

Expenses problem as Depression deepens

Student Government History #56

The inability of the yearbook, *Pharos*, to meet its expenses with the income from purchases was a matter of growing concern to the Students' Council as the Depression deepened and enrollment fell. On January 19, 1933 the *Pharos* budget received lengthy debate but little could be done to further reduce expenses. Council agreed to pay an ad salesman a 20 percent commission and to retain the \$50 salaries for the Editor and Business Manager. When the debate was completed there was only enough time to approve a dance being held after a basketball game, with 25 cents admission to cover both the game and the dance. This was a further erosion of the free admittance for Dal students that had resulted from the increase of Council fees to \$10.00.

Housing concerns were growing, especially since some students were blaming Dalhousie's lack of an active student body on the absence of a residence since the mid 20's. One editorial on the subject concluded by saying, "Take Dalhousians off Hollis Street and put them on the campus." The Campus Comment column carried an interesting item about the future Lieutenant-Governor who is also a governor of the university. "Victor Oland certainly looked as if he had a strenuous evening at the Commerce-Engineering Ball. He appeared in class the next day with his Tuxedo pants on. We are pleased, of course, that he had the presence of mind to even put them on."

When the newspaper began to carry a list of Council meeting absentees there was the usual

protest, with the absentees claiming that they had no notice of the meeting and the newspaper suggesting public notice of meetings. In any case the practice of listing absentees only continued for a few days. Carleton Stanley felt obliged to use the front page of the newspaper to point out that Canadian Press had completely misquoted him on the physical fitness of Dalhousie students. The university president remarked that "it is unfortunate that the itch for publicity has spread to the universities." Ever watchful for a local armageddon, the newspaper now gave a lot of attention to the Glee and Dramatic Society's decline since 1930-31, suggesting that this was a better topic for Council attention than hotel dances.

In mid-February 1933 the Council received the happy news that the dance after the basketball game had brought in a considerable profit, considering the low expense. President W.C. MacKenzie explained the Council Executive and Carleton Stanley's resurrection of the smoking rules and fines, pointing out that faculty were to be the policemen and Council the judges. There had been years when every Council meeting began with a list of smoking offences referred by Dean Howard Murray.

Another budding Lieutenant-Governor, Clarence L. Gosse, made a successful appearance as Assistant Manager of the ping pong team to get \$21.50 for a new table. The team was to continue charging a five cents fee for use of the equipment. The GAZETTE Editor's suggestion that elections be held

over a two-day period was rejected quickly. A committee was struck to look into the idea of Munro Day being Dalhousie Family Day, likely in view of the fact that it never succeeded as Founders' Day. Suggestions for a regular monthly meeting date were repeated but not enacted, likewise with requirements that budgets be presented in person and that the Freshman rep have financial responsibilities.

The newspaper's criticism of the Glee and Dramatic activities brought forth numerous letters in defense of the organization, pointing out the hardships it had faced, especially since the temporary gym burned down. One of the defenders made the excellent point that it suffered merely from the same disinterest that was so often attacked by the editors. Late in February the front page news included the Rhodes Scholarship won by Gordon Cowan and the fact that the Glee Club's next minstrel show would be presented at Citadel Hill for the benefit of the unemployed. The paper's commentator on overseas affairs pointed out that there was no Hitler government, but a Hitler-Hugenberg-Papen government, and predicted the collapse of the Nazis because their worker support would revolt at this alliance with bankers.

The Council approved plans for an improved Student Health Service, subject to the students' approval. In the case of train berths for basketball players returning from Wolfville the Council continued its practice of paying for unbudgeted items that individuals

had paid out of pocket. The new type of Munro Day programme was approved. It included seven inter-faculty sports events, two minute speeches by the heads of all major student organizations, a tea dance, award and scholarship presentations, introduction of the new Council and president, a speech by Carleton Stanley, Glee show, dancing and finale. The events took nine hours, with only a 20 minute intermission planned.

The new style of Munro Day was enthusiastically accepted and publicized extensively. For the Council elections the newspaper gave all the publicity that could be desired, and every candidate had the opportunity to insert a statement. In those elections "Bob Stanfield" was the new Class of '36 Arts and Science rep, Victor Oland the new General Manager of Glee and Drama. Gerald Tanton, on whose behalf the Med students and the Council had appealed to Senate for late registration, was elected DAAC Secretary-Treasurer. Several members were returned to the new Council, principally Vice-President Gladys Jost. A large scholarship won by Constance MacFarlane received much attention in the newspaper. She did her bachelor's and master's work in marine biology at Dalhousie.

When the new Council chose its officers the President was Fred Wigmore, a Med rep who had been *Pharos* Editor, Munro Day chairman and, at Mount Allison, student president and newspapers editor. Gladys Jost easily retained the Vice-Presidency.

Russell letter

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as ten dollars per student, to provide particularly specific benefits to constituencies of major societies.

It is apparent, therefore, that the question is one of degree. Quite simply, the Student Union Society Committee sees support of specific major societies as an important concern of the Student Union, but not in the context of a specific dollar value, such as, for example, the DAGS demand of ten dollars per student. (Incidentally such an amount strikes the Committee as having been an arbitrary appointment of the DAGS Council, based upon little financial rationale. The Committee was unanimously concerned with the inability of DAGS representatives to justify such an amount in specific terms, past the academic presumption of "the more the better". From discussions, it appeared that the Graduate House was not in financial difficulty and that with some exceptions (e.g. funding for newsletter and for union certification), other named expenses such as increased honoraria and the like, should not obviously be borne by the Student Union.)

A further consideration of the Committee was that no objective rationale seems to exist for justifying that one major society or several major societies should receive such financial benefit without all. For example, although one major society may be relatively dormant, can it be argued conclusively that it would not, from increased funding, realize a marginal benefit equal to that derived by a momentarily more active society.

The degree of subjectivity, expense and sacrifice of financial accountability such an attitude

assumes, are beyond the capacities of the Student Union, from either a financial or governmental perspective. Although this may seem unfair from the current viewpoint of certain specific societies, I hope that DAGS Council Members appreciate what a real concern it should be for Student Union representatives. With these thoughts in mind, the Committee to this point has concluded that planned program expansions of major societies should be the financial responsibilities of both the Student Union and respective major societies. Benefits of such expansion derived specifically by society members are a partial, but not sole financial obligation of the Student Union.

Consequently the Committee feels that at least a fourth alternative to the three named by DAGA representatives (a *status quo* arrangement, full compliance with ten dollar per student request, secession), is feasible. It is this. That in addition to the existing Student Union Grants, and non-S.U.B. capital expenses budgets, a budget be established by the Student Union to use for cost-sharing in special, large projects of major societies. I have recommended tentatively to the Committee that such a fund could be administered by the Executive of the Student Union, have an approximate annual size of \$15,000, subject to annual budgetary approval, and be used to provide fifty percent funding for large scale projects of major societies. This option provides an incentive for both participating agencies to expend the funds conscientiously. Such requests to the fund could be made at any time by major societies, within the applicable fiscal year. Subject-

tivity of assessment is minimized and all societies, they have membership fees of fifty, fifteen, ten or five dollars will have the same opportunity for development. Most importantly, financial responsibility would be shared, and resultant benefits per dollar maximized by the participating parties.

I hope that this option will be considered by the DAGS Council as

it appears to me to be the most optimum arrangement of financial responsibility. If we are to work together in any real sense, both parties must be prepared to co-operate and contribute, literally and otherwise.

Respectfully submitted,
Bruce Russell, President
Dalhousie Student Union

DAGS forum

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advance and a monthly request would not occur.

The Union pointed out that in federal - provincial government relations where federal money is used for provincial projects the province involved must still present a brief to government. In a way similar to government the Student Union provides services to students and will provide necessary cash for approved projects.

DAGS contends that even if the money they want is handed over to them the Union would still maintain legal control. If there was any abuse of the funding the Union could take legal action against the society. However, Russell pointed out that if the grad students' society were to be sued in court for any reason it is the Student Union who would be responsible in the eyes of the law for any costs incurred, not DAGS.

The graduate students complain that they do not derive all the benefits from the Union that they could derive from a well funded DAGS. However, one member of the support committee pointed out that the benefit one gets out of the Union depends on the initiation of projects and work put into getting Union funding for projects of special

interest.

\$10. per grad student is the minimum demand of the grad students and this figure was reached by going through the Union budget and determining which programs are not beneficial to them, as well as on need for the society. Certainly some programs handled by the Union are duplicated within certain society structures but the Union contends that the societies' can still benefit from the Union sponsored services - if only as resources.

According to John Cheyne, the president of DAGS, secession though a last resort is to be preferred to the status quo. It was interesting to note that excluding the committee members only nine people showed up for the forum and not all of these were grad students. Negotiations will continue between the two groups, at least until the referendum has been taken and probably into the new year. The referendum it was noted is not legally binding but should be considered morally binding - whatever the results. The students Council will discuss the issue at the Nov. 30 meeting.