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Editorials

THE STUDENTS AND THEIR UNION

One year ago—not a very long time as time goes, but a comparatively long period in our life here—the St. Dunstan's Students' Union replaced the ineffective Students' Council. The new organization was to be one which would co-ordinate and supervise student activities; it would be the parent student organization on the campus; above all it would be the voice of the students. That was the way it was to be; that was the way the authors of its constitution intended it to be. The framing of the constitution involved a tremendous amount of work; every effort was made to ensure the success of the new Students' Union.

The student-body voted on, and approved the new constitution a year ago. The election of the Union's first officers followed immediately. That was as far as the pioneers could go in assuring the success of the organization; the responsibility of carrying out the avowed aims of the Union was left in the hands of the newly elected officers—and the students.

The interest and enthusiasm shown by the students during the spring election died out during the summer; and when College reopened in the fall, not one position in the four societies, whose officers are to be chosen in a general election, was contested. That they did not submit nominations for the positions is a sad reflection on the general interest of the students in their societies. Fortunately the constitution ensures at least one nomination for each position; but the very fact that the students are not aware of the nomination-committee's choice makes it all the more imperative that they propose at least one candidate. Otherwise the students leave themselves open to domination by a small group; and we shall be in a worse position than we were before the Union was organized. But perhaps the whole blame for the failure to choose the officers of the other societies by ballot does not rest upon the students. The thought of having to conduct and scrutinize four elections within a month of the opening date was not a particularly inviting one to the officers of the Union; and no encouragement was given to the students to name their choices. In fact, the officers of the Union openly admitted that they wanted to avoid elections if possible . . . too much **extra** work, they said. In at least one instance when a nomination was received from the students, the nomination-committee was asked to consider it before submitting one of their own choice, in order to avoid the possibility of an election.

The nomination-committee was not instituted to appoint the officers of the other societies; its function was, and is, to ensure that at least one nomination is received for each position. The responsibility of submitting other nominations lies with the students.

If the Students' Union is to be a success and truly representative of the students, it is necessary that the students take an active interest in it. It is designed to be their voice, their servant; but it cannot fulfill its obligation to them unless they interest themselves in its aims, function, and operation, unless they acquaint themselves with its constitution, and understand that their role must not be one mere passivity but of active interest. There is no point in getting hysterical over the election of the officers of the Union every spring and then forgetting about it until the following spring. It would be well to keep in mind that the officers of the A.A.A., the Debating Society, the Dramatic Society, the C.F.C.C.S., and the Glee Club are all to be elected by ballot within a month of the opening date of college. You, the students, must realize that the Union is your servant; you should read and study the constitution of

the Union; and you should nominate your choice of officers for the various societies. Only in that way can you be assured that the officers chosen will truly represent you.

Although the executive of the Student's Union may be forgiven many faults during the first year, there is, besides their zealous avoiding of elections two other counts for which no justifiable excuses can be found—their neglect to call regular meetings of the student-body, and their abuse of the Grievance Committee. The constitution provides for a monthly meeting of the student body. They were not held; not only were the regular meetings not held, but also no minutes of the meetings of the executive were published. In short, no one knew what the Union was doing. The students were not even consulted on any of the important issues that involved them directly. The officers of the Union took it upon themselves to attend the N.F.C.U.S. conference, and afterwards to join the Canadian federation without the approval of the student body. It is even doubtful if the students would have sanctioned the move; even now there are many who do not know, nor care, what N.F.C.U.S. is, while many of those who are informed on its aims and function cannot see how we can derive anything from it or add anything to it.

The constitution also provides for the appointment of a Grievance Committee, whose duty it is to bring all complaints before the executive of the Union for further action. There its duty ends. But this year the officials of the Union seem to have confused the Grievance committee with the Union itself. They are not synonymous, yet the Grievance Committee was used this year to obtain concessions, to confer with the faculty, and to perform other duties, all of which belong strictly to the executive of the Union or to a duly appointed committee, of which the vice-president must be chairman. Such irregularities should not be left unnoticed; if one part of the constitution may be ignored, then there is no reason why other, and perhaps more important, sections may not be by-passed. The officers are elected to represent the students and to carry on their affairs; the constitution was provided by the students as a set of laws governing the supervising of their activities. As such then it cannot be ignored.

It can be said truthfully that most people are prone to criticise, but not often ready to offer anything constructive. In this case, about the only constructive suggestion that can be made is to insist that the future officers of St. Dunstan's Students' Union abide by its constitution, and to exhort the students to take as active a part as possible in the affairs of the Union. For, only through co-operation between the students and the executive, and the realization of the duties and limitations of both, can the success of the Union be assured.

THOMISTIC PHILOSOPHY

Anxiously awaited by students and scholars in general, **Thomistic Philosophy**, the English translation of Rev. Dr. Henri Grenier's **Cursus Philosophiae**, is now on the press and will be available for classroom use during the next scholastic year. Rev. Dr. J. P. E. O'Hanley, the translator, informs us that the first volume, **Logic and Philosophy of Nature**, will be off the press in July, the second volume, **Metaphysics**, will appear in the fall, followed closely by the final volume, **Moral Philosophy**.

Red and White takes great pleasure and pride in announcing the completion of Father O'Hanley's ambitious labour. Students of philosophy will receive this work with gratitude. Good English handbooks on scholastic philosophy are much too rare; many of the texts available are awkward for a reader who has not already studied the subject matter in Latin, for this reason, that very often the Latin phrase and term, however Anglicised, are used, instead of the hard-to-find, but desirable equivalent, in idiomatic English. It has been the labour—and the achievement—of Father O'Hanley to produce a translation of the **Cursus** that is at the same time faithful in substance and meaning to the original and in style so natural that it is comprehensible to all who understand the idiom of our language. Father Grenier, a most scrupulous and careful man, pays this tribute to the work in a short "Author's Preface":

We have read carefully the MS. of **Thomistic Philosophy**, and have found it to be an excellent rendition in English of the original work: not only is the doctrine of Aristotle and St. Thomas, as presented in the Latin work, most faithfully safeguarded, but it is couched in language that is both precise and idiomatic.

This work will be particularly useful to those who have no reading knowledge of Latin. In these days, when men whose formal education has not been extensive are reading widely and are of necessity interesting themselves in the search for philosophical truth, many who are unable to read the original will find the answer to their questions in the sound, meaty substance of the thought of St. Thomas, presented here in Father O'Hanley's clear, meticulous style.

This translation deserves our very particular notice because it is the first work of its kind to be produced by one of the faculty and be published by the University. It has been a long, painstaking task. Father O'Hanley, a true pioneer in spirit, deserves much credit for his courage and initiative. One has to consider that he produced this work during a period when he was closely pressed by duties quite apart from his regular work as professor of Latin.

One is not surprised to find that Father O'Hanley has acquitted himself well, for he brings to this work a brilliant and well disciplined intellect. A graduate of St. Dunstan's, he has his Ph.D. in philosophy from "Angelicum" in Rome. We hope that this is only the first of a series of such works from the pen of this energetic and enthusiastic scholar.

C. F. C. C. S.

One of the most active organizations on the campus this year has been our unit of the C.F.C.C.S. The great success of this organization is due both to a hard working executive and to the splendid co-operation of faculty and students in all its undertakings. The federation, especially in the Maritime Colleges, has been very inactive during the past five years, but since the National Conference in Montreal last fall, at which St. Dunstan's was represented, and as a result of our Maritime meeting at Mt. St. Vincent's, Halifax, in January, interest has been revived and the need for some organization of Canadian Catholic students has been more keenly felt.

The principal work of the federation this year, not only here but on all the Catholic campusus, has taken the form of assistance to European students, whose unfortunate condition even yet, three years after the close of hostilities, is almost unbelievable. Many of those students are suffering from lack of food, clothing, medicines, and in some cases they have not even books or writing material. And yet perhaps the greatest reason for which they should have our sympathy is their lack of contact with the rest of the civilized world. It is people such as these who become the easy victims of false doctrines and ideologies, people such as these who swell the ranks of the Communist horde. When we consider that the relentless struggle being waged to-day is for the control of the mind of man, we should consider it our responsibility and duty to do what we can to swing these people to our way of life.

For this purpose our C.F.C.C.S. unit raised the magnificent sum of \$550. for relief work. On the basis of contribution per capita we feel that this may be a record for Canadian colleges.

As you know, we have been working through I.S.S., the worldwide student relief organization. When Prime Minister King visited Europe, in the fall of 1947, he found conditions so appalling that he immediately took steps to have the government pay all expenses in the transportaiton of food and clothing destined for European relief. To prevent overlapping and to operate more efficiently it was decided that all colleges would send their money to I.S.S., which handed it over to the government, which in turn bought

huge quantities of food, clothing and other necessities at wholesale prices. In this way we were able to make the utmost use of every cent collected. In addition I.S.S. granted us a concession in that they agreed to "ear-mark" the goods bought with our money for our already "adopted" college in Poland in Cardinal Sapieha's archdiocese.

Accordingly, \$500 of our amount was sent to I.S.S., and the remainder is being sent in the form of individual "CARE" packages. Our unit has also collected and sent, through the Jesuit Fathers, Toronto, a considerable quantity of used clothing and reading material.

Since this marks the end of our activities for the year, the society wishes to thank all who contributed to its success: the Ch'town firms which gave prizes or cash donations; the students who bought and sold tickets on our lotteries; the members of the faculty for their encouragement and support; to Mr. A. P. Campbell, M.A., the faculty-adviser of C.F.C.C.S., our unit owes special thanks for his advice and tireless efforts; we wish to express our thanks also to Rev. P. F. MacDonald, through whose kind co-operation we were able to sponsor a very successful dance at the Holy Name Hall; finally the society wishes to thank the co-eds who contributed to the success of our relief campaign out of all proportion to their numbers.

With the help and support of everyone, we look forward next year to even greater things in this work of Christian Charity.

—W. J. D.

ADIOS!

As I begin to pen this customary farewell editorial for **Red and White**, I experience a feeling of intermingled joy and sorrow. For, by the time that this issue is off the press, the eventful day we have looked forward to for six years, graduation day, will be here, and many of us will be severing connections, perhaps for ever, not only with intimate friends, but also with a grand University; this is the sorrowful part of graduation day. But there is considerable joy in graduation day too: it marks an important stepping stone in the career of the young student, and it signifies the successful completion of four years of college. Undoubtedly, it is the most important milestone in the life of every college student.

My term as editor of **Red and White** has come to an end. In some ways I am glad, for the editing of a magazine like **Red and White** is not an easy task, nor is it one that consumes a modicum of time. On the other hand, the experience has been an interesting, and I think valuable one.

Our tri-annual cries for material have been answered very well. We wish to express our thanks to you, the students, who have made **Red and White** the highly rated magazine it is; to the faculty member who acted in the capacity of advisor and critic; to our subscribers, who have made **Red and White** financially possible; and last, but by no means least, to our publishers, who even now await this final message.

And now, I must say farewell. The assistant Editor is knocking on the door for this message. To him and to the rest of the incoming staff, I wish every success in the year to come. Thanks again everyone. So long!



At this time of the year the words of the poet seem very appropriate and almost a reality in so far as the college year is concerned. "The old gray year is near its term in sooth." The last two months have passed so quickly that it seems only a few days since the last issue of **Red and White** went to press, yet we find ourselves nearing the end of the present college year. This is another pointed reminder of the brevity of human existence. One month from now life at St. Dunstan's will have ended for several students. Others are being prepared to step into their vacated places. And so the process goes on.

On Sunday evening, April 4, Rt. Rev. R. V. MacKenzie, Litt.D., Rector of St. Dunstan's, was formally invested with the robes of Domestic Prelate by His Excellency, Bishop Boyle. We extend our very sincere congratulations to Monsignor MacKenzie.

The Maritime Intercollegiate Debating League ended in a tie for first place between St. Dunstan's and Acadia. This necessitated a play-off for the debating championship, and on March 4 Wilfred Driscoll and Cyril Sinnott upheld the affirmative of the resolution, "Resolved: That Canada's National defence should begin at home". Although losing the decision, the St. Dunstan's team gave a good account of itself, and deserves credit for its fine showing.

The college library has been transferred from the Main Building to new quarters in the basement of Memorial Hall. The new location provides more space, and a large reading room is made available.