concept in censorship

A recent news item reported does not prevent production. Ec-tat in Finland a new concept in onomic dictatorship is a meg-censorship is to be tried. Motion pictures will be taxed according to quality. If the film is judged "artistically or ethically poor", a tax equivalent to 30 per cent of box-office receipts of theatres showing the film will be levied. Otherwise, the tax will be only 10 per cent. The plan applies only to "entertainment" films, scientific, educational, documentary, children's, and news films are exempt.

When I first read the report I was enthusiastic. It didn't take long to realize, though, that like most forms of censorship, it's fine so long as you yourself can do the censoring, but far from fine if someone else whose ideas are entirely different is doing it. In reality, the Finnish graded tax perpetuates the real evil of censorship that is, it tends to reduce all artistic production to the lowest common denominator. In fact, it is doubly effective in doing so, for while exhibitors are in many cases lured by the magnet of fat profits to screen films of high artistic merit through non-moral (rather than amoral) ethical standard, the prospect of having the profits confiscated by the government for the 30% variety will invariably cause them to shun the product. If no one will screen them, no one will bother making them, and a whole area of creativity (bad as it may be in many cases) is cut off at the source. At least the present banning system

Nothing was said in the news release about how (or by whom) the movies are to be judged. It seems obvious that the imposition of a list of rules is futile. mechanical application if rigid would tend to tax everything at the higher rate, and if lax, would by its erratic behaviour infuriate anyone who stopped to think about what was being done. It would be difficult to find professional people in the realm of the arts willing to serve on a committee to judge each film on its own merits. A committee of civil servants would be a sorry substitute. The only manner in which the plan might work would be to have audiences vote on the merits of the film after each performance, which would be objectionable not only to exhibitors but to audiences as well, and of course, impossible to administer.

It appears, then, that the Finnish plan is as undesirable as any other censorship scheme. Only if the tastes of all the people (including that curious breed, the exhibitors) are sufficiently homogeneous could such a scheme ever be popular, and it would always tend to eliminate the unusual, even though better, film from public consideration. It also opens the way for some startling new interpretations of the terms "documentary" and "educational" film. At any rate, Finland's experiment is intriguing.

LETTERS TO THE GAZETTE

Dear Sir,

I too, like Professor G.V.V. Nicholls would like the use of your columns to say a few words. Prof. Nicholls reminds the Gazette of its responsibilities, and requests greater coverage of cultural events. As a Dalhousie graduate, and long-time reader of your newspaper, I have long been meaning to congratulate you and your staff for your coverage in this field.

The Gazette in past years, lacking both talent, and interest, has considered these events as "sub-standards" news, replacing them with uninformed and prejudiced articles on the "Sino-Soviet Split" etc. and has only this year demonstrated a University calibre interest in art, music, literature, etc.

Admittedly more could be done in this direction, but the University community must not forget, that the Gazette is not a literary journal, nor is it merely a publicity organ.

You are to be congratulated on a very broad step in the right direction.

Yours truly,
 Donald MacEachern, M.A. 64

Dear Sir,

It was very fine to see the picture of Herrndorf on the front

page of the last Herrndorf Edition of the Gazette. The uninformed will now be sure to recognize Herrndorf. More pictures of the Grappler himself would certainly be appreciated by Gazette readers. Maybe we could even have one of Herrndorf with his friend who runs a house of ill-repute in Halifax. That would really be exciting!! Herrndorf is quite a dynamic person, and so Herrndorf is bound to have a wide influence. I suppose this is why Herrndorf's name appeared so often in the Herrndorf edition of the Gazette.

Santa's name also appeared many times in the "Herrndorf Edition". I wish we could see more about Santa, and about Herrndorf all year.

"Sincerely"
 Matt McPherson.

Dear Mr. Barbour:

I have just finished reading your article in the Gazette of Nov. 6th on the subject of the so-called "Declaration by Canadian Women."

You are probably aware that since this "Declaration" started to be circulated early in May of this year it has been almost unanimously denounced by Canadian newspapers and rejected by Women's organizations. Not

one single organization in this country has endorsed the Declaration. It has been turned down by:

The Board of Women of the United Church of Canada, The Consumers Association of Canada, The Catholic Women's League, The Voice of Women, The National Council of Women as well as the Toronto, Montreal, British Columbia, and Manitoba Councils of Women, The Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire, The National Council of Jewish Women, The Farm Women's union of Alberta, The Federated Women's institutes of Canada, Information and Stewardship Board of the Anglican Church of Canada.

As a sometimes literary editor and editor-in-chief (1948-49) of the Dalhousie Gazette, I was pleased indeed to read your thoughtful observations on the Declaration and its extremes and negative criticism of the national broadcasting service.

Yours sincerely,
 Jack Lusher,
 Director of Public Relations,
 Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

