

## RED and WHITE

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## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

### THE STUDENT'S CHOICE

Things happened so fast on campus during the last three weeks that by the time you are reading this the third 62-63 Student Union president will already have rapped his gavel. The first president resigned for reasons of his own. His successor had to resign due to a recurring illness. Today we have a third president in office.

This column is not intended to grieve over spilt milk, nor is it directed to perform any post-mortems. Rather, we feel that it is about time that students realise the seriousness and responsibilities that surround the office of the presidency, and really appreciate the young men who willingly offer themselves to perform services for us.

The job of president is a thankless one. It is neither full of glory, honour, nor prestige. Rather it entails a great deal of serious work and devotion in performing the duties, and living up to the responsibilities which the office demands of its incumbents. We feel that when any student, regardless of who he is, or where he is from, willingly comes forward and offers himself for this post, he should be well commended. In the light of this, we consider it most appropriate that some amount of gratitude should be extended to both Harry Callaghan and Lionel Gaudin for the services they performed to the students of this University.

Whatever might have been Harry's shortcomings, the fact remains that Harry was the person whom we elected to office. He had volunteered himself quite freely and willingly to us, and this he performed to the best of his ability. We feel that this act of unselfishness should not go unrewarded. In like manner, Lionel had set out to do a great job, and for the short term of his office, he did remarkably well. We regret that nature had to play such an unkind hand in forcing his resignation, but because Lionel had set out to take care of our responsibilities, we feel that it is quite fitting that some recognition of this fact should be made to him.

Today we have a brand new president. His success or failure as a president will depend primarily on the attitude of the students, and the amount of cooperation he receives. In the past, this campus has been exposed to all forms of pettiness and bigotry ranging throughout various segments. Such childish trifles as whether or not a person resides on campus, or whether he is from P.E.I. or Vancouver, certainly connote a serious lack of maturity, and a very poor reflection on the intelligence of campus students.

Of course, everyone has the right to criticise the president and his executive whenever such criticism is warranted. But destructive criticism only destroys whereas constructive criticism helps to build. It should always be our endeavor to ensure that whenever criticisms are levelled at our leaders, they should be done in a manner to elevate rather than to degrade. Now should be the time for us to eliminate factional bickerings and corridor caucuses. These recent events have amply pointed out a serious need for student cooperation in all quarters of this institution.

A Student Union is only as strong as the people who comprise it. Our new president has pledged himself to be our leader. Leaders are only as strong as their followers since they are conditioned by the people whom they lead. The best way for us to strengthen our leaders is by our personal example. As a student body divided, we will always remain in chaos. United, we can conquer unlimited horizons. Now is the time for us to pull together and make this campus a place of which we can be all truly proud.

MERRY CHRISTMAS friends, and see you all in '63.

## "YE OLDE CLASSIC"



"Dalhousie and the St. Dunstan's dragon"

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR BROAD SIDE

Dear Editor:

I would like to take to task our new 'Campus Conscious' who along with her frosh cohorts have set themselves up in judgement of the men on this campus. She has raised her nose in indignation at the beards grown by many of the men at exam time. It would have been better had she taken the trouble to inquire into the matter. She would have found that beards are a hallowed tradition among the men at exam time, and are grown with pride; a pride which we do not expect her to understand, and not understanding, we expect her to keep her unconsidered observation to herself.

The freshettes seem to be taken aback with what they term 'Segregation of the sexes' stemming from a lack of 'friendly, cheery, hellos'. Unlike the frosh, we have come to S.D.U. for further, hard-earned, education, not to glad-hand and fawn over "Co-eds" despite their expectations.

Now to the most pertinent matter of holding doors. When practical, it is a general unwritten and well observed rule that doors are held for women, even girls. Note, I said, where practical. With just five minutes between classes, we cannot be expected to

wait holding a door, while they dawdle along in idle chatter or try to catch the eye of some male.

Reference was made to having recourse to a Charles Atlas Course to enforce their expectations. This is the only constructive suggestion in her column, and with it I heartily agree. She should do something to develop the maturity shown sadly lacking in her self righteous observations.

She would do well to remember that she is not a senior as yet and should spend more time in Academic matters and less in playing Emily Post.

Yours truly,

Dave Campbell '65

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## Ideas on initiation

Dear Sir:

I was disappointed to read in your first issue of the indifferent welcome extended to the Freshmen Class at the beginning of the college year, possibly not so much because of any inherent worth in the tradition which had been developing in recent years as because it is generally accepted that there should be some immersion of the Freshmen Class into the campus spirit of whatever new college they are attending. Perhaps the lack of an initiation rite at St. Dunstan's is the final affirmation that the age old spirit of the college has finally expired.

If this is so, it is most unfortunate, not for the sake of those Old Grads who have already been enriched by the St. Dunstan's spirit and who can never lose that part of their inheritance from the Alma Mater, but for the sake of the present and future students who will be denying themselves one of the richest parts of the university experience. I have, therefore, a suggestion which I think in time will contribute to a revival of the traditional college spirit at St. Dunstan's.

First, let me say that I would be prepared to do public penance for the sin of Calumny if more than 25 per cent of the student body can be found to know more than three facts about the patron of the University. (Did I not just now hear someone ask, Who is the patron of the University?) Furthermore, I would do such penance on my knees if 15 per cent can be found who know, without cramming, the name of the Founder of the University, and the circumstances of its Founding. Such ignorance, which I am persuaded is rifle upon campus, spells death to college spirit. The sort of exuberance one hears at football games and the like then becomes superficial nonsense, truly "sound and fury, signifying nothing."

My suggestion is beginning to become apparent. Simply stated, I think every member of the Freshmen Class each year should be required to learn, within one week of enrollment, the following:

- (1) A short biographical sketch of our Patron.
- (2) A short biographical sketch of our Founder.
- (3) The circumstances of the Founding of the University.
- (4) A resume of the History of the University, (with significant dates).
- (5) The names of the successive Rectors.

This information could be given to each Freshman in booklet form at a Welcome Party held at the beginning of Freshmen Week, sponsored by the Students' Union and hosted by the Senior Class. With it should go a badge of identification, perhaps a name tag attached to a green ribbon to be worn during the week. Then at the end of Freshmen Week, (there being, of course, other activities in the interval) there should be a formal assembly of the Freshmen, at which they would be examined individually on the contents of the booklet by members of the Senior Class using a standard set of questions, (and all the Seniors being present this would mean about four Freshmen per Senior). Students who succeeded in passing the test would be referred on to the President of the Students' Union, who would ceremoniously replace the green ribbons with a Red and White set, or preferably a Red and White skull cap, an item which would then have lasting value. If a student could not pass the test, his green ribbon could be replaced with a black one, pending re-examination, signifying that he is dead to college spirit.

I have gone into more detail than perhaps was necessary, but I wanted to indicate that it is possible for this suggestion to be administered. I am sure that there are creative minds on campus who could do much more with this idea, and I happily surrender my copyright to such blithe spirits as may wish to seize upon it. My point is simply this, that a genuine college spirit finds its roots in the identity of the college, and the identity of St. Dunstan's is to be found in part in the sources I have listed. As for the remainder, like the pot of gold hidden in the orchard, we must dig for it. It is so cunningly protected that only the most diligent discover it by Graduation Day.

Yours very truly,  
C.F.S.