

A meeting of political friends

Student Government History # 48

Late in March 1930, after only two attempts, the idea of turning Munro Day into Founders' Day had run into trouble. An editorial called it "little better than a display of professors dressed in academic costume - and a meeting of political friends". In 1929 the Conservative leader and Dal grad, R. B. Bennett, had been the speaker. In 1930 it was the former Conservative prime minister Arthur Meighen. Mr Meighen was hardly a founder of Dalhousie and attendance was low. The newspaper called for student involvement in the preparation of the day's activities, and for treatment of the day as a celebration.

As exams bore down a Little Theatre Movement was started under the Glee and Drama Society auspices. It was a reaction to the 1920's pattern of large-scale musicals and revues. The five year dispute between the students of King's and Dalhousie was coming to a close. The board of arbitration had been formed, it heard the case and a decision was pending. Acting upon the recommendation of the Medicine reps, the Students' Council asked the Registrar to institute compulsory health examinations of students.

When the newly elected Council met to select its officers it chose a Medicine student once again - John Denoon. He was going into his final year, and had done undergraduate work at Toronto. It was the third year in a row that Law students did not gain the presidency - almost a record!

The 1929-1930 Council held its last meeting "in the form of an enjoyable luncheon at the Carleton Hotel". This was unprecedented, and an indication of the widening gap between the Council and students. At the meeting the formation of a university bookstore was approved, with the committee of Council that did most of the work assigned the task of making final arrangements. The Students' Council would have 40 percent ownership in the bookstore. Hazing,

legalized for only a few years, was still a problem and so the Council decided to give itself veto power over plans for hazing. IT would also observe the orientation proceedings.

The links with a Dalhousie College that would be accommodated in one building were being lost. On September 9, 1930 Professor Howard Murray, the Dean of the University, died. He had been Dean since 1901, and Professor of Classics since 1894.

The first store on campus was in operation by that autumn. Under the final arrangements the book side was governed by the Council through a committee, while the tuck shop business was the responsibility of Roy Atwood, acting for the C.N.I.B. Limited space was the only problem that appeared evident. The committee that arranged to have the store included Angus L. MacDonald, the future Premier, and Murray Rankin, a past Council president who would soon become the Council's first permanent management person.

The *Gazette's* new leadership continued its domination by Law students. Especially noteworthy is the Managing Editor, A. Gordon Cooper. Angus L. MacDonald's selection as Liberal leader and Leader of the Opposition in Nova Scotia was hailed for bringing honour to the Law School, where he had been a lecturer.

When the Council met it confirmed the system started by Fred Jennings of a president making decisions and seeking Council ratification. John Denoon had given the football team \$200. There was a special expense of \$150 so Dalhousie would have a team in the British Empire games. It was perhaps a sign of a new council elitism that at student expense phones were installed in the residences of the President and Secretary-Treasurer. In fulfillment of the fee increase referendum students were to receive free admission to home league games upon presentation of their DAAC cards. The book bureau received a \$200 advance, while the year book business manager were called upon to

report. Forgetting that misuse of the student reading room had been a source of troubles from the 1860's to World War I, Council approved a scheme to establish several reading rooms on the two campuses.

An emergency meeting on October 8, 1930 faced an important issue and then avoided it. The class of '33 wanted to hold the customary Freshie-Soph dance on October 13 and the Council approved the date while still trying to persuade '33 to take another date. Throughout the year irrational scheduling of dances and the unlimited number of dances were an irritation to most students. A more serious effect was the diminished profit, and even a few losses, on dances that had been a reliable source of revenue for the classes and societies.

Helen Williams was elected in a Council by-election in mid-October. It was a tribute to her perseverance since she had been defeated twice, and only won by a narrow margin this time. The resignation of Vice-President and Arts rep Mary Crocker had led to the by-election.

True to form, problems with the reading rooms had appeared at the Forrest Building three weeks after approval of the rooms. The year book Business Manager admitted to a \$457.79 deficit, but he blamed low sales and the publisher's refusal to set a price before the work was completed. A Council committee was formed to reduce the publisher's fee and either sell or destroy the remaining year books. It was rumoured that *Gazette* also faced financial difficulty so its 29-30 Business Manager was summoned before Council.

Rampant professionalism led to the purchase of second-hand typewriters for the *Gazette* and Council. The constitution review committee was asked to investigate having a permanent Secretary-Treasurer and a directory. Returning to another source of past trouble the Council decided to rent a piano for use in the gymnasium. The last time this had been done the piano was damaged and long negotiations with the owner resulted.

Students pessimistic about business

TORONTO (CUP) — A Toronto-based business consultant has warned that it is "dangerously wrong" to think student attitudes towards business have improved over the past few years.

J. Richard Finlay of Unimarc Consultants Ltd. conducted a survey in the spring of 1974 to find out how university students viewed business, the profit motive, and the work ethic.

The survey results, recently published in a business periodical, show that students have a low opinion of business, business leaders, and the capitalistic economic system.

According to the survey, students do not reject the ethic that says hard work will necessarily pay off in a business career.

"Perhaps the most significant general finding," Finlay said, "is the fact that 77 per cent of the sample expressed a basically negative opinion of the overall conduct and performance of the business community in Canada."

As for their general attitude towards the "free enterprise system as it presently exists", 38 per cent said they "strongly disapprove;" 44 per cent said they "mostly disapprove;" while 4 per cent said they "strongly approve" and 6 per cent responded they "mostly approve."

When asked whether they thought the profit motive "did more harm than good" to society as a whole, 86 per cent said yes.

As for business leaders, the students were asked to rank 20 well known people in order of popularity. The three businessmen on the list -- E. P. Taylor, Stephen Roman, and Henry Ford II -- occupied the three bottom positions.

The "work ethic" fared no better. Finlay said in the article that the survey results show "it is not work per se that students are rejecting. Solid effort is alive and well on the campuses and so is the spirit of competition. What students are rejecting is the notion that hard work, any work, always pays off and that a regular job, any job, is essential to a person's social and spiritual well-being."

Finlay feels this consti-

tutes a threat to the values fostered by big business. He said the attitude of contemporary students "threatens to disrupt almost every aspect of corporate life."

What must be really disturbing to corporate business is that Finlay found evidence that student attitudes towards business are becoming even more negative.

He reports that 62 per cent of the sample stated they have become more negative towards business during the past two years, while only 7 per cent reported their feelings have moved the other way in the same period. According to Finlay, the latter group were mostly "hard-core business students."

Students unwanted

PETERBOROUGH (CUP) - The Senate of Trent University voted 25-12 to seat students on a university committee dealing with hiring, firing and promotion of faculty. But the next day a disgruntled faculty member told a meeting of the university Board of Governors, which has no student representation, that "a good number of faculty are not only concerned but quite frankly appalled" at the Senate decision.

The decision was to seat three students on the Committee On Academic Personnel (COAP), a body which makes decisions about hiring, firing and promotion of faculty. The students are to be appoint-

ed by the student council.

The next day Professor Bob Chambers, who has spoken against student representation on COAP at the Senate meeting, reported to a meeting of the Board of Governors that faculty were appalled at the decision, and the faculty association might make "some sort of initiative to reverse the decision."

The president of the university said he doesn't know what would happen if some faculty member were to tell the university that he does not want his personnel decisions made by students. Chambers predicted this would happen.

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