

EDITORIALS

POPE TAKEOVER

It is again that time of year when birds sing again, flies sit on your soup again, and year old power changes hands. This year we see the keys of the kingdom move from Gerry Fitzgerald (who deserves a good hand for the incredible amount of work he has done this year) to his old man Friday, Dave Morton. And, as far as the press is concerned the Muse prepares to fly from over the head of outgoing editor-in-chief Roger MacDonald (who also deserves a good hand, a pat on the back, and a 50 cent cigar for the huge literary burden he has borne for us this year) to the best friend and bosom buddy of R. Pope, a certain Lawrence DnElysyn, a vague figure, whose emaciated frame can at times be seen shuffling slowly across campus.

New blood?

We hope. These wonderful things about being young here and now, but especially about being young at almost any time is that you are filled with hope and vision. Last year's Red and White executive were, and so are we. Roger MacDonald did a truly commendable job in running the paper this year and he deserves a big thank-you. At times it was almost a one-man job. And we of course hope that we will do as well.

And we could do better if we had a little more cooperation from the student body. Remember, that this is Your paper. It exists to express your views. With this paper you can air your own opinions not only amongst yourselves more widely, but also amongst other students on this Island, and the alumni. If you have a beef, an essay, a poem, a letter, DON'T BE SHY, YELL IT OUT. This is what we are here for.

CLASS COLUMNS

Later on in this paper, you will find a little Whaddayathinkofit article on the class columns. The outgoing executive was convinced that these columns were childish space-fillers, and so, when space had been filled by CUP, out went the columns.

But

The new executive is not so sure.

We have heard so much pro and con (mostly pro) as concerns the re-instating of these columns, that we know not what to do. Again, I say, this is YOUR paper. If you want the mfor some comic relief, some human interest (which must never be neglected) they will be back.

Ask, and you shall receive.

ALSO

And as for those dirty little final exams, the staff of this paper wish one and all (including themselves) much good luck, hoping that one may recover from the Easter drunk in time for these exams.

Letters to the Editor

D-E-M-O-C-R-A-C-Y

Dear Sir:

No one can say that the last Student Union Meeting was not interesting. Whether the former executive was explaining the unforeseen increase in the cost of the coffee shop, or the members of the general student body were proposing amendments to the new constitution, things were not dull. There has rarely been such enthusiasm at Students' Union general body meetings. This is great.

However, there is still something lacking. I had the feeling as the meeting wore on that there were many members who had very fuzzy notions of what was going on or what the question was before the assembly. It seemed that whatever was proposed was past because the "Aye" vote was the first one called. One amendment that was past has given the representative of the five standing associations voting power equal to that of the executive elected by the entire student body. The "representatives" will represent small groups of people and in some cases, be chosen by even smaller ones within these groups. This, in effect, gives some students two or three (possibly more) votes for executive candidates while others have only one. The argument alleged for this is that the various organizations need representation on the council. Formerly, their representatives could not vote. But the point that is lost is that this "representation" will extend to matters that are of concern to the general student body and these council members, some of whom represent perhaps thirty people, will control a substantial number of the votes. This is hardly fair representation.

The situation now existing opens up the possibility of lobbying: "you vote for my proposal today and I'll vote for yours tomorrow." It will be interesting to see

whether the association members vote against other association members. Also, in the new set-up, there are groupings of clubs to form one association. If one club is superior in numbers to other clubs within the association, it can outvote the others, and elect its candidate, thus reducing the representativeness of its "representative" still further. I cannot see how the present system can in any sense be called democratic. Some have called it "indirect Democracy". When democracy becomes so indirect that it loses representation by population to any significant degree, the democracy spoken of is what is referred to as the "Peoples' Democracy" by the Russians. Many of the students here pay lip service to d-e-m-o-c-r-a-c-y, the word — but not the idea or its application because that is all they really know of democracy: the word. If we are going to scrap the idea, then let's scrap the word too. Then, the people who follow words will not have to choose between two words: "democracy" and "oligarchy".

Lest anyone say I have offered destructive criticism without any constructive proposals, I propose this: that the associations have a voting member on the council, but that he vote only on matters which are of direct concern to his association, viz. any proposal brought by him or her for the benefit of his or her organization. This will preclude lobbying — apparently what the present amendment depends on for its effect — and give honest representation to each campus association.

JOHN COWIE

PERIODICAL PIAQUE

Dear Sir:

In the course of the past few months I have become disheartened at the condition of the periodical

room in our library. Complaints were made by others as to its disorder but nothing seems to have been done. Today, (April 2nd at 9:50 p.m.) I made a list of the periodicals which were out of their places as indicated by the place, out of date, or missing from identification tags on the periodical racks. There are fourteen such disorders.

1. Life was missing from its place. (I found it badly mutilated behind a chair half covered by someone's books)
2. National Geographic. (It was in its place but the latest issue was April, 1964.)
3. American Journal of Physics is in the place of the International Journal.
4. Performing Arts (missing).
5. Canadian World Federalist. (Latest issue February, 1965.)
6. Harvard Business Review. (Missing)
7. Canadian Journal of Economics and Political Science. (Missing)
8. Business Topics. (Missing)
9. Business Week. (Missing)
10. Canadian Business. (Missing)
11. American Mathematical Monthly (Missing)
12. Canadian Communications. (Missing)
13. Harpers. (Missing)
14. Journal of Embryology and Experimental Biology. (Missing)

I hope this list of disgraceful omissions will alert those in charge so that they may return our library to its customary high standards.

Yours sincerely,

JOSEPH SHORILL

ALUMNEWS

By TOM McMILLAN

In one of the earlier editions of the Red and White this year, ALUMNEWS included an article on S.D.U. Rhode Scholar and last year graduate Colin McMillan. Since then we have heard from Colin regularly and, with the help of Mike Hennessey, we thought we'd pass along some of Colin's impressions of Oxford University.

Colin describes the average college day at Oxford as following "a fairly general pattern" though one can do whatever he likes. He says that normally the morning is taken up attending lectures, reading books, and preparing for tutorials. At least some of the afternoon, he says, is reserved for sport and in the English school-boy system, most of the afternoon is spent participating in a favorite pastime. As far as he is concerned, Colin says that the variety of things to do necessitates working in the afternoon so that he can best take advantage of the many events occurring in the evenings. He states that there are many clubs at Oxford "all the way from the political clubs to the Society for Identifying Flying Saucers", and that all of these clubs vie with one another to attract popular students. Colin informs us that the world famous Oxford union features well known guest speakers such as Malcolm X and Quintin Hogg, who spoke recently at the University.

Concerning sports, Colin says that sport is very popular at Oxford and that every sport imaginable is played; though the calibre is not always high. Most major sports like soccer, rowing, rugby, and cricket are played on the college level where the calibre is not too high, but where students have ample chance to play their favorite sport.

For Canadians coming to Oxford, the Rhode Scholar observes, there is plenty of opportunity to participate, as many have played soccer and rugby at home; consequently they can make the college teams without much trouble. There are judo, skiing, and swimming and he adds that Americans have their own basketball team which "easily licks the local hot-shots" while playing about even ball against the American Service teams in the country.

He says that, in regards to professors' attitude towards students, there is little doubt that students have very little say in matters of policy, and protests are rarely heeded. Since there are no real courts of appeal, decisions are thus final. However, he emphasizes Oxford does give the students a lot of freedom of action and censorship on actions is not as tight as in most places. The University press is most outspoken and freedom of the press and of speech are utilized at every possible juncture and to the greatest possible extent. With the University officials attempting at all times to train an intellectual elite, the great academic freedom that they enjoy is not used in any way to hamper the free movement of ideas among Oxford students.

Never Heard of St. Dunstan's University

As to the people of Oxford, Colin relates that many of the English do not know for sure where all the provinces of Canada are; their conception of P.E.I. is thus rather vague. Just as many Islanders have no knowledge of Surrey, just as many Canadians have no preoccupation with the Maritimes, and just as many St. Dunstan's students have no awareness of the new Simon Fraser University in British Columbia. The English conception of the Maritimes and Maritime Universities amounts to a faint notion that there is a place called Dalhousie, or a football college somewhere near Antigonish.

"When they ask me where I'm from," he says, "I say Canada; and when they inquire 'What Part' they stare blankly when I answer Prince Edward Island. Somehow I get the feeling that they think I'm pulling their legs." "Nevertheless, I have actually convinced one Canadian couple that the best way for them to return home this year is by boat to Halifax and by car to Ontario via P.E.I."

In a recent letter to the College, Colin included this remark: "I would like to emphasize that there is a certain 'myth' that has grown around Oxford that leads many Canadians to think that Oxford is some sort of a haven for scholars that is permeated by only the very rich or the very fortunate. While this true to a certain extent, I think that a large number of our own students could gain entry to Oxford provided that they simply try. The key to the whole thing is that entrance is gained by application to the individual colleges, not by application to the University. Therefore prospective students need only apply to one or more of the colleges and take the chance that there may be a place where he can fit in. You would be amazed at the number of Canadian and American students that are here on their own power because they had the initiative to apply to Oxford and get accepted. I can not emphasize this too much; I think that it would be great if some future graduates of SDU would consider coming to Oxford if they have the marks and the desire to go on."

The new Editor-in-Chief of the Red and White, Larry DonElysyn, has expressed the hope that ALUMNEWS would be continued as a regular column next year. Regardless of who may be the Alumni News Editor next year, I would like to make a special appeal to this year's graduating class to participate in this column by writing to us from time to time and informing us as to your whereabouts and activities. As that well-known Rumford journalist, Roger MacDonald loved to quote: "If you wish to express an opinion... controversial or profound... it will be the pleasure of the editor to print all but profanity. Send along all profane letters as well. Although it will not be printed, it will be read to the enjoyment of the editor."

—Alumni News Editor

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