

# St. Dunstan's Red and White

---

VOL. XLI.

SPRING, 1950

NO. 3

---

Subscription, 75 Cents a Year.

Payable in Advance.

---

## Staff

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF.....Michael Hennessey '50  
ASSISTANT EDITOR.....George Keefe '51

### ASSOCIATE EDITORS

CHRONICLE.....Daniel Driscoll '50  
ATHLETICS.....Dominic MacDonald '52  
NONSENSE AVENUE.....Lorne MacDonald '50  
Frank Sigsworth '50

### BUSINESS MANAGERS

Jack Murnaghan '50  
Leonard O'Hanley '51 Philip Murphy '52

### CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

Mark MacGuigan '51 Katherine Roche '51  
Fred Coyle '52 John Mullally '53  
Gaston Mercier '50

## Editorials

### STUDENTS' UNION ELECTIONS

This spring, in keeping with the requirements of the constitution of our campus governing body, the Students' Union, the annual elections were held to decide who would replace the outgoing officers. The event was the fourth of its kind since the inauguration of this student organization; and it marked a con-



tinuation of interest and concern by the students in an organization, the success or failure of which depends wholly on them, the members.

These annual elections give concrete expression to the democratic principle that representatives and leaders be chosen by popular or majority consent. Annual elections, properly conducted, will insure us that pressure groups will not gain control of campus government, for officers are to be chosen by ballot, chosen on the basis of their qualifications for fulfilling the obligations incumbent upon them in the various positions. Again, the practice of student elections is instrumental in awaking students and candidates alike to an appreciation of the democratic system; campus elections in our college society will assist us in the formation of correct habits of choosing and voting so that on entering the larger society on graduation, we shall recognize the importance of elections, and the necessity of avoiding unfair means to attain political office. Truly, our elections have wider implications than the choosing of officers. The carrying out of election is a training in itself; it gives us practice in becoming political minded; it provides us with the opportunity to vote as educated citizens should vote; to campaign as educated citizens should campaign. Our elections, then, are important.

Moreover the elections are popular with the students. They are awaited by all, even by those students who during the year seem unconcerned about student affairs. For it is a time when the insignificant become very important; at least their votes do. It is a time of excitement; a time for soap-box oratory and carefully written speeches; a time for expert electioneering. But most of all it is a time of vigorous and wide-spread campaigning. Election time is, indeed, as interest-packed and thrilling to the student as any gridiron encounter or championship hockey game. And rightly so.

The recent elections were not lacking in interest and excitement; it is doubtful if ever before was witnessed such a vigorous, competitive and all-out campaign. Yet there was one aspect of these elections which evoked loud condemnation from all objective observers, and it is as such that we venture to point out the facts. We are referring to the manner in which much, too much, of the campaigning was conducted. Yes, much of the campaigning was unchristian; the practices and methods resorted to, base and nauseating. The election was, indeed, unbecoming to Christian college students.



Now campaigning previous to election day is desirable. It is a means of acquainting the electors with the qualifications and merits of the candidates; and it affords the candidates themselves the opportunities to impress their policies on the voters. But in this instance the practice was grossly abused; it was used as a means of attacking the very characters of those offering themselves for election; it was made a medium to release rancour and arouse ill-feeling; and it was employed to spread vicious propaganda. We are not attacking the candidates. We believe the blame lies in those supporters who were so convinced of their cause that they overlooked all other considerations and disregarded the soundness of some practices. May we suggest that steps be taken to assure us that elections in the future will be conducted in a more exemplary manner? Let us never witness a repetition of recent occurrences.

While discussing elections, we urge you, the students, to consider the fact that under our existing constitution, elections are also to be held within a month of the opening date of college to appoint students to the executive positions of the A.A.A., the Debating Society, the Dramatic Society, the C.F.C.C.S., the Glee Club, and our unit of I.S.S. It would seem that since the adoption of the present constitution, we have become dependent on the nominating-committee to appoint the officers of the various societies. Now this committee was not instituted to appoint students to the executive of any society. Its purpose was, and still is, to insure us that at least one nomination is received for each position. Students were to nominate for these positions; there were to be elections in the fall as well as in the spring.

We strongly endorse the practice of conducting elections for the appointing of students to these societies, for we feel that such balloting is not only desirable, but necessary as well. Desirable these elections are because it is only too true and apparent that the nomination-committee has in the past adopted the policy of giving positions to students who have already served in some official capacity, with the result (as we charged earlier) that we have become dependent on a small number to head our societies from year to year. As a result of such a practice there are many bearing the necessary qualifications and interest in these activities and societies who receive no consideration; they will graduate without having received a valuable training for future leadership, and without interest in public-affairs. We urge such students who have been victimized by this practice to make use of the intended means to acquiring campus positions, elections. Neces-



sary these elections are also, for it does not seem too fantastic for us to suggest the possibility of pressure groups making appointments not deserved.

Remember, the successful functioning of our Union depends largely on our compliance with the rules set down in the constitution. Up to this time we have not done so. If our constitution is followed, we will hold elections as is demanded in one section of this code; and if we hold elections our Union will function better to the benefit of all. The Students' Union is **our** Union! Let's make it a success!

---

### OUR READING

It is sometimes remarked that all a student gets out of college is himself. Such an accusation, we feel, could not be directed at the majority of our graduates who, during their years at our little college, are exposed to a system of training and instruction second to none; yes, second to none. For our system is one based on the wisdom of years, on Christian traditions; one pledged to the formation of the true Christian with sound reasoning and high ideals; one pledged to the development of the whole man, the human person.

And yet . . . yes, there are many failing the system. For on the basis of day to day observations we are forced to conclude that a sizeable number remain merely exposed to the system; they do not assimilate or make their own the riches offered them along religious and intellectual lines. They are at college, and there the story ends.

There are probably many factors giving rise to this situation.

To our minds, one of the basic reasons why so many continue in complacency and laxity; why such a number emerge devoid of dynamic ideas and ideals, and without a knowledge of the Catholic viewpoint on important matters; why many are incapable of critical analysis, and are lacking the total view of knowledge and life, is their reading—or rather their lack of it, their unacquaintance with the ideas and thought of the great men who sounded the depths of the mystery of life and knowledge and left their findings in the form of the printed word to assist us in our everyday battles against ignorance and error.



Criticism might also be levelled at those industrious students who are interested in bettering themselves but are content to confine their efforts to the mastering and memorizing of lecture material and textbooks. Their reading seems to vary with the number of assignments forced upon them. In not a few cases, then, the studious and disinterested alike seem to be oblivious to the riches of our library where volumes and volumes are arraigned on the shelves like so many servants awaiting to assist and counsel them.

But again our system is not at fault. For we students are reminded by our professors of the necessity of reading during our undergraduate days. Yes, we are urged to read widely, to read good and worthwhile books; and to guide us in our reading campaign we are given lists from which to choose. We are reminded again and again that our undergraduate work is not the end, all of this business of education, and that our development after graduation will depend largely on our reading; we are further urged to develop proper tastes and habits so that we may be able to attack a work critically and analytically. We are introduced to Catholic authors and urged to read Catholic periodicals. Yet we do not read; we do not wish to read. Why?

That is a question which cries out for an answer. We don't propose to answer it; we don't know. However, regardless of the reasons for this lack of reading in the intellectual diet of many of us, one fact is certain. Yes, the situation presents a challenge to us as students. For it's our own battle, it's up to us to work against ignorance and error, to develop our minds, to become educated. The raw materials are at our disposal; it is our task, this acquiring the art of sound thinking and judgment, thus arriving at a condition of knowledge and wisdom. It all depends on us!

In the final analysis, the extent of the development of our thinking powers, and the acquisition of the art of thinking depends on our own efforts. And to acquire the art of correct thinking we must think often. And to think often we must read thought-provoking books. Sound reading is necessary for a successful educational program. Our teachers remind us of that. Are we content to learn by bitter experience the truth of their statements? It will be too late then. Now is the time to read; now is the time . . . . now . . . . now!



## IN PARTING

Somebody once said, "It is never any good dwelling on good-byes. It is not the being together it prolongs, it is the parting." And, that the parting may not be painful, we shall be brief.

It has been an honour to act as Editor of **Red and White**. It is the one position on the campus that we would exchange with no man, for it has given us what we consider an invaluable training not only in writing, but also in the editing field. It has also offered innumerable chances to practice our public relations, for, when it came time to prepare an issue, it was our task to coax and cajole the students into writing (as the Assistant-Editor is doing to me now), or to soothe the tempers of the printers who have yet to receive our copy on time.

To all these we are grateful; we assure our nonchalant contributors that, at no time, had we the intention of carrying out any of our threats, and it is our hope that our good friends, the printers, will be as lenient to us.

To our Alma Mater we feel a gratitude that cannot be expressed in words. She has shown us the right; if, at times, we have not followed it, it has been through no lack of interest on her part, but only through indifference on ours. Her interest in her students has ever been of the highest pitch and this to her advantage for we have followed her through the years and seen her prosper materially and spiritually. May God bless the work she is doing!



There is a touch of spring in the air as we pen this, the last section in the story of campus events and activities for the year 1949-50. Plans for the soft ball season are in the making now and students are taking to the out-of-doors; to the hand ball alleys, for a game of that worthy sport, or to any convenient spot where a ball and catcher's mitt can be put into action. Studies are receiving plenty of attention also because a glance at the schedule for final examinations, which is now posted on the bulletin boards, tells us that the first day for examinations is on May 8th.