

Council rents a Piano

Student Government History #35

On March 24, 1925 the newly elected Council met to make the annual appointments. The entire executive, including the President, were appointed by the Council, in a method somewhat similar to the way a party leader is chosen by the parliamentary caucus. A. Blenus Morton was chosen President, Avis Marshall Vice-President and J. Gerlad Godsoe Secretary-Treasurer. Both Mr. Morton and Mr. Godsoe have been mentioned previously regarding their distinguished careers after graduation.

The new Council decided that it wanted to begin replacing hazing with an orientation programme. It also decided that the Council constitution would be printed in the handbook, for the first time. The only other time the Constitution was printed was in 1912, after the major reorganization of student government introduced representative government and the compulsory fee. Since that reorganization there was a tradition of the Council choosing members with experience on past Councils as officers. This was continued by the 1925-26 Council, especially in the selection of Mr. Morton, who had chaired the Rink Committee.

The 1924-25 Council had its final meeting on April 16. Most of the time was spent on a trial of senior Arts students who had been caught smoking. Council also debated whether it should be an enforcer of the law, or judge of the cases presented. Apparently this was the first time the question had been debated in 12 years on Council having a disciplinary role. The issue was never settled, since the Council decided that it could not mistrust a statement of the Dean of the University, and he had accused the students before Council.

King's requested their athletic fee for 1925-26 be settled ahead of time, rather than the usual months-long negotiation with Council during the fall term. However, the Council refused, and

passed the issue on to their successors, to be dealt with in the fall.

That new Council had its first business meeting late in September, when it began by appointing the GAZETTE officials. This was the second time in a row that these appointments were made in the fall, rather than the spring, as was required. The Council had been considering the purchase of a piano, but it decided at this meeting to rent one for two months, then to determine whether one could be afforded. Many years earlier a piano had been the first large item to be purchased by the Dalhousie student government.

A conference on Senate reform was about to be held, and it was decided that the executive would represent the Council. King's had reported that it would not be able to pay any fee for Dalhousie athletic privileges. The previous year a low fee had been accepted due to lack of funds at King's. The Dalhousie Council appointed a committee to begin negotiations, and asked another committee to prepare a brief on the entire King's fee controversy. The report was to be presented to the Advisory Board, a group of faculty and alumni who advised the Council on financial matters.

Finally, notice was given that constitutional amendments were going to be introduced to have the Secretary-Treasurer present monthly reports on the finances of the Council. Also, the amendments would require selection of more qualified auditors. These amendments and the previous Council's vain attempt to revise the constitution seem to be signs that after twelve years the system established in 1912 was no longer able to provide a sufficiently capable Council. Also, as Dalhousie approached enrolment levels unsuspected before the war, students began to demand greater sophistication.

A month after that meeting the GAZETTE attacked the Council's orientation policy,

comparing it unfavourably to the old approach. It was concerned that rather than a true initiation, the Freshmen were merely made to feel foolish for a few hours. The editorial continued by saying that true subjugation would make the new students realize that they were the lessor of all students for that year, and in the future this would provide a firm bond of fellowship among all Dalhousie students.

Another issue of growing importance emerged through a letter to the GAZETTE. The author argued that it was time for Dalhousie to have a year book, since so many other universities had introduced one.

The Dean of the University, Professor Howard Murray, congratulated the Council in November. He was pleased with their efficient handling of complaints that he forwarded about rule infractions. Previously Councils refused to act until they heard the results of an investigation, and investigations were rarely completed. Now punishment was meted out immediately, often without evidence being heard. The constitutional amendments introduced in September were passed. The only opposition came from the Treasurer, J. Gerald Godsoe. He was the person most affected by them.

Dalhousie passed a milestone that fall when it received a Class A rating from the American Medical Association for the Medical School. GAZETTE celebrated by devoting all of the October 29 issue to the rating, and to a history of the school. A letter from Stanley MacKenzie, the University President, took up most of the front page. A history of the Dalhousie Medical Students' Society and description of the school's programmes was also included. It was the first time that GAZETTE gave an entire issue to any event, except the death of leading members of the university community.

N. B. P.C.'s win a majority

by L. Richardson

On Monday evening, November 18, 1974, the Progressive Conservative Government in New Brunswick under Premier Richard Hatfield was returned with a seven seat majority (the same at dissolution of the House) but with a reduced popular vote.

This election marked the first time in the Province's history that the concept of single member ridings was used to elect the members of the legislature and political analysts will look to this

issue to determine the effect it had on the outcome of the vote. The Conservatives felt that it would break up traditional Liberal ridings, especially in Restigouche, Northumberland, Kent, Gloucester and Madawaska counties where at least three and sometimes four Liberals were returned in a block to the Fredericton Legislature. The PC Party looked to Shippegan and Bathurst, plus Their French seat in Kent County, which the Hon. Omar Leger won in a by

election after Louis Robichaud left it when he became Chairman of the International Joint Commission, as areas in French New Brunswick were they would be successful. In Gloucester county, where the former member Lorenzo Morais crossed the floor to sit as an Independent, the PC's showed some confidence in retaining that seat.

The Conservatives felt that their economic program, of the last four years would be a big reason why they should be returned to continue their mandate. In the Saint John area, especially, the economic growth has increased substantially with major projects, on the Federal, Provincial, and Municipal levels and the Labour people and Developers in the area have been satisfied for the most part, as to how the Government has handled opportunity for expansion. The Coleson Cove Power project, the Nuclear Power project at Point Lepreau, the building

of the Bricklin, the expansion of the Irving Oil refinery, the start of the new Federal Post Office, Rodney terminal, and the facelifting of downtown Saint John, gave the electorate in the area, some programs which were worthwhile for the future of the City and area. However, this development was going on in an area which is the stomping of the Liberal leader of New Brunswick, Robert Higgins and if the Liberals were to win this election, they would have to add a few seats in Southern New Brunswick and continue the winning streak begun in the by election, where John Turnbull was elected and where Mike Landers defeated Tom Bell, PC M.P. for 22 years. It was the opinion of many Liberals, that the reason they supported Mr. Higgins in the last leadership convention over Mr. Theriault, the party's President, was that Mr. Higgins

would win Saint John and Moncton and give the Liberals a majority. A number of North Shore residents were unhappy with the indecisiveness of the Liberals in supporting the North Shore in the Nuclear power project. Mr. Higgins couldn't give his full support because as M.L.A. for Saint John his first responsibilities should be to his own constituents.

The Hatfield government lost a cabinet minister in the election, the Hon. John Paul LeBlanc, former minister in charge of Tourism. The Liberal party lost its financial critic and a former Education Minister Wendell Meldrum, of Sackville, since he did not re-offer for election.

The Conservatives, who had successful by elections in York and Campbellton, will continue to govern in Fredericton for the next four years.

White Bread and Cancer linked

LONDON (CUP-ENS) -- A prominent scientist with the Medical Research Council in London has published a study suggesting that white bread may be one of the leading causes of non-infective disease in the world.

Dr. Denis Burkitt, writing in the Journal of the American Medical Association, says that the western habit of eating lots of refined carbohydrates, particularly white bread, is a major cause of heart disease, intestinal

malfunctions, and cancer of the colon.

Dr. Burkitt compared diseases characteristic of the affluent western nations with diseases common in under-developed African nations and found that the differences are mostly explained by diets.

He found that heart disease and cancer of the colon, while leading causes of death in the west, are almost non-existent in the African nations.

The reason, he says, is that the under-developed world eats most cereal fiber than the affluent world. The fiber, he contends, has little nutritional value, but is extremely important to the bacteriological and chemical processes in the intestine.

The solution for the western world, says Dr. Burkitt, is to switch from white bread to the real thing -- whole wheat.

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