

A WHIRLPOOL OR A CESSPOOL?

By CHRISTIAN LOWERY '67

The Union cannot be called a melting-pot of the intelligentia nor a whirlpool of studious activity, for it is more in parallel with a cesspool of stagnant passivity. To put it in the words of a Trappist monk, the name of whom would mean nothing to most of you, "Those who never make mistakes are those who never do anything." We can find no pride, therefore, in saying that we never make mistakes. In fact, it is true—yet how much have we ever done?

The students' union has been for some time on a gradual, yet determined decline. It is easy for us to throw out criticism, to gather in little groups and talk of what is not being done. It takes on our part no physical strength nor moral conviction to laugh at others. Yet how often do we see that those who blab the loudest are never there when work is to be done.

This general attitude which is prevalent among all "don't-give-a-damners", cannot be blamed entirely on the student body. How often have I heard and how often have you heard sayings like, "What's the use, the faculty won't let us anyway!" or "Fr. So-and-so said that we couldn't." This is

no exaggeration—would to God that it were!

When I was three years old, I could not tie my own shoes. The day soon came when I was placed in a chair, slowly to learn my BA in shoe tying. I taught myself after many mistakes and many knots. Today I am a man and can walk up to anyone and say with pride, "Want to see me tie my shoes?" No doubt we would be, to say the least, amused at such a situation. Yet how much more so if I were to come tripping up and say, "Suppose you could tie my shoe for me? Oh, and while you're right handy, how about blowing my nose?"

No one is like that, really. Most of us can tie our own shoes. Yet there is still a right and a wrong way of doing it.

The Senior class can also claim its share in this general degradation. It had split. On one side there are the Islanders and the day students. On the other, the radicals. Each has been brought to the depths by the other. Naturally speaking, we should learn from this—learn to tie a better knot. Instead, name-calling cliques have been formed like mould on soggy bread. Wherein lies the benefit? Absolutely nowhere. What good can come from this? Absolutely none.

GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

In response to the increased demand for facilities and funds for higher education, provincial governments are beginning to develop agencies to advise and assist them in their role.

The Government of the Province of Alberta formed a committee to investigate the growth and development of post-secondary education in the province. Members include representatives of the Government and of the University of Alberta. Its first progress report advocated the creation of more junior colleges.

In the wake of extensive legislation for the support of universities and colleges in Quebec in the previous year, the post of Director-General of Higher Education Services was created in the Ministry of Youth. The Royal Commission on Education appointed early in 1961 held hearings throughout 1961-62 and received many submissions regarding higher education. Its report is not expected before 1963, although its sub-commission on agricultural training did make the recommendation which led to the decision to concentrate facilities for university training in agriculture at Laval University.

The New Brunswick Royal Commission on Higher Education released in June a report which re-

commended sweeping changes in the organizational framework of universities within the province, including consolidation of existing French-language institutions into a single university. It also recommended a five-year programme of increased provincial grants to universities and colleges.

Reorganized during the previous year, the Ontario Government's Advisory Committee on University Affairs was notably active in 1961-62. In the spring it received from the Director of Educational Research of the Ontario College of Education a projection of university enrolment in Ontario which indicated the likelihood of tripled numbers by 1970. The Committee immediately invited the presidents of Ontario universities to make recommendation regarding the development of facilities to meet this demand. Although the presidents' report was made to the Committee before the end of June, it had not been made public by that date.

The role of the Government of Canada in the encouragement and support of higher education and research was one of the many matters studied by the Royal Commission on Government Organization during the year under review, but its reports were still awaited at the year's end.

Things Are Looking Up

In a recent interview with Father Sharkey, our registrar, he stated that the calibre of students attending S.D.U. this year seems to be better than in previous years. Spirit, he continued, has accounted for much of this increase in standards. It also seems that the upper classmen are more aware of the freshman class and a friendlier relationship exists between them.

Still more encouraging, many professors have mentioned that passing rate has increased considerably with the lower quarter where failure rate is usually high—an improvement over previous years.

This may be due to the fact that the interest in activities and studies (and cooperation in such matters by the students) has improved. The success of the freshman activities and their participation in the clubs on campus had induced a spirit of rivalry in the upper-classmen to do bigger and better things.

We optimistically predict that each class will benefit from this rivalry and develop a greater spirit academically as well as socially.

What's Your Opinion?

Editor's Note—Almost every student who was asked for an opinion during this poll, gladly gave his views on a variety of subjects; however, almost without exception, these persons were not willing to allow their names to be used. During polls which will be conducted in the future, it is hoped that students will not hide behind anonymity. Approximately twenty students from all classes, were polled on a variety of questions, and most students made comments on almost all the topics which we put forward.

"The product of a frustrated mind," is the way one student expressed his opinion of the new political party, UNA. "Deplorable and impossible" expressed one freshman, while his friend saw that the union could have "economic" possibilities. One senior student stated that he was against the whole idea because such union would destroy Canadian culture.

Most people polled were against a United North America politically: However, many persons saw the possibility of an economic and defensive union which would be comparable to the European Common Market. Thus, from this poll one could deduct that RED AND WHITE was wrong in its assertion last issue that UNA was going to try to capture control of the Model Parliament. For a party to establish the government it must have a majority, and with the support which this party has, it could not even sit as the loyal opposition. "The intelligensia of the campus should ignore it and let it die a natural death" seems to be the prevalent feeling.

We next asked students to comment on the Students' Union crisis. Most students made favorable comments on the former president of the Students' Union. However, there was a great deal of criticism of the lack of general meetings. It should be emphasized that the students which we polled were not critical of the president and many were sympathetic because of the great burden which he was shouldering.

In the sphere of international politics, we ask: "Do you think that the West has finally become offensive in the cold war?" The replies were all in the affirmative except one which stated, "No, the West has only made threats and has not taken any action of an offensive nature." Many persons were of the opinion that the West should push this offensive short of war. As one student put it, "They have given us hell for so long, that now our chance has come, and we have the leaders, we should push them right back into their borders."

Most students are quite outspoken on many other subjects such as the policy of the paper, other Students' Union officers, school spirit, the Cuban Crisis, etc. However, this poll was limited to the three topics and others will be treated in later issues.

The Editor and Staff of the RED AND WHITE extend their sincere and heartfelt sympathy to Patricia McCabe and Lee Gillis and their families in their recent bereavement.

What Is An Ecumenical Council?

If someone asked you the question, "What is an Ecumenical Council? Or "What do you expect from the Council?" What would you answer?

Last Friday evening, something similar to this happened and was presented on a TV program. Young people were being interviewed on a down-town street in Montreal. Here are some of the answers that these teenagers gave:

The first boy said that the Council was a meeting of Bishops and Cardinals . . . about 150 in all . . . who had met in Rome to discuss problems of the Church.

Another young man answered that he had heard something about the Council over a year ago, but that he really was not up to date.

A third lad merely stated that he was not interested in religion and that he knew nothing about the Council.

The girl who was interviewed had plenty to say and she hoped the Council would bring about many changes . . . Here are a few: 1) that the obligation of attending Sunday Mass be removed and that any Mass heard during the week would satisfy this obligation; 2) that we be allowed to eat meat on Friday; 3) That priests be allowed to marry; 4) that the Church be less severe.

The last person interviewed was a member of the C.Y.O. She said that the doctrine of the Church would not change . . . but she hoped that the Council would make the person of Christ and His teachings more living to us.

We know now what other young people know about and expect from the Council. But what do you and I expect from it?

It is equal folly to expect too much or to expect too little of the Vatican Council. It is made of humans who very much depend on the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

The theme for the Council, as we all know, is **Inward Renewal**. As the Pope once said, "Fresh air is what I want. Fresh air for the Church." In order to accomplish this renewal, the Holy Father has assembled the Bishops for three general purposes.

First—for the growth of the Cath-

olic Faith throughout the world. We need to explain Christ's Church in terms of today. The Church today is faced with the task of explaining the Catholic Faith to those who know only communism and to many who are not communists but whose ways of thinking and acting are different from the ways of a century ago. The growth and spread of the Catholic Faith in the modern world requires a new way of explaining it. It must be made so attractive that our separated Brethren will come back to the One, True Church.

Secondly, the renewal of Christ-like habits among Christian people.

In this scientific age, people's attention is being drawn farther and farther away from the true purpose in life which is to know, love and serve God. This is not the fault of science. It is the fault of man's use of science. Man must be shown how to practise the Christlike virtues even in this scientific age.

The Third Purpose: adjustment of the laws of the Church to the needs of the present day.

This does not mean that the Church has to be turned upside down. The rules or practices of the Church changed slowly through the centuries as men's needs have changed. The Council will probably bring about more changes but man's responsibilities to God and His Church will always remain the same.

I might conclude by asking, "What does the Council expect of youth?"

This Council needs you and it needs me; this Council needs our prayers, it needs our sacrifices; it needs our penances; in this way we are all present in the Council. In this way, we can be the instruments Christ will use in bringing the Holy Spirit into this modern world. Our Holy Father, the Pope, said, "If all the Christians lived as Christians, there would be no pagans left to convert."

Editor's Note: The above text was adopted from the prize-winning oration in the Catholic Youth rally held last week in Summerside. It was delivered by Paul Pelletier of Miscouche High School.

BARRY Attacks Again

Barry Goldwater has gone after a second college paper for printing derogatory comments about him.

The University of Illinois student newspaper, *The Daily Illini*, has received a letter from Goldwater attacking a column in the paper in which the Republican senator from Arizona was criticized.

Goldwater, whose similar complaints about an article in the Colorado Daily touched off a row resulting in the firing of editor Gary Althen, maintained in the letter that Roger Ebert, author of the column was denying him the "right to be critical."

The Daily Illini column said: "(Goldwater) made us wonder just a little bit, what an American is these days. . . and how far that definition can be stretched. Can it be stretched to include a man who told Chicago Republicans 'The Supreme Court decision on school integration is not necessarily the law of the land?'"

"Can it be stretched to include the man who advocates violent action against Cuba -- which suffered from America's monopolistic exploitation for 60 years before beginning to search for self-respect? Can it stretch to include a man who makes dark threats to the president of a university, simply because that president has refused to silence the open expression of ideas of his campus?"

"We suggest that serious, responsible American conservatives start looking for a new figurehead. This particular golden calf has a heart of mud."

In his letter to the DI, Goldwater said: "(Ebert) is denying me the right to be critical of the president of (a) university, and I suppose for the matter, anybody else. If he really believes in freedom he prates about so much, then let him realize that it is a two-way street."

Ebert said he would answer the senator's charges in his next column.

A Message from Union President

Fellow Students:

Thank you for placing confidence in me by electing me to the office of president of your Union. I am grateful for this honor and assure you that I will do my utmost to merit your trust.

In the ensuing months, I am sure that we can all work together for your individual advancement and generally for the good of the University, both scholastically and in a spirit keeping with the tradition that is ours—not a conservative, laissez-faire tradition—but a spirit of gentlemanliness and cooperation that has prevailed at our University over the years.

In the line of achievement, let us go out and give of what talent we have so that we may say when we leave St. Dunstan's that it is a little better because I was here, or because I have contributed something positive—rather than the negativistic attitude of complaining destructively.

Let the coming year at St. Dunstan's be one of accomplishment. We can do it with but a little effort on our part.

Because of the relatively short time before the Christmas exams we have decided not to have a general meeting before the holidays but there will be one within a short time after registration for the second term.

If there is anything that any of you have to bring before the student body or the council, do not hesitate to bring it forward.

Thank you again for electing me.

Sincerely,

Robert F. Quigley.

NEW EDITOR

Another head has resigned. This time it is Norma Ceretti, until recently editor of the Yearbook, MNEMOSYNE. Norma resigned from the Yearbook staff when she realised her studies had been interfering with her extra-curricular activities. The position of editor has now been filled by Bob Quigley who was last year's editor and is quite familiar with the duties the work entails. To aid Bob in his capacity as editor, John Roy has been appointed assistant editor.

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