

## Red and White

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## A WELCOME

"We who have preceded you welcome you"

Burdened by the largest Freshmen registration in its history, the facilities of the university are being subjected to a most rigorous strain. In our welcome to you, the class of 1961, we would like to remind you that you have taken upon yourselves the responsibilities of being students in the truest sense of the word. This means that it is your bounden duty to strive with all possible effort for academic success. If an honest effort is made at this by you, our present Freshmen class, (and this could be extended to the upperclassmen), not only will you ease this strain on the university, but you will have a good feeling of accomplishment.

Again it must be remembered that our responsibilities extend to our fellow man. We are the selected ones in our society who are to guide the future generations through the unknown paths which lay ahead. If the present world situation is any indication of what we are to face, now is the time to roll up our sleeves and get to work. Now is the time to drop this shroud of complacency which has been a thorn in the side of the democracies. Now is the time to throw off that decaying habit proper to the same, of reacting only when faced with possible extinction, and adopt the spirit which brought about our present democratic system — a spirit of constant struggle.

With these words we welcome you to your new role and hope and pray you will shoulder your new responsibilities well, in a manner befitting a college student.

### WE'RE AT IT AGAIN

With this edition *Red & White* begins its second year of publication. We might yet be called a "babe in arms," but our role is a vital one and not to be trifled with. The power of the press is unlimited. It all lines you with the old saying: "The pen is mightier than the sword." We have an integral function to play in the lives of the students, and we must do it well.

However, in a democracy as ours every citizen must play his part, both for the system to succeed and to prevent establishment of a totalitarian state. So too, with our own system, in order that this unit of the student press does not fail in its functions, and that it does not become the voice of a few in power, there must be a live interest by the students. We as students must play our roles in our own domain, for if not here, what will we do when we enter the world "outside," no longer protected by the relative security of the academic life.

Therefore, as students, we cannot remain shackled to our books and oblivious of our own academic domain, and even more so, the outside world.

*Red & White* is your voice in both world and student affairs. It is a most powerful and influential organ, and it is your prerogative, rather duty, to use this student publication to prevent apathy and decay in the political and academic domain.

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## At Long Last

Congratulations to the Student Union executive for their part in the adoption of the revised Constitution. This action has been neglected by the last two executives for a variety of reasons unknown by anyone save themselves. The actual revised copy has been lying around comparatively untouched as far as results go for the last two years.

The wisdom of the suspension of the 2/3's clause of Article 13 was much appreciated in many quarters. This will facilitate ironing out in a renovated fashion the few difficulties which remain.

Once again we offer congratulations to the executive, coupled with the sincere hope that this action is only a small indication of their activity in the coming year.

### SEPARATION — THEN WHAT?

Have the High School boys won a pyrrhic victory? Following a recent announcement by their principal that they are now no longer a part of our Students' Union — a goal for which they had fought for many years — the boys formed their own Union with a system of government paralleled to ours.

In principle, this idea is obviously to their advantage since the boys can now govern and manage their own affairs. But in practice, reliable information has reached us stating that there is a great deal of dissatisfaction among them, especially in the lower grades.

The greatest complaints appear to be over the manner in which the executive officers were nominated and elected, and the constitutional clause which limits the election of a president by ballot only to the Grade XII boys and similarly of the vice-president only by the Grade XI boys.

However paradoxical this situation may seem, we can only hope that a reasonable agreement can be reached so as to quell any form of dissatisfaction. We do feel that the advantages of an autonomous government will far outweigh any minor disadvantages, and in view of this we sincerely express our hopes that the new high school students' union will achieve every possible success.

## Letters To The Editor

Opinions expressed in this column are not necessarily the opinions of this paper. Whether we agree or disagree they will be published nevertheless, subject to necessary editing or condensation.

### VIVE LA CONSTITUTION!

After many long years of suffering through the terrors of Medievalism and the Dark Ages, a rebirth of the Renaissance has descended upon Saint Dunstan's University. From the doldrums of despair and despondency we have been delivered to a most optimistic future, a future of greater participation and understanding in our student government. This deliverance has been achieved through the discovery of a long forgotten manuscript which has found its way into our hands after having moulded for many years in the lost archives of a bygone era. Doubtless, this manuscript has been subjected to many slight changes in its countless translations at the hands of the Monks who have preserved it to this day, but we are assured that, except for the thirteenth article, this document is ready to go into immediate effect and will prove itself to be of outstanding worth and merit.

We have been warned, however, by one of our older citizens, Mr. John Noonan, who was responsible for the discovery of this all-important document, that it will take years of practical experience before this constitution will achieve its peak efficiency. We have also been warned that the presaid document will, in fifteen years, be in need of a few translation for the benefit of our immediate heirs.

An Avid Constitutionalist.

### STUDENT CRIES "WOLF"

Dear Sir:

During the last war a lot of allies went overseas and a lot of those who went over never came back. They fought for

and they died for democracy. They gave their lives for us, you and me, that we might be free and able to practice our religion, express our opinions, etc. They lie in Flanders fields so that government of the people, by the people and for the people would not perish from our soil. They died so that we could live, free from the lash of totalitarian government.

Why do you seek to sell their lives so cheaply? Why try and make their sacrifice a mockery? The fact that the cancer of Communism is festering at the very basic principles of democracy does not seem to bother you. Every time we fail to live up to our obligations as members of the community, we are leaving the door open to those who wish to complete the job the Nazis failed to finish.

Last week, Wednesday 27th September, the Students' Union of St. Dunstan's University tried to hold a general assembly. I say tried because there was not a quorum present. As a matter of fact, when the Chairman called the assembly to order only 211 people were present, considerably less than was necessary to constitute a quorum since the meeting was held under the rules of the old Constitution which included the High School quotient. Therefore, technically the Old Constitution is still in effect.

The Senior class is the smallest class at S.D.U. This is understandable, but what defies belief is the extreme gullibility of the new Freshman, the old Sophomores and the comparatively ancient Juniors. Are you all too naive to appreciate and take advantage of your numerical superiority? Do you realize that, at the last so-called general assembly, every student who said as much as "boo" was a Senior? No other person, with the exception of the faculty advisor dared to speak. The minority group completely controlled the course of all proposals. This is how Communism is spreading. Control of the masses is exercised by a small



minority and the majority of the ruled are either too naive or too stupid or too disinterested to do anything about it.

How many of you realize that at the last "general assembly" you sold away your rights to fully participate in student government? Did you know that the executive need not hold another assembly until next year unless, of course, you force them to do so by the use of signatures? And judging by the last meeting you do not have anyone with enough initiative or enough intestinal fortitude to lead you against the trickle of Senior ambition.

It is fortunate for you, that a general assembly will have to be held soon in order to amend the Constitution to include CFCUS in our list of organizations. It seems that someone forgot all about this little plaything; although considering the fun they had with it at the meetings last year, this is hard to understand. If this slip had not been made, do you realize that the students executive had the right to hold closed sessions where they can "accomplish" things without the necessity of your approval? As it stands now though, in order to give even a semblance of democratic government, a general assembly will be necessary to correct this oversight.

There remain a few questions to which some students would like an answer rendered.

1. Who selects the two students who go to Halifax for this conference? Who sponsors the trip?
2. Who appointed the year book staff? It is good to hear the voice of the 10th province?
3. Why have the students not displayed the normal amount of interest in student government? Could it be that they see in the new government the shadow of those of the past and that it is a shadow they do not like?
4. Why not have a party government? This would allow greater student participation, a more democratic type of rule. It would be of great benefit to those students of political science, parliamentary procedure, etc. It would give the executive some sort of opposition, which is needed. It is thought that certain members of the faculty would approve of this, perhaps all would.
5. Where is the voice of the average student? Is this just one voice that I speak with or is it many? I look forward to seeing a crowded gymnasium at the next general assembly. If nothing else, I promise it will be interesting.

"C. K."

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