

Red and White

Published once a month during the University year by the Students of Saint Dunstan's University, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island.

Authorized as second class mail, Post Office Department, Ottawa, and for payment of postage in cash.

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Editorial

DEMOCRACY and GOVERNMENT

"Democracy is only that state of politically organized mankind in which the rule of the few is least arbitrary and most responsible, least drastic and most considerate." — Giddings.

The old political doctrine of laissez-faire which states that the best government is that government which governs least is a doctrine to which students of St. Dunstan's have long adhered. It is generally accepted that the Student government should provide entertainment, and social outings for the students; thus it has fulfilled its mandate. Of course, if the Union does not meet at least once every two weeks, then some observant student will, with tongue in cheek, accuse it of listlessness. The accusation will not be made on the grounds of inefficiency in government (as long as the entertainment is forth-coming), but because it has not met as a debating society for an extended period of two weeks.

Is the Students' Union only a debating society in which only financial matters are of any importance? The students' union is a representative body which conducts business that the students have not deigned to do themselves. The students themselves make the government what it is, and the government functions only as well as the students see fit to have it function. The government has a duty to the students, and this duty, though partially economical (which most students, hold as the only duty) should not be all that is expected from the ruling body. All functions of administration, organization, and leadership should be of equal importance to the students. These duties and others fall upon the union, and each student has the responsibility of keeping a diligent vigil to see that they are performed. The government at St. Dunstan's carries out only those functions which are dictated by the students. The union acts only as an agency, and formulates policy when this is in the best interest of students.

During recent years there has been a great deal of talk about constitutional reform. Last year, due to the conscientious efforts of the union executive, enough students were assembled for a general meeting to pass a new constitution. This document was passed with little discussion, as many students had not read it, though copies were available for all. The clause in the constitution dealing with quorums stated that: "The quorum should consist of fifty per cent of the student body"; this was subsequently changed to read "The quorum shall consist of forty per cent of the student body." Thus with the passage of this constitution, at general meetings called thereafter more than sixty per cent of the students absented themselves. It was even impossible to hold a legal meeting to further amend the quorum article.

This is only one example of student apathy. This apathy leads to only one conclusion; the Union is restricted to passing only such measures as are required to carry on the necessary functions. Thus our greatest heritage, democracy in the true sense of the word, is destroyed. The full function of government falls upon the nine members of the Union's Council.

It has been pointed out that democratic government is government of the people and for the people, but the government is only so much, and the students must do the major part. When the students are interested, the government will be energetic and strong, because the students are the government, and the whole is only as strong as its integral parts.

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Letters to the Editor

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

STUDENT PUBLICATION?

Dear Sir:

The publishing of the first edition of Red and White for 1962-63, brings to mind the perennial question of an aspect of the controversial topic of Student - Faculty relations, namely that of freedom of the press.

It is a well-known fact that last year, articles were restricted from our paper for what in my opinion were unfounded reasons. Students, as a result, are now afraid to write articles for fear that serious repercussions will befall them. Our newspaper should be a tool for the freely expressed opinions of the students of this University.

Only by making the Faculty aware of our problems can we hope to resolve them. Are we to believe that the very men who teach us the principles of democracy and who strive to make us aware of the inhumanity of communism, would turn around and dictatorially take action upon a student, simply because he doesn't agree with all aspects of University policy? Personally, I can't be led to believe such an absurd statement. If it is so, we may as well call our paper a Faculty Publication of St. Dunstan's University and forget the whole thing.

Ken McCaffery '65

WHERE S.U.

WHERE ARE YOU?

Mr. Editor:

It seems to me that student interest has fallen to an unsurpassed low.

The freshmen arrived at S.D.U. before the rest of us in order to be registered, accommodated, and acquainted. Most universities follow this procedure, rightly so, for these young college students are beginning a new phase in their life; it is important that they "get off on the right foot." It is the duty of the student union to make these new members feel welcome.

The whole tragedy is not just that the student union has fallen on its face in this responsibility but that no one seems to care too much. Another example of the student apathy is the lack of concern over the fact that the President and the Secretary are living off campus. Do you think they can do a good job from town?

The students union is no better than you make it. The executive must exhibit leadership ingenuity and ambition, the students themselves must support, not always by agreement but always with aggressiveness.

A Senior

DEMOCRACY and GOVERNMENT

Continued

IS THEY OR IS THEY AIN'T?

Dear Editor:

I'll come right to the point. Is there a Students' Union? Having been on campus for two years already, I know that we had one but I've heard nothing of the Student's Union, this year. If I, a humble Junior, know so little about the activities of the Students' Union, which seems to be stagnated, what about our large class of Freshmen who have been on campus for only a few weeks? I doubt that the Freshman class is even associated with the Students' Union executive let alone with the responsibilities of the Students' Union to the Frenchman class has not even been introduced to the different societies on campus. I'm sure many Freshmen would gladly volunteer their services to different committees and groups if they only knew of their existence.

I feel that it is about time to call a general meeting and get things going for the year. A member of the executive said it might be several weeks before a student body meeting would be called. If they wait that long, we may all forget that there is even such an organization as the Students' Union.

I write this in good will and I feel that this is an important matter and should be remedied immediately.

Sincerely yours,
D. M. Morris

W. U. S. C. TREASURE VAN IS COMING CARLETON SETS FIRST TREASURE VAN SALE RECORD

WUSC officials are hoping that Carleton University has set the Treasure Van off on the road to riches.

A record-breaking \$4,719 was collected there last week during the first sale of the year. Last year, the sale amounted to \$3,973. On the first day more than \$1,300 was grossed on the sale of incense, wood carvings, knives, blankets, fertility images, black magic drums, sacrificial swords and the more than one thousand other items.

Last year, Treasure Van took in better than \$80,000 from the 35 campus sales which were held. The top vendor-campus was the University of Alberta at Edmonton, where close to \$8,500 was collected. This was more than \$2,500 over second place McGill University.

The second Treasure Van opened its doors at Sherbrooke, University October 1, and the third Van will be hawking its wares commencing October 10. The latter tours Western Canada, while the former visits the Atlantic region.

Almost every campus in Canada will be visited by the World University Service money-raisers on wheels before Christmas.

Your Newspaper

So much space and time has been devoted in this issue to welcoming both the old and new faces on campus that it would be redundant for us to repeat the same thing here; but for those who are now reading RED AND WHITE for the first time, there are just a few words of introduction we would like to make.

RED AND WHITE IS, and will remain (as long as you wish it), the official publication of the students of this University, so it is entirely up to the students themselves to support and retain this publica-

tion. This paper is not (as was rumored last year) censored by the Faculty; the responsibility of printing non-libelous and non-licentious articles rests entirely within the hands of the students, so it is up to you to make the best use of this privilege.

They say that constructive criticism is the life-blood of democracy. If this is so, then the best medium through which you can fight for your democratic rights is the columns of this paper. This is what we shall be looking forward to this year, so we hope you will not disappoint us.

Letters To The Editor Continued "A MISUNDERSTANDING"

Dear Mr. Editor,

To begin with, the Chinese Students' Association (C.S.A.) humbly and sincerely wishes to thank the faculty, as well as its fellow students and all Islanders for their friendship and care shown to its members during the past six years. In fact, St. Dunstan's has been a "second home" to all its members, who are now ten thousand miles from their native land.

In the first two meetings of the association of this year some members complained of some unfortunate circumstances that arose as a result of the four new Chinese girls not being accepted in residence in Marian College. There could be a misunderstanding in the above incident. Therefore, based on the following arguments, the C.S.A. hereby pleads the University authority for a reconsideration of the above matter.

First, the Chinese girls residing in Marian have never been known as black sheep, but are rather serious, hard-working and law-abiding students. Hence, it cannot be on the score of behavior that further Chinese girls are not accepted.

Secondly, certain Chinese girls before arriving at St. Dunstan's were impressed that residence was compulsory, by the Residence Regulation attached to the University Calendar. It states thus: "Students whose homes are not in Charlottetown must reside at St. Dunstan's unless they have been given special permission to do otherwise." In fact, one of the girls was clearly told in her letter of acceptance that she was accepted as a resident student. Therefore, the new girls have been misinformed.

Thirdly, all the Chinese girls at St. Dunstan's have come from a sub-tropical region where temperature seldom drops below 45 degrees F. agonizing bitterness to struggle through winter. Therefore, circumstances seem to say that it

is inhuman as well as ungentlemanly to expect these girls to walk two miles to college in sub-zero temperatures. If the parents in Hong Kong have been informed about the climatic conditions and the difficulties in winter communication, they would certainly not send their daughters away without assuring an appropriate residence.

Fourthly, it is a desperate bitterness when a girl, having travelled ten thousand miles finds the door closed against her. This is by no means a pleasant "first impression." Although the Chinese students pay their fees as they go through college, they realize that their fees are unable to cope with the actual amount of expenditure the University is spending on them, and that they are very grateful. But on the other hand, when an Island Catholic makes a contribution in order to accept a foreign student, he means to educate a happy student, who is going to improve the friendly relationship between the country and P.E.I., when the student returns home. Therefore, it is against the wishes of the Island benefactors if the foreign student is given an impression of bitterness.

St. Dunstan's has always been a noble and friendly guardian to all foreign students. Therefore, the C.S.A. wishes that this incident may prove nothing but a misunderstanding; that improvements may be made later; and that kindness and Christian charity are shown to its members, so that they all may bring home a happy and loving memory.

The C.S.A. is very much impressed by the democratic spirit shown on the campus. It hopes that it has not exceeded its own rights in the above proposal. If it has, it is ready to apologize.

The S.D.U.C.S.A. Editor's Note: Due to a lack of space, some portions of this letter had to be deleted.

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