

From the desk of...

Sandy Lyth

Gazette News Editor

The first week of university is always a mass of confusion, papers, cards, schedules, and people. This year has naturally been no exception, although there have been more people than usual.

Beanies, shoe shine kits, information desks have been common sites and outward chaos, at least, has reigned.

But student life is a conglomerate of all types of attitudes and ways of life. Mothers waited in the long lines with everyone else for tuberculin tests, returning to class after prolonged leave of absence, feeling more than a little out of place and very conspicuous.

Organizations competed with each other recruiting new members from the largest class of first year students ever seen at Dalhousie, organizations ranging from the Students of Objectivism to the athletic societies.

Then there were the course unions, notably Sociology and a new one, Economics. Course Unions look to be the big issue on campus this year and controversy will no doubt rage over their roles and goals.

The undercurrents of political activity not immediately obvious to the casual eye came to the surface once in a while too. The Association of Graduate Students published the first of a series of leaflets in a genuine attempt to show students that there is more to being a student than doing everything just for the fun of it. Even the Association admits that the leaflet missed the mark but they are planning to improve their presentation.

The Dalhousie Gazette came out exactly on schedule, full of controversial articles, and was well received by those who read it. Apparently many did.

Dr. Hicks made almost the same speech for incoming first year students as he did last year, giving them good advice they will no doubt have forgotten already. At the same meeting there was a second set of leaflets passed out in a somewhat hasty manner since upper-classmen were being ejected from the room.

The President of the Student Council was censured by the Graduate Students Association for tactical and policy blunders he made at the Canadian Union of Students congress at Lakehead University.

As a result of the Congress, there will be a CUS referendum of campus at the end of October, which will let those who choose to vote decide whether Dalhousie will stay in the national union or not.

If the first week is any indication, this year should be a tearing apart, rebuilding, thought provoking, frustrating, exciting year. For those who get involved.

Dear Mom...

by Rick Rofihe

Isn't it strange how one hopes for the changing of attitudes, the opening of minds. Like last year, I complained of how so many gravitated toward their little orbits. You remember, the clique of socialites, the clique of sub-rats, the ethnic cliques, and the frat crowds. Everybody in their little orbits. I hope it is different this year. So far it's hard to tell. Right now everybody is sort of friendly, but they are always this way for at least the first week. Already though I can see the people starting to get colder, starting to lose their naturalness. Still, I hope people will be as friendly a month, four months from now. There were a lot of lonely people on campus last year.

I've been going for a lot of long walks. I find myself more open this year. I find myself talking with the poor, talking with the old — the poor with their hopes, the old with their memories. "There but for fortune," isn't it so Mom? What I do in class, on campus, sometimes seems so remote from what's real in life. I guess I think too much, hey? Say Hi to Dad,

Rick



MacLean Cautious

The new Dean of Arts and Science is in the process of familiarizing himself with all aspects of his new job. He told this writer in a recent interview that he was unable to comment on specific questions regarding curriculum reform at this time. Dean MacLean said that he had only returned to Dalhousie from sabbatical leave on Sept. 1st and he has had little time to consider the implications of such issues as integrated courses, changes in exam procedure and more student participation in determining course structure and content.

When questioned on Dean James' resignation after only one year in office, he felt it inadvisable to discuss the affair at present.

Many observers feel that Dean James' proposals regarding course reform especially in the area of an experimental programme involving changes in class structure, the role of examinations and even a "college" within Dalhousie University, led to his resignation, but it has also been suggested that was only part of the overall problem.

On the question of student participation in various decision making bodies within the university, — Dean MacLean was particularly exclusive. He did state, however, that he desires to have unofficial discussions with as many active student leaders as possible in order to find out what is needed in this area.

Trevor Parsons



SLAM Foiled

Members of the Student Left Action Movement (SLAM) were prevented from entering the McInnis Room during the Orientation Week Speeches to pass out pamphlets.

Members of the group carried pamphlets entitled "Ten to One They Say Nothing", but they could only get as far as the McInnis Room before Orientation Committee member Alan Ferrier blocked their entrance to the speeches of University President Henry Hicks, Student Union President Bruce Gillis, and the Chairman of Frosh Week Jameel Rahaman.

"If you're going in there to pass out pamphlets, you can't go in," Ferrier told the pamphleteers. He refused to admit Council Representative Larry Fredericks unless Fredericks would leave his pamphlets outside. He refused.

LETTER

Dear Sir:

I wish to express my gratitude to the Dalhousie Gazette for its "words of advice" column, which appeared in the September 8 issue.

While "words of advice" reveals devastatingly the essence of the inside story of orientation (one can't help but support the selfevidently sound suggestion that each student should handle his own registration), the column is a little reserved but the outside story. In view of the almost aphoristic style of the author (he is a man of few words), this reserve, I am sure, is not the mark of stupidity, but of deep wisdom.

For while students were being "stripped of a bit more of their humanity" (I wonder how many readers fully appreciate the powerful insight contained in these few "words") inside the Student Union Building, agents were also "processing students outside the 'mill'".

Perhaps "words of advice" could correct me if I'm wrong, but I am certain I saw "bureaucrats" running around, dressed up like students, degrading freshmen, treating them like clowns and simpletons. As the "words of advice" column points out, no wonder we young lads are confused. Perhaps we could be given some more "words of advice" in the Gazette's next issue.

I too am gripped by a feeling of alienation, and to add to it all I have a weak bladder. God alone knows what I am going to do when I drink from the "fountain of wisdom" in my "first inspiring class" this year. (I am sure "words of advice" will not object to my borrowing again his ironic turn of phrase, so pregnant with meaning and wit.

"Must the crap continue?" your columnist so tellingly asks. And I for one hope that the Gazette will bring Dalhousie students "words of advice" each week. The column is truly uplifting. We need its words of wisdom, comfort and sparkling humour. I no longer feel as deprived as I did yesterday and look forward to becoming an intelligent individual in your columnist's humanized factory.

Yours truly
Michael Beatty

P.S. I find myself moved to add my appreciation of the aim, so highly laudable and original, of "words of advice" to stimulate a true university environment in which students are not crammed with received attitudes but think for themselves. How can any reader fail to admire the tremendous efforts with which your columnist preserves a detachment in his own writing, and allows the facts to speak for themselves without sully- ing the purity of his vision with emotional cant?

NOTE: The editorial policy of this paper is quite flexible, and does not exclude anyone from expressing themselves if at all possible ... in fact, we'll print almost anything (witness this letter).

We try to stimulate discussion, and therefore welcome Mr. Beatty's comments. He states that he looks forward to "becoming an intelligent individual" here. We commend him for his zeal, and encourage him to keep trying.

The Gazette

Most of the pamphlets were eventually distributed by Freshmen who carried them inside past the committee and handed them out to the freshmen listening to the speeches.

The SLAM pamphlets told freshman "neither tonight nor throughout the year will we as students be encouraged to critically assess what the authority figures are saying... the 'Student Left Action Movement' is here tonight to put an end to the situation."

When contacted later by the Gazette, Alan Ferrier stated that it had always been the orientation committee's rule that upperclassmen should not come to frosh activities. This year they had decided to enforce the rule. Upperclassmen by coming to the speeches were "breaking in on their privacy and their events." Mr. Ferrier told the Gazette.

When asked if SLAM had been kept out merely because of their pamphlets or because they weren't first year students, he said that it definitely was just because they weren't frosh.