

— editorial —

The S.D.U.S.U. passed a motion last Wednesday (Feb. 14) that can be considered the greatest backward step in the last two weeks of Council activity.

It was moved by Mary McInnis and seconded by Tom Green that:

The Campus Affairs Chairman (Sherril Barwise) approach the Dean of Men (Ivan Dowling) and voice the Council's concern over the poor disciplinary conditions existing on the campus and ask that the prefects and the Campus Police be re-organized to give them greater authority in exercising their role as prefects and Campus Police so as to improve the conditions as they now exist. Motion passed unanimously. Unanimously means everyone who was present at the meeting voted in favour. Absent were Eric Milne and Terry McGarragle.

Why should we suggest that this is a backward step? One very obvious reason is the fact that Council asks for a reinforcement of old rules. Rather than taking advantage in the "rules gap" that has occurred this year and trying to establish a more enlightened set of rules, the Council has, in its usual simplistic manner, asked that we return to the "tried and true". Council cannot be entirely blamed. Their intentions were obviously the best. But how can they say they are doing their best when, rather than forging ahead, and trying new things, they settle into the comfortable old rut of university affairs?

Why didn't they set up a commission to study the possibility of new rules for campus? They lack both conviction and support: the conviction that the new is not always bad the support from students needed for this study.

It is our feeling, from listening to the re-debate of the topic on Feb. 21, that the main and perhaps only concern of the Council is the alcohol problem on campus. Obviously they feel the only way of curbing the abuse of liquor on campus is denial. It is curious that members of an institution committed to education would not suggest education or, rather, re-education as the best means of combating the excessive abuse of alcohol.

It was suggested by one member that the students often become inebriated because they are forced to drink all their liquor when they get it, rather than keep it in the open and have a drink or two when they so desire. Another member countered that they (the students) could care less about being caught. Liquor is sitting all over the rooms.

We ask if this is a bad thing. Could not the education process move from there? The Council feels that the only way to cure the problem is to have the rule enforced. What would this accomplish? The students would move their bottles into their trunks (where a prefect cannot find it, without an outrageous invasion of privacy). They would get out their bottles when it was safe, guzzle it down and then throw the evidence out the window.

Result? They are bombed out of their minds in 15 minutes.

The reply to the argument was: "You will never stop them (the students) from guzzling their beer. It's an Island habit." If you read our letter from Ken DesRoches you will see what the Island habit is: "one-fifth of our P.E.I. people are adversely affected by the misuse of alcohol." (Those from away are included, too: believe it or not.)

Mr. DesRoches continues: "A large part of the answer to this lies in the field of education." This is our request, too. Educate the students while they are here at S.D.U.; don't let them leave thinking that drinking means getting bombed, stoned, plastered or what have you. Allow drinking in the residences and then teach them that it is possible to drink one or two beers and be satisfied. Teach them that when you open a case of 24 there is no obligation placed on you to drink all of it at once. Teach them that getting "plastered" is not drinking, it is escapism. (see **Alcoholism: A Real Problem** in the last issue.)

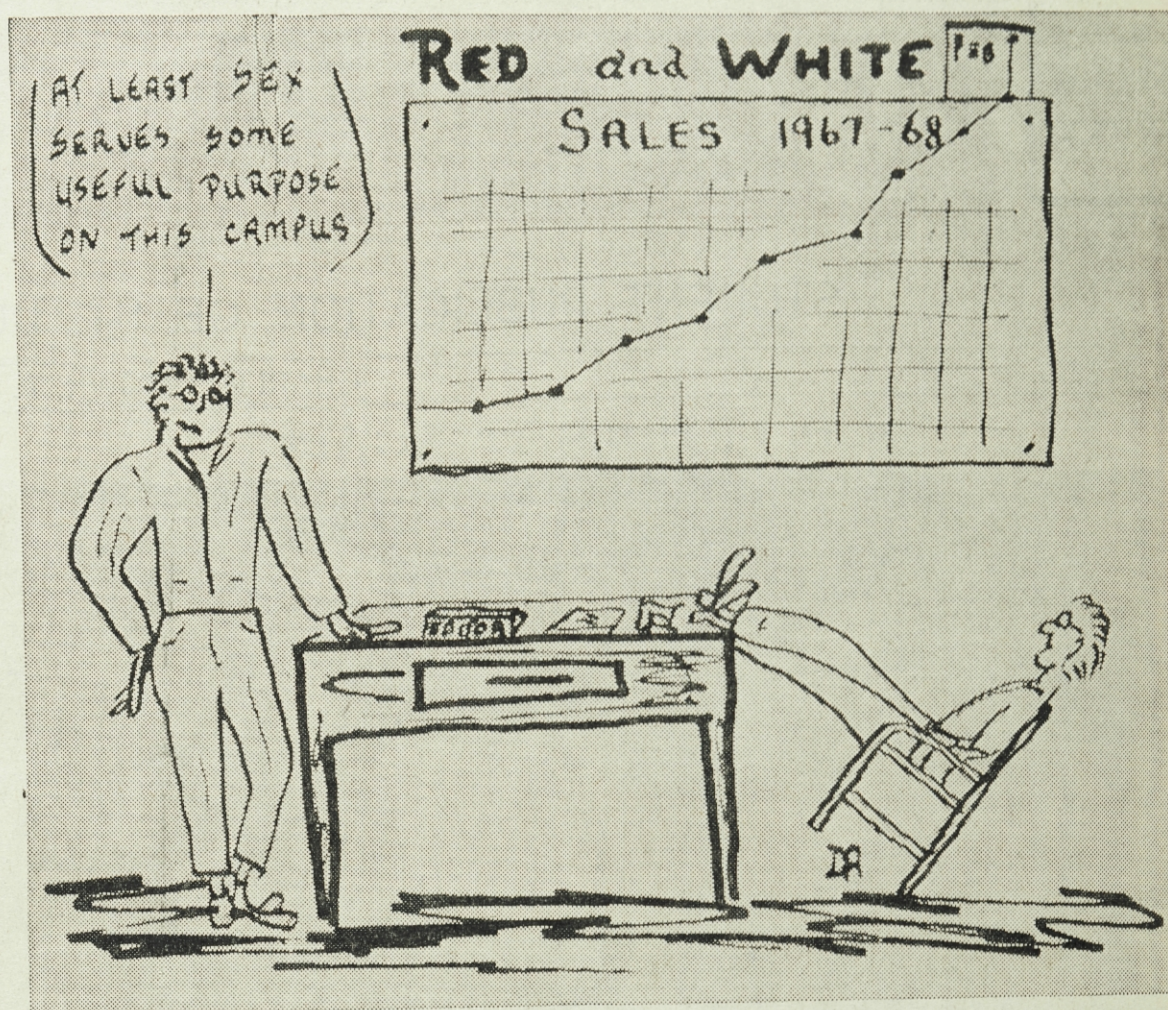
Perhaps getting bombed is the provincial passtime on P.E.I. but that is no reason for our making it a more popular sport. Because Charlottetown has neither bars nor reasonable drinking hours it is no reason for our putting alcohol underground, too. We have seen the "bootleggers" so we know what the fear of alcohol does. We have seen the bars with their frosted windows and stone wall fronts to hide our social hypocrisy. We've called a cab before.

The university is the hope of the future and if the university accepts the old answer then the future looks very bleak.

Rather than legislating that we return to womb comfort, our Council should be fighting for a bar on campus and the legalizing of liquor in residence.

Our Council should fight the million inane rules around this college: the slacks regulations, the hours at the girls' residences, compulsory attendance, and compulsory courses for Juniors and Seniors, just to cite a few. We should be marching on the legislature to have more money spent on education. We should work for a system of educational sharing between P.W.C. and S.D.U., for amalgamation, for Co-op housing, for better residence facilities.

We are the generation of tomorrow. But we must learn by doing today.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I'M SORRY LADY!

Dear Sir:

As a day student who has just recently had the experience of "Dinner at the Cafeteria", I feel I must comment on the marvelous insights the Big Hour gave me. Many impressions will be fixed in my mind for months to come. Among these will be the friendly, courteous, helpful attitude of the staff.

May I make my apologies first to the lady behind the dessert counter. I wasn't trying to steal two desserts, honest. (And, thank you kindly, the fork wound is healing nicely.) I was just momentarily stunned by the vast, attractive array of delightfully appetizing dishes and trying to decide between the pink fuzzy and the orange blob. To the charming young ladies at the dish-return counter — my apologies also. I didn't realize that the trays MUST be handed back vertically rather than horizontally. I shudder to think of the hours of overtime I must have caused you by up-setting your system so. I wasn't in the least offended by the discourse which followed grave offence. No doubt you were holding a prayer meeting in the kitchen. I wouldn't believe for a moment that I heard the Lord's name taken in vain. I'm sure your faces wear such lovely smiles all the time because of the co-operation the students give you. Pity the poor dishwashers at the Coffee Shoppe. They have to collect the dishes themselves.

The atmosphere in the Cafeteria was heightened by the enthusiasm of several hundred students gathered together in true S.D.U. spirit to participate in the revelry. All together, an unforgettable incident.

Sincerely,
Day Student.

A NOTE OF THANKS

Dear Sir:

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the people who made our A.I.D.L. championship possible. A lot of effort by a number of people goes into a winning team. Our moderator, Prof. O'Connell, provided the encouragement needed, along with a large number of interested students.

For their help in the research field, we would like to thank Prof. Conley and Edward Benson, who provided much of the background material and thought that went into our efforts.

A special thanks to Bob O'Rourke and Ellen MacDonald, fellow debaters. Ellen accompanied us on the trip and was invaluable.

We are happy and proud to have won the first annual tournament for St. Dunstan's.

Sincerely,
Connie Cullen,
Paul Batchilder.

THANK YOU!

Dear Sir:

We would like to thank the members of the Saint Dunstan's Debating Society for their wonderful hospitality during our recent visit; from the moment of our arrival we were treated royally.

Our thanks to the debaters, their club and advisor, and members of the student body for a most enjoyable time — a "priceless" experience.

And your paper is to be commended for its excellent and objective reporting of the debate.

Sincerely,
David Carter,
John Filliter.

Dear Sir:

Congratulations, once again, must be extended to Mr. Herbert Tersteeg and Company for their tremendous performance staged in the final production: "What In Heaven's Name?" With such a production, we have discovered the vitality and talent contained in our own university community.

With the elevation of the curtain, the veil of student apathy briefly disappeared from SDU life.

As we look forward to the company's next production, we can anticipate the same remarkable entertainment, once again exclaiming — tremendous... a job surely well done!

Sincerely, J.B.

"ASININE FEMALES?"

Dear Sir:

Regarding the letter published in your last issue about the frustrated females of Marian College and Mount St. Mary's not having dates, I'd like to express the views of a large portion of the male population at St. Dunstan's.

In this letter, it was quite evident that the composer of this prosaic wonder thinks we boys are a bunch of snobs, and it is for this reason that they are sitting in their rooms night after night. If this is so, why is it that these asinine females will sit at a dance all night enjoying one of their little pleasures: a sadistic contest to see who can shoot down the most prospective male companions in an evening. There they sit on their pedestals waiting their own Prince Charmings — get serious!

Another aspect of this argument was that if a boy wants to take out a girl, all he's after is a good time. What in hell's wrong with a good time? A good time doesn't necessarily mean an over indulgence in sex.

In closing, I'd like to say one thing to the poor disillusioned female child that nobody loves; if she wants a little affection, she has to give a little.

Thank you,
"Shot Down".

MODESTY?

My Brothers in Christ:

I am shocked! I am horrified! I am scandalized! My God! In the past few days, I have seen a number of our young Catholic ladies wearing — I hesitate to say, I hardly dare say — SLACKS. Yes, slacks, those horrible, immodest symbols of degeneracy. My God! Why? There are no excuses — NONE — there can be none. These young ladies are a disgrace to womanhood. Where is their modesty? Where, I say in the name of all that is good and holy? Where? Where is their respect? Where is their decency? Where? — It is NOT!

I am sir, etc.

A man named PAUL.

RED & WHITE

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