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A PLEA FOR THOUGHT

IN this week's Brunswickan we have attempted to publicize both sides of the controversial political club question. We have taken considerable pains to see that both sides of the issue receive proper consideration and we hope that our efforts are not in vain. This editorial is purely a plea for clear, objective thought on the part of every U.N.B. student.

All students should cast aside their prejudices and biases and deal with this matter from a logical, sound point of view. By studying the articles set forth it is our sincere hope that you will have received all the major arguments favouring both the affirmative and the negative.

FORM AND INFORM

ONCE you have carefully formed your opinion from the articles presented in THIS Brunswickan, inform your Council representative of your decision. The class representatives, if they have your interests at heart, will vote accordingly in the Council meeting Wednesday night.

OR VOICE YOUR OPINION

BETTER still, why not come to Wednesday night's Council meeting and voice your opinion on this controversial issue. All students have the right to express their views at any meeting. Whether or not you are politically-minded you are requested to give this political club question your consideration.

Christmas Tidings . . .

THIS BRUNSWICKAN is supposed to be the last issue for the year 1949. We are certain that this is the last issue . . . for the last two years we have had Extras—on barbershops and jails. In any event, may we offer our Warmest Greetings for a Happy Christmas vacation and extend to all our readers our Sincerest Wishes for a Prosperous 1950.

Politics at University

Field Marshal Earl Wavell, in his address to students of Macdonald College Wednesday night, which he termed "a few thoughts on leadership in democracy", presented some views which deserve special thought by McGill students just at this time.

Some will be quick to suggest, of course, that Earl Wavell was thinking of Churchills and Trueman. But he stated pointedly: "It is upon you young men, who have the advantage of education and training in the universities of Canada, that much will depend." . . . Precious little will depend upon those university students who spend four years at the university well insulated from the practical world: "There are too many theorists without practical experience among our present-day politicians", Earl Wavell declared. And he mentioned the difference between "well spoken" and "well done"—a difference which we think stands out more prominently in the traits of university students than in any other group of people.

"If you continue to choose your leaders wisely and to follow them loyally, you will not only be one of the great nations, but you will make a great contribution to the peace of the world and to the advancement of civilization," declared Earl Wavell. Here is where we would like to inject a note of particular concern.

We say so often that university students are "the leaders of tomorrow" that anyone who expresses doubt would probably be branded a heretic. Nevertheless, more and more pressure is being put on university students who would like to discuss all forms of political theory—pressure of various forms which tends to make the average Canadian university student look upon politics as merely a "dirty game", something for "other people". More and more, it seems, political discussions beyond the range of class room assignments is becoming a novelty at Canadian Universities.

At McGill political activity is practically at a standstill. Leaders of the campus political clubs, none of which probably have more than fifty active members, snort at each other occasionally through the "letters to the editor" column, and this seems to be the most active part of political discussion on the campus.

University students "could be the leaders of tomorrow" would probably be a more correct way of viewing the use which they could make of their education. But with the apparently increasing political

inactivity of university students, we are inclined to think we are in the position of the "leader" Earl Wavell mentioned in his address.

"When I was a boy", declared Earl Wavell, "my father told me a story which has always stayed in my mind. It was of an excitable, uncontrolled mob during a revolution in Paris who were rushing down a street into obvious danger and disaster; a little behind them came a less excited and more reasonable looking man. A bystander stopped him and asked, 'why are you following that crowd, can't you see they are only taking you into trouble?' . . . 'Mais il faut que je les suive' was the answer, 'je suis leur chef' . . . That of course, is not leadership."

C. K.
—McGill Daily

Political Clubs

What passes for ivory-towered detachments is, too often, nothing more than apathetic disinterest. This is particularly true in respect to student attitude toward political organizations on the campus.

Open meetings of the four political clubs are meagrely attended; often only a handful of students turn out to hear important and valuable discussions on political policy.

Since it will be the students of this and other universities that will have a major part in determining the future leaders in the political field, it is distressing to see the lack of interest shown in these meetings.

We are not advocating a mass movement wherein every student would join one or another of the organized clubs. But we are suggesting that an awakened interest in the activities of these clubs would be an asset to each student.

The need for keeping an open mind on political questions need not be emphasized here. But an open mind does not imply an empty mind. Ignorance of the precepts of the various political parties is a failing difficult to excuse in a group of people who will presently be expected to take important, if not leading, roles in the formation of political policy for the country.

In the past, fence-sitting has been a popular activity. Strict neutrality and impartiality on certain questions is a good and necessary condition before the questions can be answered. In this case, however, fence-sitting is a weak-kneed excuse to refrain from intellectual exercise. Neutrality in this instance is nothing but an attempt to escape from problems intimately affecting every one of us.

Lest what has been said be misinterpreted we explain that we are not beating the drums for any of the political parties or their campus branches. These organizations seem to have enough vociferous drum-beaters of their own without help from The Varsity.

We would suggest that students should for the sake of the benefits to themselves take a more active interest in the meetings of the political clubs on the campus.

The democratic system of government depends upon an intelligent electorate, fully aware of the principles it has to choose from. The first requirement for an intelligent understanding of the principles is a knowledge of the reasoning underlying these principles.

This knowledge can be at least partially realized by participation in the meetings of the University political clubs.

—Varsity (Toronto)

By Piet Van der Meyden

Why I am Against

Political Clubs

THREE PARTIES, representing the three main political parties in Canada, presented their constitutions to be accepted by the Students' Council in order to set up three political clubs on the campus. I, personally, believe that accepting these constitutions is a dangerous thing. The purpose of each club seems to be the same, quoting the Liberal Club constitution: "The purpose of this organization shall be to further the study and ADVANCEMENT of Liberalism among university students." To further the STUDY of Liberalism, Socialism, and Conservatism is an excellent idea. We all need to know something about politics and its workings.

What I don't like is that those clubs also exist to further the ADVANCEMENT of the three "isms." The university is not intended to be used by each party machine to drum up votes for the next election. With three clubs, a student could only attend the functions of one club. Therefore, unless all you wish to do evenings is to go to political club meetings you would only hear one side of the political question. In the long run, then, any university political club would be a part of the National organization; do we need such clubs? I am certain Fredericton boasts of a young Liberal, a young P. C., and a young C.C.F. association. So, if you wish to associate with one of these parties, all you need do is go downtown. If, however, just one club, consisting of all three parties were set up, with an aim of teaching the study of all the parties, that is another question. Then, as a member of one club, that member can hear all sides of a question, and as there would at the most only be one meeting a week, it would not be difficult to attend all meetings. Such a club could teach those interested all they wish to know about politics and yet not force anybody into one belief, or have the club be a tool of one National party.

Furthermore, with proper handling and backing, a certain political club could get a hold of all campus governments. This happened in a small way in the Fall of '48 . . . you need only look back to the Brunswickans of that period to see what would happen if one political party got any power anywhere on the campus. Unofficially, these clubs have existed for a few years, but they cannot publicize anything until they get student recognition.

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LETTERS

To the Editor

Masters of Our Fate

Dear Sir:

I have carefully noted with interest and amusement your article concerning the Law School in the November 14th edition of the Brunswickan. Although this reply is not official as being from the Law Students' Society here, it displays the feelings of many of her Law Students.

We resent the undergraduate Student Council at U.N.B. placing themselves as masters of our fate. We note that your so-called resolution is in the best interest of the Student Body at U.N.B., not of the Law School. We note it is promoted by some pre-law students who know little of the law and nothing of the Law School.

May we remind you that you are undergraduates; we are post-graduates. Take a few suggestions from your academic elders and let us decide what is best for us. Perhaps your pre-law students are loathe to leave the "rah-rah" and childish activities of the undergraduate life. They may yet have to learn that they are becoming professional men and should settle down and become serious students.

Commenting on your resolution, may I point out some obvious fallacies and inconsistencies.

1. The University of New Brunswick Law School is, and always has been, located in the City of Saint John.

2. With the exception of Divorce Court, more of the chief Law Courts are held in the City of Saint John, to wit, the Courts of Chancery, King's Bench Division, Probate and Admiralty as well as the County Circuit, Magistrate and Juvenile Courts. You are bold to suggest the best lawyers in the Province are in the City of Fredericton.

3. Most of the Law Students have had an ample opportunity to watch the laws being made.

4. The University Library is almost void of legal texts and has no reports. The Law Library is half a mile from the University campus and has no adequate facilities to accommodate an influx of fifty additional students. There would be no opportunity to read cases between lectures.

5. A B.C.L. degree from the University of New Brunswick Law School is recognized in all provinces of the Dominion of Canada. Harvard University recognizes a degree from the U.N.B. Law School but not one from Osgoode Hall.

6. The lawyers who lecture in the Law School are quite willing to take the time to lecture, are well paid, and are authorities on the subjects in which they lecture of a calibre not to be found in the City of Fredericton.

7. As for the great benefit to the Law Students of the social activities and facilities of the University campus, may I say that we have a complete and satisfactory social life within our own organization. Our Law Ball, Law Dinner, other social parties, bowling, debates, moot courts, etc. take up our spare time and are complete within and of interest to, our own organization. Thank you, but we do not need you to tell us how to lead our social life.

8. We are not a Law Department. We are the only professional school the University has, and we have no desire to be lost in the mass of applied science students.

9. We have, be it noted, a full time Professor in Law. He is available at all times to hear the students.

Lecturers in law should be practising lawyers, not academic professors. The law is always changing; the lecturers should be up with the changes.

To those who suggest the change may I say we have here, or soon will have, two classrooms, a common room, a student library and use of the library of the Barristers' Society of Saint John directly connected. Can the University offer us this? Can the University offer us lecturers who are authorities in Equity, Taxation, Probate, Corporations, Torts, etc., as we have now?

(continued on page 3)

MASTERS OF OUR

(continued from page 1)

I very much doubt its merit to be "merged with Arts"; we are not in a professional school; we are not complaining; we are not having the Law School, which is a local and convenient location only fitting that it should be in Saint John. Fredericton want all the facilities for higher education in the Province?

We suggest that the move do so for personal reasons. We are not talking of some knowledge about the S.R.C. concerning matters on its own to leave the Law Students to their affairs.

Yours very truly
Douglas E.
Student-at-Law

Authorization

Dear Sir:

Your letter of the 2nd received and contents not appreciated that the neutral Brunswickan is, to say the least, the safest one.

I hereby authorize my letter of the 18th S.R.C. and the Pre-Law Society to think it would be in either of those directions.

Re Library: It has been to my attention that the library in Fredericton belongs to the Barristers' Society of New Brunswick, and doubtful if they would lend it in such numbers to the library.

Re Staff: Some men faculty here are annoyed, also, resent the source of the "mand". They wish to know that the U.N.B. (formerly King's College) was founded and is now in the hands of the Barristers of Saint John, and can readily happy U.N.B. we too happy to scoop up a School as a growing one.

I suggest that the S.R.C. Pre-Law Society study quite carefully before forth their demands. will deal with this matter which is unable to defend your council.

Yours sincerely
Douglas E.
Student-at-Law

Never Discuss

Dear Sir,

Recently much has been said regarding the pros and cons of the Law School to Some people seem to be the idea of this change and was fostered by Pre-Law Society.

I would like to point out the purpose of the U.N. Society is to acquaint with the legal profession various aspects of the law or not the Law School moved to Fredericton.

THE
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ASSN

FREDERICTON
Bank of Commerce

The PIONEER