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## LETTERS

### ... Grooming The Schools For Nonidentity ...

Sir:  
 Your editorial on the Beats in the issue of January 27th is both sound and shows good sense. As a footnote, some of the students of this institution (members of the Cult and otherwise) may be interested in the following comment made by one of the chief proponents of the Philosophy, Jack Kerouac, in his book, "The Dharma Bums."

"Japhy and I were kind of outlandish-looking on the campus in our old clothes, in fact Japhy was considered an eccentric around the campus which is the usual thing for campuses and college people to think whenever a real man appears on the scene—colleges being nothing but grooming schools for the middleclass nonidentity which usually finds its perfect expression on the outskirts of the campus in rows of well-to-do houses with lawns and television sets in each

living-room with everybody looking at the same thing and thinking the same thing at the same time while the Japhys of the world go prowling in the wilderness to hear the voice crying in the wilderness to find the ecstasy of the stars, to find the dark mysterious secret of the origin of faceless wonderless crapulous civilization."  
 —Jack Kerouac, "The Dharma Bums" chapter 6.

Aside from the merits of the idea expressed, I trust that the punctuation will not unduly shock any English Honour students.  
 Yours truly,  
 David A. Giffin.

### ... And Fog ...

Sir:  
 Re: article entitled "Our Indoor Fog" appearing in the Gazette, January 20, I would like to point out to the critic that the rink staff is not in the least unapproachable and would, I am sure, be pleased to listen to suggestions for the improvement of the ice, which on his rare visits, he finds in such a deplorable condition. When I feel that I have a legitimate complaint, by discussing it with the manager or staff it is remedied quickly. Such a discussion, I might add, with authorities in refrigeration can be quite enlightening.

The Halifax Skating Club rents Dalhousie ice nine hours weekly and in this, my fourth season with the organization, the ice has always been ready to commence my classes on time so therefore the staff cannot be so completely inefficient, and in my experience in many rinks in Canada and U.S., that compares more than favorably.

Although I am not a typical student, as the author of the article apparently is, I do feel that I am entitled to comment considering the hours I do spend on the ice.

Yours truly,  
 Maxine E. Armstrong,  
 Professional,  
 Halifax Skating Club.

### ... On Pepcats ...

Sir:  
 Stop knocking the Pepcats! In recent issues of the Gazette, the Dal Band has twice been slandered. First in your article concerning visions for the 60's, etc. you stated that you wished to see a Dal Band of at least 12 who would play at all spirit rallies, intercollegiate games, etc. Throughout the football and hockey seasons, the Dal Band has attended all Dal home games, with never less than 15 members in attendance. The attendance records are in the Band and Publicity office if you wish to dispute this.

Secondly, your "Kibitzer" has confused the "Showboater Seven" with the Dalhousie Pepcats. The

### ... Heart ...

Sir:  
 There has been a great deal said during the past few weeks about the Tiger and about spirit at Dalhousie. The Pepcats are miffed because they had their fingers slapped for taking the Tiger upon its return and parading it about the campus. Their fingers should be slapped. Where were they at four o'clock that Friday morning? Finding the Tiger was not just a matter of going and taking it. It took the combined efforts of five cars and 40 people on Wednesday night and five cars and about 20 people Thursday afternoon and night and most of Friday morning.

The Pepcats say that they were not notified of the search, but the point is that the initiative of the search should have come from the Pepcats. On top of all this the Students' Council, who promoted construction of a new Tiger through the Pepcats, denied any responsibility for the Tiger after it was stolen. They and the Pepcats were quite happy to see it back, though. The straw that broke the camel's back was the action of those innocents whose lack of worldly

two bear slight resemblance. For the most part, that "Mickey Mouse Band" was made up of rattle-rousers who have no affiliation with the Pepcats. True, a few Pepcats were misled into believing that the so-called "parade" was Pepcat-organized. I would like to register a complaint against the idiot who "borrowed" the bands cymbals and through ignorance nearly ruined them. This group was not the Pepcats!!!!

Furthermore, your "Kibitzer" states that he has been "unable to discover anything they (the Pepcats) have done or will do in the near future." From this I gather that he is not in the habit of attending Dal sports functions. The Pepcats are the most campus-spirit-minded organization at Dalhousie. It's about time we got some support instead of abuse.

Indignantly yours,  
 Laurie Borne  
 (A Dalhousie Pepcat)

### ... Thanks ...

Sir:  
 To all who voted for me in the Campus King Contest, I want to say Thank You, Sorry I could not tell you all how much I appreciated it the night of the dance but I was overwhelmed and anyway speeches are not my cup of tea. So many many thanks again.

Allan N. O'Brien  
 (Butsie)

### ... Shooting The Horse ...

Sir:  
 I think that the recent action of the Dalhousie Students' Council in banning record hops could be likened to a farmer owning a horse with a loose shoe. Instead of taking the trouble to change the horse's shoe, the farmer simply went out and removed the problem, by shooting a perfectly good beast.

The Council, confronted with the problem of how to keep the raff raff from Friday night record hops, instead of trying to solve the problem, simply got rid of the whole idea of record dances. I won't deny that an orchestra is a very nice thing at a dance, especially in the cold, large, and rather inhospitable gymnasium. But the fact remains that they cost a lot of money for the society sponsoring the dance and the students attending.

At the dance on Friday, Jan. 29, the orchestra played exactly 32 minutes out of the hour between 11 and 12. For this I pay \$1.25. For 25 cents alone I could dance four solid hours to the Best Bands in the country, and the total financial outlay for the sponsoring society, virtually nothing. As far as the "Undesirables" attending the Dal dances I feel that this problem can be circumvented by council cards, nur-

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### THE CASE OF THE FRATERNITY

Last Saturday afternoon the seven social fraternities at Dalhousie, with the full sanction of university officials, combined to hold a party on campus for underprivileged children of the Halifax area.

A week before, the seven fraternities led all faculties by a wide margin in percentage of donors for Dalhousie's annual Blood Drive; in fact, four were tied for first place with 100% donations.

These two recent campus events strikingly indicate the vast amount of benefit a university can receive from student fraternal organizations, and the equally great example of fraternal principles: discipline, loyalty, and friendship.

Over the past 35 years, the question of University recognition of student fraternities has been discussed and debated, if not always in the Gazette's columns, at least among Dalhousians of all faculties, while the University itself has remained comparatively silent on the subject. At present the University does not officially recognize fraternities, and the Gazette finds it difficult to understand why this should be so.

On November 14th, 1929, a leading article in the Gazette began and ended with these paragraphs: "Fraternities at Dalhousie have been gradually increasing since the formation of the first organization of this kind here in 1923. Now there are in the University seven fraternities, five with national or international affiliations, and two of local character.

"... Fraternities at Dalhousie are increasing. There need be no cause for alarm among the general student body or among members of the faculty, since fraternities, established on a sound basis of service and loyalty, are an asset to any University large enough in numbers to support them."

That was 30 years ago. The University has grown, the fraternities have grown, and the number of students who belong to the organizations has greatly increased. Yet those fraternal principles—loyalty and service—have remained unaltered and unassailable.

There are, of course, the time-honoured contentions of some non-fraternity persons that fraternities are social cliques, or immoral, or tend to divide the campus, or detract from university loyalty and academic interest, or are prejudiced and militant. The Gazette believes this is not the truth. Further, such charges are grossly unfair, for they are akin to saying "all policemen are crooked" because a few policemen at some time have taken bribes. Let us investigate these allegations and see how factual they are:

Greek letter fraternities are based upon secret initiation and organization rites, the purpose of which is to establish the discipline and loyalty necessary to maintain the fraternity. Each fraternity has a budget, dues and other funds, and closed meetings; the rites exist to promote and enforce fra-

ternal co-operation, and are in no way alien to the principles of Christianity or democracy.

Like any private organization, fraternities reserve the right to choose their own members. The purpose of this is obvious—to foster friendship among those members and therefore esprit-de-corps. Fraternities which tend to be cliques do so to their own detriment, and at the expense of fraternity principles; they are not the rule. Friendship between members and non-fraternity persons is encouraged.

When approached by Student Councils or universities to participate in student activities, or to promote university campaigns, or to do service works, fraternities are generally the first to respond and to do the most thorough job. We need hardly cite the many examples of their response at Dalhousie.

It has become apparent over the years, as fraternities grow and universities recognize either the fraternities themselves or the Inter-fraternity Councils that govern them, that university loyalty and true college spirit rests in these organizations.

It is well known that a fraternity has a primarily social function; it began as a home-away-from-home for its members, with the purpose of providing both social activity and fraternal fellowship for them, and so it has remained. These things can hardly be called detrimental.

If fraternities at Dalhousie, or its Inter-Fraternity Council, are officially recognized, the potentiality of service they can do for our university is huge. We ask the Student Council, and the University, to seriously consider the question.

### AN INSULT

Picture an oblong, barren, dirty room, its floor littered with trash. Picture a dozen students lounging around that room reading the morning paper, playing cards, or just sleeping.

You now have the scene that greeted the eyes of National NFCUS President Jacques Gérin as he arrived at the East Common Room last Thursday promptly at noon to address a Dalhousie student forum.

Maybe it's tiresome, perhaps all we can do is criticize; yet, there seems no way of avoiding a simple truth: Thursday's student forum was one of the most poorly-organized, poorly publicized, and listless affairs we have even seen. And perhaps this isn't important either: itw as a straightforward insult to a national student president.

It's all over now, so it would be purposeless to condemn anyone. Part of the blame may have lain with campus publicity officers; we are more inclined to say that the Student Council has done it again.