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THE WOODEN HORSE by FEC

INEPTITUDE

A FARCE IN FIFTEEN MINUTES

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Cast of Characters:
THE PRESIDENT — (Mr. Cooper: Nominally in charge of the proceedings)

THE VICE-PRESIDENT — (Mr. Read: He disagrees with the President as a matter of principle except on items of extreme urgency)

THE TREASURER — (Miss Robb: She is a paid employee of the parent company. As such, her presence at the meeting is of doubtful constitutionality; she advises the other players on matters concerning the constitution. She attends the meeting in an advisory capacity, and often casts the deciding vote. Financial matters are left to her sole discretion; she is not responsible to the students)

THE MEMBER-AT-LARGE — (Mr. Warren: This is a big speaking role. His lengthy speeches are always delivered just before the vote is taken on any motion. He is considered to be a stabilizing influence)

THE SILENT MEMBERS — (These are not demanding roles — almost anyone can fill these parts adequately, and any number can play. These persons do not speak any lines, but they do vote. However, they consider it uncouth to vote before the Member-at-Large has cast his ballot; and by tradition they always vote the same as the Member-at-Large)

THE ORDINARY MEMBERS — (These players both speak and vote, much to the irritation of each other. The players form what is known as the Council of the Students. The setting is a typical Meeting of the Council.)

THE TREASURER — George, before we get the meeting started could the members have a few minutes to read the current issue of the Gazette so they'll know what's going on?

THE PRESIDENT: An excellent idea, Miss Robb. In fact, I was wondering what we were going to do tonight — thank goodness you mentioned the Gazette. Really, I don't know what we would do without you.

(The Members spend five minutes in silence reading the Gazette.)

AN ORDINARY MEMBER: Mr. Chairman, I see a political article on the editorial page about a chemistry student named Henry Hicks. Now I would like to say . . .

ANOTHER ORDINARY MEMBER: David, you've got the Dalhousie Gazette of 1936 there. Really, I don't think the political views of an obscure chemistry student in 1936 are very relevant to what we're discussing tonight.

But Mr. Chairman, while I'm on my feet, and while we're talking about the Dalhousie Gazette, I'd like to say that I'm very unhappy about an advertisement that's been appearing on the back page recently. It's an advertisement about a certain brewery called "On Campus". Now it seems to me to be a waste of space to concentrate so much off-campus news.

Now of course I don't want to say anything specific. But generally speaking . . . (Now what was I told to say . . . oh yes . . .) it is clear that the Gazette has shown an apathetic and irresponsible editorial policy . . .

SOME OTHER ORDINARY MEMBERS: Apathetic and irresponsible!

THE VICE PRESIDENT: It is clear we have a real problem here. Now I don't think we can blame the faults of the Gazette on any one person. What we should do is drop a gentle, subtle hint at the Gazette as a whole without mentioning anyone in particular. Now I know the editor personally, and he is a calm and sensible fellow.

So I think we ought to tactfully direct our criticism through the editor-in-chief — of course, he will realize what we mean. So I move this general motion: Since the Council is dissatisfied with the general editorial policy of the Gazette and its failure to provide constructive criticism and in particular the failure of the present staff to isolate the many problems facing the student body and its failure to aid the Council in bringing before the student body pressing problems, it is moved that the editor be placed on a three-week probation period at the end of which time his contract will be reviewed by Council.

AN ORDINARY MEMBER: Now, I'm not sure what you mean by use of the term "Gazette", so I'll second the motion.

THE PRESIDENT: Is there any discussion?

(The Member-at-Large is the only one who speaks during the ensuing discussion. What he says is of very little importance — what counts is that he says it and that the Treasurer agrees with him.)

THE PRESIDENT: I call for a vote.

(The Member-at-Large votes first; the others follow suit according to established order of seniority.)

THE PRESIDENT: The motion is passed unanimously.

(As the meeting is adjourned, a traditionally Silent Member is heard to say: "Those who know least enjoy criticising most".) Exeunt.

ENGINEERS CHALLENGE

Dear Sir:
On behalf of the Engineers I would like to bring to your attention a comment in the Gazette last week stating that the Commerce Society is the "ONLY ORGANIZATION ON CAMPUS RICH ENOUGH TO AFFORD THE LUXURY OF A BANQUET AND A BALL." The Engineering Society being successfully active since 1914 has not only all these functions, as well as many more, but our Banquet in March is free to all Engineers of the Society.

enough spirit to accept the Engineers challenge to a snow football game.

I would also like to mention an omission in the "On Campus" section of the paper in your last issue. "The Engineers Hayloft Jamboree" the most unique dance on campus failed to be advertised. I am sure that this has been a true omission and not a deliberate stroke against the Engineers. I also hope that our upcoming Ball will be justly advertised, as has been in the past. Your co-operation will be appreciated.

We have to give credit to Dalcom for their efforts during Com week, but due to many incidents that happened last year, I believe that Dalcom is really spiritless. We hope that the Commerce Society will have

Yours very truly,
Leo Alexander
Secretary-Treasurer
Dalhousie Engineering Society

EVERYBODY ON PROBATION

COUNCIL

Since the Council is dissatisfied with the general editorial apathy of the "Gazette" and its failure to provide constructive criticism and in particular the failure of the present staff to isolate the many problems facing the student body and its failure to aid the Council in bringing before the student body pressing probation period at the end of which time his contract will be reviewed by Council.

GAZETTE

"Since the Dalhousie Gazette is dissatisfied with the general apathy of the Student Council and its failure to isolate the many problems facing the student body, it is moved that the entire Council be placed on a three week probation period at the end of which time their tenure of office be reviewed by the electorate."

COUNCIL IRRESPONSIBILITY REVISITED

Our student government has once again displayed its ineptitude and general lack of responsibility in placing the motion of censure and probation of this editor before the Dalhousie students. This editor is on probation each week when an issue of the Gazette appears. A three week probation period to "criticize or else" is ridiculous and a facetious attempt by our Council to dictate to your student press what they want in your paper. If our Student Council was truly representative of our student body then their voice would be heeded. But when in fact they represent only themselves then voice is indeed a small one. This paper in an editorial in issue No. 8, November 20, 1963 presented this fact to our readership. Our various Council representatives rarely if ever report to their various societies and never seek any consensus of student opinion on important matters.

While the editor has been at more Council meetings than some of the representatives indeed the last one was the first against him, the Council did not think it was necessary to specifically invite this editor to hear the charges against him. When the Gazette News Editor suggested that the editor be phoned and asked to appear, the consensus of opinion of the Council was that this was not necessary. Undiplomatic, cowardly and coarse were some objections used by various Dal students commenting on the move.

This editor, indeed the entire staff is open to constructive criticism at any time but censure from this year's Student Council is similar to Premier Verwoerd of South Africa criticizing the U.S. for its segregation problems.

Help us to get 75% of the Student Council off their behinds.

This is the dullest Student Council I've ever sat on.

Generally this Council has shown a shocking lack of responsibility.

There are a few members of this Council who are worthless.

The above are a few comments by various Council members about this year's Council.

Their self-criticism is heartening but their failure to do anything about their own short-comings is unbelievable.

This paper in past editorials has urged the Council to the following causes of action:

More control over the \$60,000 of our money allocated to various societies. Council action - none.

DGDS re-organization constitutionally and otherwise. Council action - none.

More representation by various student leaders on Council as provided by our constitution. Council action - none.

Posting of agendas of upcoming Council meetings so at least a little research can be done. Council action - 1 agenda posted incomplete.

Notices of Council meetings to be posted at least two days before the meeting as provided by our constitution. Council action - none.

Stronger efforts to inform various societies about what the Council is trying to do. Council action - none.

These are criticisms that have been printed, this editor has had numerous other conversations with members of council and in private discussed other pressing problems of council and diplomatically passed on some ideas and criticisms.

The past week there was an occurrence that boldly illustrated the complete lack of responsibility of this year's council. This issue of the Gazette was supposed to contain a statement from President Hicks concerning our proposed Student Union Building. This editor has been in constant communication with the president of the council concerning administration action on the SUB and we agreed it was time for some positive action. The council president approached President Hicks over the Christmas break and he promised a statement for this Week's paper. Council president forgot to mention this fact to this editor until it was too late to reach President Hicks for this issue's dead-line. The above would be excellent material for Ripley's believe it or not. A statement on our SUB building, forgotten. What else has slipped council's memory?

Finally this year's council has taken a positive step that may yet rectify their otherwise sad record. After year's of frustration and continued representation to the administration concerning our book-store and canteen facilities. This year's council has gone out on a very long thin limb in promising competing facilities if Mr. Atwood is not removed. While this is admirable, we only hope that it does not obscure the real solution needed. That is continued pressure for an immediate start on our SUB. We believe that while Atwood must go, the facilities for a book-store and canteen can only be situated in a Sub. It might be noted that the Gazette has in its editorial columns on three separate occasions urged the Student Council to action on the book-store situation. Finally we can say student council action - strong.

COUNCIL CRITICISM

Dear Sir:

I would like to suggest a few reforms to be considered by our outmoded students' council. First of all I would like to know why the council reguges to set proper office hours during the day and instead seems to be open only to the benefit of the council members, themselves, who wonder in and out at irregular hours. Other students besides myself have questioned this practice and it seems logical to us that one of the fundamental requirements of any council is to have proper hours to meet with the students whom it represents. Secondly, as far as I can understand only

the executive Dave Major and Gale Young ever seem to frequent the office with the rest of the council almost never around. However, our council is not unique in its inefficiency as it is only following the outdated policies of past councils. Perhaps the council has not got the best facilities but it can at least make a few improvements before more space is available in a Student Union Building. I sincerely hope that this letter can spark some enthusiasm from the council and the students to make a few much needed reforms such as regular office hours and representation during these hours of different council members on a rotation basis.

Don H. Stevens
Commerce II.

Council Won't Sue

(Continued from page 3)

was done. It was pointed out that the seconder of a motion is not required to support the motion and on the second vote Warren and his fustliers defeated the Hillis motion. (The matter now reverts to the Council Executive, which has been studying the matter all along.)

Interviewed the next day, DGDS President Macdonald claimed emphatically that he had requested Hillis to make no motion of any sort. "Hillis turned an innocent statement to his own designs by badly misconstruing it", shouted Macdonald as he denied the Gazette's filing cabinet with a downward motion of the fist.