

# ON SATURDAY -- TRAVEL TO ACADIA

**Nominations for  
Students Council  
Positions are due  
Friday, February 13**



## The Dalhousie GAZETTE

CANADA'S OLDEST COLLEGE NEWSPAPER

**Make it a Weekend!**  
**Engineers' Ball Friday**  
—  
**Acadia Trip Saturday**

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# STUDENTS PREPARED TO BACK SUB

by BETTY ARCHIBALD



**THIS IS THE CANTEEN**—inadequate, it fails to meet student demands. This picture shows students in the canteen. They are tired; they are unhappy; they are not satisfied. Their one request: better facilities. —Photo by Acker

The familiar charges of apathy of Dalhousie students faded into the past last Friday at noon, when over 250 students packed into the East Common Room of the Men's Residence to discuss the proposed Students' Union Building (SUB). The crowd was a welcome change from the numbers that attend the run-of-the-mill forums, where it is frequently hard to get even a quorum.

Council President Dave Matheson led off the lively meeting with a list of the virtues of a SUB, pointing out that the majority of universities have such a building, but only be-

cause the students themselves have taken the initiative. Reinforcing his arguments was Morty Bistrisky, NFCUS National President, who said that every university of any size should definitely have a SUB.

The present Council's goal is a new building, preferably on University Avenue, rather than merely a remodelled Men's Residence. It will be up to next year's Council to decide which of three courses of action it will follow; whether it will be satisfied only with a new building, whether it will consider simply a remodelled Residence, or whether it will combine both plans by continuing to add to the fund for a new building and using the Residence in the meantime.

The Council committee working on financial estimates will have them finished by the end of the month. Rough estimates of the cost range from one-quarter to one-half million dollars, a sum obviously impossible to raise without considerable outside assistance. Such financial problems finally gave birth to a unanimously approved motion that the Student Council fee to be raised \$5.00 subject to student approval by referendum, and the university's approval. The extra money so obtained would be added to the SUB fund, now consisting of \$15,000. It was pointed out that it would take years to raise sufficient money using this means only, but that such a start would probably stimulate assistance from other quarters. A motion not to approach the University for further financial help was overwhelmingly defeated.

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## AXE FALLS AT ACADIA

Trouble broke out on the Acadia University campus last week after the publishing of a controversial article on religion by Robert Fiander, a fourth-year Arts student, in the student newspaper, the Athenaeum. The article was termed "foul and blasphemous" by College President Dr. Watson Kirkconnell, and Fiander was indefinitely suspended from the university. Athenaeum Editor Don Angus, also fourth-year Arts, was charged by the president that publishing the article was "an infringement on religious conscience." It was recommended by the judicial committee of the Students Council that he resign, and on Monday he was dismissed from his job by the Council.

In an interview with the *Gazette* Friday, Angus re-stated his position on the issue. He had read the article before publishing it, he said; and although at first glance one might think it offensive to good taste—because of the style in which it was written—it was essentially a well-thought out, pro-Christian work.

The article itself consisted of two parts: the first part dialogue—which had been construed as "blasphemous"—and the second part a poem on a religious subject. The second part consisted simply of a criticism of modern Christianity.

Angus stated he did not believe (1) that the University could upon the basis of its own opinion charge Fiander with "foul blasphemy" and thereby order him expelled. Whether or not the article was blasphemous was a matter for the civil courts to decide, he said. (2) The setting up of a board of censorship would be "ridiculous" for the same reasons. Angus said that he had discussed with the president the charge made against him after the story had broken and that Dr. Kirkconnell had retracted the university charge against him, realizing that personal opinion alone was involved and placed the controversy in the hands of the SAC (Students' Council).

Angus said that after the article was published, he received on Monday, a letter from Dr. Kirkconnell referring to the article and reminding him that there were laws of blasphemy in the country. Angus said he saw the letter as a rebuke—and that nothing more could come of it.

However, Tuesday he received another letter in which the action of the university was stated, and he learned that Fiander had been abruptly suspended from the university. The motion for Angus' dismissal was rejected in the Students'

Council and Angus therefore did not resign, as he would have had it been passed.

Monday night, however, the Judicial Committee of the Students' Council, found Angus guilty of a charge, laid by one of the students, that he had "betrayed the trust of the Students' Union of Acadia in that he used the publication of the Acadia Athenaeum, in particular the Jan. 30 issue, to serve his own ends." He was suspended from his job, and given 14 demerit points (15 maximum). Angus has the right to appeal.

## Canteen Manager Answers Charges

Following the submission to the Students' Council of a resolution embodying canteen complaints, "Operation Canteen" was put into effect by Mr. Roy Atwood, manager of the Dal Canteen. This consisted of forming two lines at dinner time, and adding a waitress to the staff. Concerned that this might total the improvements made, the *Gazette* sent reporter Alroy Chow to interview Mr. Atwood. This is a part of that interview:

**Q.** You have heard about the students' complaints concerning the efficiency and sanitation of the canteen. What have you to say on the matter?

**A.** Well, I have been in this business for several years and it has always been my principle to give the students the best possible service. Maybe there is room for improvement but I don't think my staff and I warrant such strong criticisms. I long had intentions to make some improvement, but I just didn't have the time to get around to it. I think the students themselves are to be blamed to a certain extent. Many of them never return the dishes and when the waitresses have to collect them, valuable time is lost.

**Q.** What about the possibility of serving snacks to the residents from 9 to 10 p.m.?

**A.** If the boys want, they can purchase sandwiches and pops at supper time.

**Q.** What about getting a coffee-dispensing machine?

**A.** Oh, I considered that but gave up the idea. I think it's a dirty thing. Look at the Law School. Did you ever see theirs?

## Attention Amateur Architects!

What are YOUR ideas for the layout of the proposed Student Union Building? The Student Council is sponsoring a "draw-it-yourself" contest, and will accept plans, to include both inside and outside features, from any student on the campus. Designs will be judged on the basis of originality and feasibility. The best subject will be awarded \$25.00 on Munro Day. The deadline is Feb. 27. Details may be obtained from the Council office.

### UTMOST IMPORTANCE

Council Elections for next year's Students' Council will be held February 25. Representatives from every faculty, as well as DAAC, DGAC, DGDS, NFCUS, and Delta Gamma officers are to be nominated BEFORE midnight February 13. Anyone can nominate for any position.



Continuing the successful importation of guest speakers to Dalhousie, the Junior Prom brought Tanya to the gym Friday night. Strongly reticent on some issues, but acidly open on others, the speaker was noted for her simple and rather monosyllabic approach. The audience left with a dazed air; they had learned something and perhaps even reaped the equivalent benefit of a full day's lectures.

—Photo by Acker