

# The Dalhousie GAZETTE

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## LETTERS

...sacrifice...

Sir:

With reference to the comments made in "What's Wrong With Our Campus?" (January 19 issue) may I express my amazement that some students here consider a scholarly atmosphere as being something which shouldn't predominate on a university campus. After all, isn't a university primarily a seat of learning rather than a center of social and athletic functions? Granted, more emphasis on the latter incidentals do make for a more positive, aggressive campus spirit—but is academic training to be sacrificed for the cultivation of college spirit?

Certainly and rightly, Dalhousie now maintains a high academic level; this is why our students are exempted from Reponsions in such world-famous institutions of learning as Oxford and London; this high academic standard is also the reason why our medical school graduates are rated "Class A" by the Council on Medical Education and the Hospitals of the American

Medical Association. Furthermore it is to be noted that the renowned institutions of the universities of Cambridge, Paris, Oxford, etc., do not have any form of organized student activity—yet these universities are among the greatest in the world; all of which proves that the social and athletic aspects of university life are decidedly inferior to the academic side.

Therefore my fellow students, let us progress toward greatness through scholarship and let those who wish to have a roaring time all year have it without us brow-beaten fuddy-duddies.

J. A. WOOD,  
Class of '63.

...

### ... Thanks ...

Sir:

I should like to thank, on behalf of the Dalhousie Progressive Conservative Club, all those who supported us in the recent election. Personally, I extend my thanks to those who worked with me and gave so much of their time and effort during the campaign.

At this time I strongly urge all Dalhousie - King's students to avail themselves of the opportunity to attend the Model Parliament to be held on February 15 and 16.

My congratulations to Mr. Cowan and the Liberal Party.

Reid Morden,  
Dalhousie Progressive  
Conservative Club.

### WANT TO GO TO THE USSR?

Students interested in participating in the NFCUS delegation visiting the Soviet Union early this summer may now tender their applications with the Students' Council.

The delegation, which will officially represent NFCUS, will arrive in Moscow between May 10 and 24, and will tour six or more university cities in the U.S.S.R. over a period of four weeks.

NFCUS and the U.S.S.R. Council will cover all costs, save miscellaneous personal expenses, while members of the delegation may remain in Europe after the official tour is over if they so wish.

Candidates must be bona fide students, members of NFCUS and Canadian citizens. They must be active participants in student affairs, and must be "keenly aware of all aspects of Canadian history, geography and politics, United States policies, Canadian-U. S. relations, national student and youth movements, international youth movements, and their conflicts and policies." Fluency in Russian will be considered a major asset, but is not essential.

Interested students must submit applications to the Students' Council outlining, in particular, their qualifications with respect to the above requirements, and must produce a letter of recommendation. They will then appear before a selection board composed of three students and two faculty members, who will submit a maximum of two recommendations to the national NFCUS office for further consideration if any of the candidates appear suitable.

All applications must reach the Students' Council by February 18.



## A Case for The Russians

By DAVID JONES

Mr. Jones is an honours History student here at Dalhousie. Inspired particularly by Mr. Khrushchev's TV interview of last year, his argument along the lines of a "defense of Russian foreign policy on practical grounds." He maintains there are good grounds for present Russian distrust of Western foreign policy, and that the West must forget about its "white knight image."

Some readers may remember the interview of Mr. N. S. Khrushchev on the combined U.S. and Canadian television networks last fall. The reaction of the American press representatives was both interesting, and deplorable. They remind me of spoiled children, who, having realized for years that there is no Santa Claus, were insulted to find the Department Store fascimile did not bring the presents asked for.

In other words, when they asked the same old questions and received the same old answers, the pressmen became righteously angry and hurt, for the simple reason that a head of state refused to open a new direction of policy, or condemn his government for past actions, and give the American TV networks a scoop. They should certainly have known by now that Mr. Khrushchev was not going to admit to the American public that his country has "enslaved" Eastern Europe since 1945. And since they know this, why ask him to admit the truth of this damaging allegation? Unless, that is, the interview had no other purpose than to rouse North Americans against the nasty Russian hypocrits, who will not plead guilty to all our charge, so, logically, are being uncooperative in a search for peace. The American interviewer frequently stated he was only trying to reach constructive agreement. It was certainly not for the purpose of creating an atmosphere of agreement that Radio Free Europe was advertised concurrently with Khrushchev's interview.

One point on which the American journalists seemed completely agreed was that Russian complaints over the U-2 were simply inspired by a desire to cause disagreement. Why couldn't they be reasonable like us, and forget it ever happened. After all, it was too bad we got caught, but why hold that against us. So why didn't they just trust us, and ignore statements by Presidential Candidates that the U.S. was within its rights, and would be again if it choose to do the same thing again.

Their reasons for this attitude are not easy to understand. Many columns have been published concerning Soviet-Western relations, the great majority of which show how we have been repeatedly betrayed. Yet there is another side, the Soviet side, which is too often ignored. Briefly, it means some thing like this: When the Communist Party was engaged in the life and death struggle of the Civil War, the Allies—Britain, France, the U.S., and Japan—invaded Russia and actively aided the forces trying to put down the Bolsheviks. This has never been forgotten. With the war's end, relations were never very good, while the west suffered repeatedly from "red Scares" and anti-Russian diatribes. The U.S. did not even recognize the Soviet Union until the early thirties (so Red China is really only a repeat performance.)

During this decade, as Nazism and Fascism grew in strength, the Stalin government quite rightly felt these forces posed a threat, which had to be faced. Meanwhile, the diplomacy of the Western democracies was clearly lacking in firmness, and the cynical policy of appeasement was used to buy "peace in our time." Western stands on Manchurians, Abyssinians, Austria, Spain and Czechoslovakia were far from inspiring. The Russians began to fear, that their turn was next, and were encouraged by voices in West Europe, who suggested Hitler be safely let loose in the east, and hopefully intimidated that the Communists and Nazis might "kill each other off." Lord Beaverbrook upheld this view on Canadian TV only a few short years ago. Thus the Russians, having failed to gain help in the west were reduced to the time-buy-

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## Contest Deadline Met

The Gazette is pleased to announce that it has received three nominations for its Beauty Contest.

The paper will shortly hold a staff party, and one member from each nominating group will be requested to escort his nominee to this function. The girls will receive no special attention, but will be asked to join the festivities as they normally would. It is hoped they will enjoy themselves.

During the course of the evening they will be observed by Contest Judges, comprised of the Gazette's Editorial Board. Selection will be made on the basis of general appearance and attractiveness, and an informal presentation, with full Gazette coverage, will be made at some later date.

## Changes in Dalhousie's Social Patterns

The Gazette has been waiting with considerable interest to see what changes in campus social and "political" patterns would result from the recent opening of the new Men's Residence.

We had expected, even hoped, that the center of gravity in campus life might shift away from the ex-Q.E.H. cliques and move somewhat closer to an admixture of local students and outsiders. It seemed possible that such a switch might in turn create a more unified "university" loyalty while at the same time thinning down the "Haligonians-and-others" atmosphere that permeates Dalhousie society and strangles whatever attachment most students hold for the college as a whole.

All too often undergraduates are heard to complain that they "can't wait to get out of this dump," or that "this place is beginning to pall on (them)." Even Halifax students often consider taking graduate or professional courses elsewhere in order to escape whatever intangible characteristic it is that gives rise to their indifference. It is true, of course, that many of the students who express boredom have no one to blame but themselves, but at the same time there does seem to be a certain "I-don't-give-a-damn" attitude prevalent within the University.

Possibly it is a little early to comment on trends relating to the new Residence, and it may be that our expectations will be verified next year. So far, however, it hasn't been happening that way.

What has been taking place, on the other hand, is the growth of a new and entirely separate element within the student body. The men in the new building have created their own Residence Council with its elected officers. They are presently developing plans for a separate initiation next year, and are negotiating with Pine Hill and King's in the

hope that they can begin a round of Residential sports competitions. Last week Dal and King's engaged in a good-natured, inter-residence battle on the squad between the wings of the new building.

All this is a sign that a healthy and highly desirable atmosphere is being created within the confines of the Men's Residence.

It is not, however, indicative of a healthier atmosphere for the University as a whole, and it would appear that life outside the building is going to continue much as it has done in the past.

Accordingly it would seem that the Residence is not going to provide a cure for the appalling indifference and lack of University loyalty so characteristic of student attitudes on campus. For this problem there are but two real remedies. The first, provision of residential quarters for all enrolled students, is unfortunately impossible.

The second is the development of a proper students' center.

## Virus or What?

For the third time in the college year a large majority of the girls in Shirreff Hall have been overcome by a supposedly mysterious stomach illness.

It seems that last Friday morning a reported 70 or 80 Hall girls complained of severe abdominal pains, "runs," and in some cases upset stomachs.

Two similar incidents took place last term, the first on Saturday, November 19, and the second on Sunday, December 18.

In all three cases every one of the girls who was attacked had eaten the Residence meal of the previous evening.

Shirreff Hall officials have, however, repeatedly denied that the illnesses had anything to do with university food, while health inspectors who were called in after the first accident reported that the kitchen facilities fulfill, more than adequately, all the sanitary requirements. The Residence has, moreover, blamed an infectious virus of an unknown variety unconnected with food preparations for the epidemics.

But it would seem to us a strange virus indeed that somehow floated through the windows of the Residence, carefully selected only those girls who had recently eaten at the student dining table, assaulted 70 or 80 of them, and then vanished, all within 24 hours.

The Gazette understands that despite the University's outward assurance, food samples have been set aside for laboratory testing. We heartily commend this action and hope, should these tests prove negative, investigations will be pursued further. For the evidence certainly seems to point to trouble either with the food itself or with its preparation, and while sympathizing with the desire of Residence officials to avoid unpleasant publicity for the University, we hardly need point out how serious the consequences of food poisoning can be.