

# Students press for peace and pay more

## STUDENT GOVERNMENT HISTORY #65

A fee increase seemed to be the only path to Students' Council solvency in 1936-37. By February 1936 the outgoing Council had accepted the need to increase Dalhousie's NFCUS fee, and the impossibility to having all group photographs in the yearbook paid by those groups. The Council first agreed to pay for necessary photos and only charge for the rest. It discovered that the only alternative to the \$100 annual contribution to Gym operations would be a charge for each event, totalling far more than \$100 a year. The fee referendum was approved, calling for a \$2.00 increase to finance the year book.

Some of the routine business continued despite the financial preoccupation. Organizations were asked once again to file their constitutions with Council. The NFCUS reps would have staggered terms. The King's Council wished to renegotiate its agreement with Dalhousie students. The tradition of only spending Council funds on general student activities was upheld by a refusal to loan money for the Dental Society's minstrel show.

Canadian students had started a "Peace Movement" over Christmas, on February 28 a GAZETTE editorial urged that creation of a Dalhousie Peace Movement was the only way to stop the spread of fascism and war. (The opposition to fascism was somewhat new. In the early 1930's Canadian student pacifists often expressed admiration for measures taken by Europe's fascist governments).

When Council met on March 1 it heard that the King's students were demanding both a decrease in the fees they paid Dalhousie, and an increase in their Dalhousie student privileges. The Dalhousie negotiators felt that the dispute would have to go to a board of arbitration. The yearbook business manager reported that its finances still seemed good. The yearbook editor was absent from the Council meeting, and a Pharos staff member express-

ed doubt that the book would be finished on schedule. Council officially rebuked the editor for not reporting to it at the meeting.

The Council authorized Eric Mercer (now a Math professor and assistant to President Hicks) to act for Dalhousie in the planning for the Student Peace Day in March. He moved quickly and five days later it was announced that on March 20th classes would be cancelled for a meeting which would be Dalhousie's contribution to the Peace Movement.

In the elections that year the turnout was low, but the fee increase received overwhelming approval. There had been controversy because those who wanted the candidates to campaign for election made their request only four days before the voting. Campaigning could not be organized on such short notice, so once again students had to choose candidates with only word of mouth and friendships as the only criteria.

In an unusual flip flop the newspaper criticized Council for cancelling its year-end banquet. The editors felt that the Council members had done a good job and deserved some reward. On the occasion of Council's previous Depression era banquet the newspaper had attacked it for waste and extravagance.

The current Chief Justice of Nova Scotia, Ian MacKeigan, was a GAZETTE staff member at this time. Among the illustrious graduates of 1936 were Robert Stanfield, Arthur Meagher and Laurie Black. All have achieved prominence, in politics, law and journalism respectively.

Although a March 8 Council meeting heard that the yearbook would be ready before exams the Council members reprimanded the editor for his slipshod way of operating. The Senate was officially asked to implement the referendum decision in favour of a fee increase. Council resolved to make another attempt to improve and co-ordinate the presentation of awards and new Council members at the student

forum.

When that new Council met it chose R. Gordon Lea as President and Helen Holman as Vice-President. Lea's father was Premier of P.E.I. The new members immediately dealt with two endless problems by choosing a supervisor of dates who would prevent conflicting functions and by establishing a constitutional revision process which would work over the summer with Senate assistance. University authorities had influenced the 1912 reorganization of Dalhousie student government, but never before had their involvement been officially acknowledged.

When students returned in September 1936 they discovered several changes. The position of Dean of Arts and Science had been created, and L. B. Nickerson was the first to hold this office. The Institute of Public Affairs was another addition to the university.

There were also reports that a significant reorganization of the Council was being prepared.

Events overseas were covered by an article which attempted to analyze Hitler's intentions as revealed at the Nuremberg rally. "Future events alone will show whether the Nuremberg speech was a matter of party politics ... or a genuine forecast of future German policy". The author appears to believe that it was only party politics. The same article viewed the Spanish civil war as an "Italo-German-Mohammedan invasion of Spain".

A special September session of Students' Council dealt with the DAAC (Dalhousie Amateur Athletic Club) suggestion of a university band. Council decided that if the Executive Committee approved the band proposal up to \$400 of the Council reserves could be used to start the music.

## Nationalism *Cont'd from pg. 3*

without examining their intellectual "baggage" in terms of what is pertinent to the Canadian environment. What is Canadian about a person is not where s/he was born, but that they consider themselves to be Canadian. This includes an ability to see the unique possibilities and alternatives that the Canadian environment provides.

### The Rebuttal

Mr. Treleven argued that we should not spend so much time discussing the concept of nationalism. The CIC is interested in getting on with the job of making Canada Canadian. If it is based on the free enterprise system, this is not from any intellectual dedication. It is because that is what Canadians want.

Dr. Godfrey said that it does not require nationalism for a foreign intellectual to examine his intellectual "baggage". It just makes sense. He also said that the CIC is not political enough and that it must

get political if it is to survive.

According to Dr. Wouk, key elements of the Canadian economy are not controlled from within its borders. Canadians must take control of these, if they are to benefit from true self-determination. He asked, "How can we have a true Canadian culture if the economy is foreign controlled"?

What foreign intellectuals contribute, according to Dr. Friedenber, is an important heuristic model. An example he gave is the American institution of checks and balances. The implementation of the War Measures Act shows us that under the Canadian system the Government can be an instrument of tyranny. We should always be kept aware of alternatives. Foreign intellectuals help us to maintain this awareness.

The motion was carried in the negative by a vote of 53 to 34.

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