

Fee increase rejected

Student Government History # 42

During the 1928 winter term the GAZETTE began a strong campaign to institute compulsory physical education at Dalhousie. The justification was need to build strong bodies as well as strong minds, and to promote health. At the beginning of February they published statements from many university and student officials, all of whom favoured the proposal. In the same issue was a small article reporting that the Freshman class has voted in favour of the fee increase proposed by the Council.

Athletics was obviously a growing concern, because the newspaper began a simultaneous campaign for the construction of a closed-in rink at Dalhousie. The aid to health was one reason, but more important was the opportunity to develop a first-rate hockey team. This would be an advertisement for the university. The newspaper asserted that students wanted a closed rink, and asked why the Senate and Board of Governors were not moving to implement the proposal.

While the GAZETTE was making full publicity for the elections a tradition, the old Council was itself turning to athletic issues. It voted at the end of February to pressure the university for establishment for an equipment room, with staff, that the varsity teams would use. It was meant to lower the costs of equipment damage and loss. There was an unofficial report that the King's Board of Governors favoured a \$3.50 fee for Dalhousie student activities.

President Gerald Godsoe reported on the NFCUS conference that had chosen him as Vice-President. Council approved amendments to the NFCUS constitution, one of which enforced bilingualism. Then approval was given to the re-establishment of an Officers' Training Corps at Dalhousie. The last one had closed down after World War I. It was a very approving meeting, since the idea of compulsory physical education

and a proposal to invite R.B. Bennett to be the Munro Day guest of honour were both approved.

The Dramatic and Glee Society continued its steady improvement in 1927-28 by the hiring of a musical director, Mr. Sara Singer. At the beginning of March the formal announcement was made that Munro Day would also be Founders' Day, hopefully on a permanent basis. This first founders' day would be the one that honoured R. B. Bennett, a Dalhousie Law grad who had been a successful lawyer in the west, had recently become Leader of the Opposition in Ottawa. He had been a minister in the Borden and Meighen governments. He was a governor of the university, and a large donor.

The fee referendum and Council elections were held on the same day. In the referendum, the increase from \$7.00 to \$10.00 was rejected, 374 to 221. The professional students turned out almost unanimously to oppose the increase, while the Arts and Science students, who favoured the increase, only had a 65% turnout. Three of the twelve Council members were re-elected. Most of the races were close, except for Murray Rankin's overwhelming victory for the seat that represented Freshman interests. It would be his fifth term on the Council! It is now unusual for members to remain on Council for three years.

The welcome given Mr. Bennett was an indication of Dalhousie's gratitude for his gifts, and perhaps of its Conservative leaning. Across the front page of the newspaper was the headline, "DALHOUSIE WELCOMES A TRUE SON". The sub-heading was "Dalhousie's Most Distinguished Son". The less enthusiastic editorial merely called Mr. Bennett one of Dalhousie's most distinguished sons.

The second year of the Malcolm Honour Society saw three students honoured. Two were the outgoing and incoming Council presidents, J. Gerald Godsoe and Murray Rankin. The third was

a Medicine student who had just completed his fifth year as a Council member. All had participated in a wide range of activities. It was immediately after this honour that Rankin was chosen president by the Council. The executive was restored to its former size. By this time it was clear that by tradition the Vice-Presidency now went to a woman.

President Godsoe, in office for the rest of the academic year, urged the new Council to begin an "educational plan . . . with a view to putting over the raise in fee next year." The Council was informed that Bennett had given it \$100.00 after his visit, as a sign of appreciation. No one suggested returning it because of possible political ties. The Council rejected a proposal that the major Societies have a compulsory fee, condemning them to at least one more year of dependence on dance revenues and voluntary contributions. A request from D.A.A.C. for greater independence in decision-making was delayed.

After a full year of effort to find a solution, the King's students voted not to pay the Dalhousie Council \$3.50 a year per student for participation in Dalhousie student activities. Instead their Council said it would "command" its constituents to avoid Dalhousie events. The Council referred the matter to the Board of Governors and Council Executive. The D.A.A.C. request was passed on to the new Council. The \$100.00 went for Inter-Class Debating and Interfaculty Basketball trophies, named after the great donor. President Godsoe's financial abilities were illustrated by the second annual year-end profit.

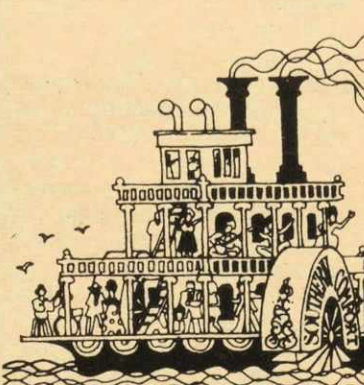
The second year book, edited by Arthur L. Murphy, was 25% longer than the first one. However, it was still soft-cover. The only autograph inserted by the staff was "Joe College '28".

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Better loan system needed

NUS Pushes For Loans On Equalization Basis

VANCOUVER (CUP) - Canada Student Loans are more easily available in British Columbia than in any other province. But BC loan availability may decrease if the National Union of Students (NUS) is successful in lobbying the federal government to pay out loans on an equalization basis which would see "have" provinces such as BC subsidizing the "have not" provinces.

While the university of BC has been asked to support the NUS lobby, students here will find themselves forced out of the union within a year unless they agree to raise their NUS fees to \$1 from 30c annually per student.

That was the scenario presented by UBC's student society officer responsible for relations with NUS in an interview Jan. 15.

Alma Mater Society External Affairs Officer Gary Moore said despite the loss to BC students that would result from equalization he still supports the lobby which also asks the government to make loans available to part-time students and to lower the age of independence to 18.

Moore said NUS intends to stir up reaction to the current loan system by circulating posters and pamphlets about the issue at Canadian universities.

The organization will present the federal govern-

ment with a brief outlining student opinions some time in the fall, he said.

Moore said he is currently getting 200 posters for campus bulletin boards stating the case for the NUS scheme.

The posters ask students several questions aimed at pointing out the main faults of the current Canada Student Loan Plan (CSLP) and state the four main objectives of the NUS lobby.

These objectives are: to establish provincial equalization of student aid; to obtain increases student aid in the form of grants and no loans; to lower the age of independence to 18 and to include part time students in the loan plan.

Moore said he considers the last two objectives to be the most important.

He said many independent students are classified as dependent when they ask for loans because they have not completed four years of university or spent two years in the work force.



The requirements for the classification as independent are unrealistic, he said, and should be realized to allow students needing money to get it.

Moore also noted the rise in the number of part time students and said many need interest free loans to continue their studies.

NUS officials in Ottawa said they hoped some of the problem outlined by Moore would not occur. The lobby, they said, would hopefully not transfer money from have to have not provinces, but would rather persuade the federal government of the need for adequate programs in all provinces.

"The relatively progressive approach shown by BC in student aid will serve as a concrete argument in favour of NUS policies," according to Hilda Creswick, NUS executive secretary.

NUS policy calls for similar campaigns in all provinces so they can enjoy equal student aid at a higher level than they are presently receiving.

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