

the Dalhousie Gazette

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The horror, the horror...

The Dalhousie Gazette, Canada's oldest college newspaper, is a weekly publication of the Dalhousie Student Union members and is a founding member of the Canadian University Press.

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The deadline for articles and letters-to-the-editor is noon on Monday. No unsigned material will be accepted, but anonymity may be granted on request. Letters should not exceed 500 words and must be typed double-spaced. Advertising copy must be submitted by the Friday preceding publication.

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Editorial

Tiger Talk

Maybe Dal needs a new mascot.

I don't know, maybe having a school slugworm, lemur, or sloth would solve all our problems. But Dalhousie's famed 'tiger' has brought nothing but pain lately.

Once again, the whole stupendously looney issue of allowing a live Tiger to visit Dal campus will be brought up in a Council Meeting. And chances are good that, unless Councilor George Fraser doesn't decide to speak, the debate on that teeny bit of irrelevance will occupy most of the time in what could otherwise be a useful meeting.

The "tiger issue" was by far the most important item discussed by Summer Council this year (if time spent talking, and talking, and talking means anything). The "tiger issue" was one of the most contentious debates on student council, complete with split votes and last-minute backroom bargaining.

It's also pretty pointless.

But if you've missed our serial so far, allow me to bring you up to date: George Fraser is a man who ran for Student Council President last year. He promised to send humans dressed up as black and gold striped critters running around campus with bullhorns, so as to promote school spirit. He lost. Rah.

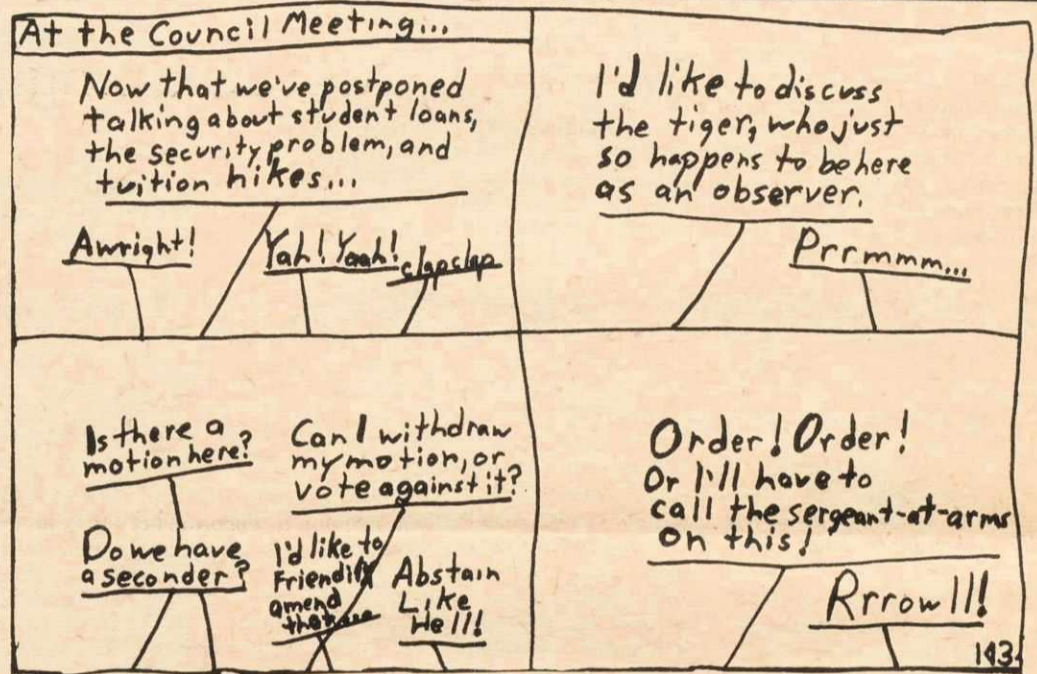
But George Fraser wasn't out of the picture at all. He was selected member-at-large and co-Orientation chairperson. And so he immediately began putting into effect his master plans for making Dalhousie a more funner place to stay. The cornerstone of this year's slick orientation package was to be the presence of a real live honest-injun Tiger cub from the Granby Zoo in Quebec. But then the cornerstone got rejected by the builders.

The mechanics of bringing a Tiger on campus were what killed the grande event. People wrote letters objecting to animal cruelty. The vice president (academic) of Dalhousie said a big fat "no" to the idea of the animal being allowed on campus. It was said the stunt would reflect poorly on students. And the Graduate Students Council passed a motion to feed Mr. Fraser to the tiger if and when the tiger arrived on campus. After a real hairy (definitely no pun intended) council meeting, it was voted not to allow the tiger entrance here. An emergency meeting of council (called by Fraser) to further debate the issue, died because hardly anybody showed up. Rah.

But at the first meeting of Council during the school year, George Fraser brought the tiger issue up again, to be discussed at the next council meeting, on Sunday, October third. Why he did so I can't fathom, unless he likes tying up meetings from important business like the computer centre crunch, security on campus, and the quota on foreign students. Or maybe he's unaware that this unseemly mess is making him look very, very silly in the eyes of a whole lotta people. I dunno.

After spending seven and a half hours debating topics in last week's meeting (which could have been shortened by hours), the last thing we need is our elected representatives wasting time on real dumb stuff while there's plenty of constructive work to be done.

C'mon, people, let's get down to at least a little seriousness in Council.



Humour

International upheaval

by Kenneth Newman

The recent announcement of President MacKay's quota system for foreign students has sparked an international furor which threatens to upset the sovereign state of Canada as we now know it. The most drastic response was that outlined by U.S. President, Ronald Reagan, at a press conference called on Friday morning. Speaking to the nation in a televised appearance that was blacked-out on Canadian cable, Reagan announced:

First of all, we're going to have to limit the number of Canadian students granted degrees at American Universities, which is only fair after all. However, we're going to make it retroactive. This will have, of course, a rather disastrous effect upon their governmental, administrative, judicial, and educational systems, as many of Canada's elite will have their credentials revoked.

Secondly, effective immediately I am severing cable television ties with Canada. If they want to see Dynasty, Dallas,

and The Jeffersons, they're just going to have to wait six months till we sell 'em the reruns. We'll see what Canada has to say after two weeks of nothing but the CBC. And lastly I have just finalised an agreement between Florida and Bermuda to limit the number of Canadian University Presidents allowed to vacation there during the winter months.

Monday morning in Paris saw François Mitterand meeting with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. In a hastily prepared statement to the press, Mitterand announced he had reached an agreement with Thatcher to deny the Canadian government the use of both the English and the French languages. When asked what Canada was to do under such circumstances, Mitterand replied, "They may grunt or bang rocks."

Also on Monday, Fidel Castro announced in Havana that he would henceforth limit the number of Canadian academics and students allowed "to hang around in their Venceremos T-shirts and

observe the revolution at work."

A spokesman for the MicMac Indians issued a terse statement to the press: "There shall be a ten per cent limit on the number of people of Scottish ancestry allowed to reside in Nova Scotia."

Here at Dalhousie, a coalition of graduate students who have to teach first-year courses have asked the University to restrict severely the number of students accepted from Nova Scotia public high schools. A joint communique asserts that, "Some students come here with an inadequate knowledge of English to cope."

On Tuesday, the Organisation of African Unity met in a special session at Arusha, Tanzania to impose a quota on imports from Canada such as railroads and Massey Ferguson tractors. A spokesman for the organisation, Dr. Hastings K. Banda of Malawi, said, "If they think they can get along without our students then I think we can get along without their tractors." By Wednesday morning the mining industry in Cape Breton had col-