

1936: Hicks a Rhodes scholar

Student Government History # 67

Shortly before the 1936 Christmas vacation the Students' Council met to consider the fate of the 1937 yearbook, *Pharos*. It was estimated that sales would be lower than in 1935-36, and only one set of applicants for the book's positions had appeared. Not wishing to suspend publication once again, the Council appointed the applicants on condition that any deficit over \$100.00 would be deducted from salaries. If there were profits these would be split evenly between the Council and the staff.

When people returned from the vacation *GAZETTE* front page news included the recent award of Nova Scotia's Rhodes Scholarship to Henry Hicks, an Arts & Science student at Dalhousie. Activity in the communications field occupied much attention. The Council had approved publication of a new regular newsletter, the *Dalhousie Bulletin*. The *Bulletin* would be printed three times a week, providing updated notices of events at the institution. The Council had also established a Radio Committee, under the chairmanship of ever-active John Fisher. This group would oversee the student radio programs on CHNS. Attempts to have regular exchanges among student newspapers were increasing.

Conscious of its role as a leader of student opinion, the newspaper reviewed its 1936-37 platform of 13 points for campus reform. Announcing that seven of the "planks" had been accomplished, the editors presented a new platform containing 15 reforms.

When the Council met after its vacation the first business was to

ease the financial terms for *Pharos*. The budgeted deficit was doubled to \$200; a change perhaps necessary when no one was fighting for the Editor's position.

Most of the January 10, 1937 meeting was spent in a review of a draft revised Constitution. This draft proposed the most far-reaching changes in student government since the 1912 reorganization from direct to representative democracy. The most striking change was institution of direct election for the President and Vice-President. Under the 1912 system these positions had been filled by the Council from among its membership. Agitation for direct election had been led by John Fisher in opposition to the steady string of Medicine presidents.

The Council was not willing to abandon altogether its influence over the selection of the leading student officials. The students would choose from among Council nominees for the top positions. Write-ins and open nominations were not provided for. The pre-1912 direct rule was slightly restored with a requirement of at least three student meetings a year. The power of constitutional amendment would be returned to the students from Council.

The new constitution also provided the opportunity for further reduction of women's role in student affairs. Since World War I it had been traditional for a woman to be selected as Vice-President. Now that the position was to be elected the Council would appoint a Second Vice-President from among its female members. A further novelty was the selection of a Council member, the Freshman rep, by

Council from among the student body. This position had been elected at large, and never before had anyone but the students actually controlled Council membership.

The new constitution was presented to the students in the newspaper. An editorial stressed that this was the first major revision in 25 years, and speaking to the constitution committee declared, "Dalhousie thanks you for a job well done". It was also reported that once again the hockey budget was a source of controversy, and that Council felt there were too many ads in the *GAZETTE*.

Six days after giving the new constitution initial approval the Council confirmed it. They were reassured that no conflict between the athletic group (DAAC) and Council was created by the new system, and the subsidiary constitutions of major societies under the new constitution were approved as well. The DAAC succeeded in gaining Council support for its effort to increase athletics coverage in the newspaper. The executive was authorized to decide should the problem be financial.

A students' forum on the new constitution was held January 22, after its approval. Several students who had not been active in Council work came forward to attack the Council involvement in elections through nomination of the top officers and choice of the Freshman rep. The attackers included Henry Hicks, George Robertson, Elwyn Hughes and Art Ormiston.

There was much excitement over the founding of a Newfoundland Club at Dalhousie. "All residents of the Oldest Colony" were invited,

and Professor Gordon Cowan was to be the first speaker.

New ground was broken by a late January editorial on the quality of teaching. After describing the problem of professors who merely read notes in class the writer asked, "Are we men or mice? Mice, we fear, and wise ones. We know too well the fate of the bold one at examination time".

January 1937 also marked an increase in the anti-Nazi sentiment at Dalhousie. For the first time German refugees lectured on campus, led by the former director of the Berlin School of Political Science.

It was announced that the 1937 valedictorian would be Graham Murray, who has been a distinguished Professor of Law here. Remarking on the housing problem, the newspaper traced agitation for a men's residence back to 1869. There was still none.

Endicott

Dr. James Endicott, former Canadian missionary in China will be in Halifax from March 19 to March 31 addressing various groups throughout the city on the history and politics of modern day China.

He will be speaking at the following locations and dates:

-On **Education and Re-education in China** Wednesday, March 24 at 7pm and

On **Socialization in China** Monday March 29 at 7 pm in Auditorium C Seaton Academic Centre, Mount Saint Vincent University

-At the Dunn Engineering Building, Dalhousie University 7:30 pm

His visit is being sponsored by the Canada-China Friendship Association and the Student Christian Movement of Canada.

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