



The Dalhousie Gazette

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Volume 99, No. 16 Halifax, Nova Scotia, February 9, 1967

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Editor-in-Chief

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Elections no longer degrade the voter

When Dalhousie Students vote in tomorrow's elections, they will face a situation completely alien to the normal political life of this university. In short, two teams, rather than the historical one team plus up-opposition, will be running.

This change might have enormous repercussions. For if anyone bothers to read the platforms, he will discover that neither platform represents the ramblings of an idiot. And while this in itself is hard enough to believe, he will also discover that for once there is a real contest, and that both teams are fully capable and competent.

One real issue seems to be that of decentralization. Not, in fact, whether or not to decentralize, but rather, how far to go. Both parties recognize that before any real sort of student participation can be affected, changes must occur. The question is one of what changes, and when.

Hankey's answer to this question is complex. It depends upon making small units, such as residences and faculty societies, almost autonomous. Fewer than 18 per cent of Dalhousie's undergraduate students participate in Dalhousie extracurricular activities in more than just a passive way. Hankey believes that this is largely due to the cliquish, bureaucratized operations of the various societies; he also feels that they often have a permanent air of mammoth impersonality. Students have to be oriented about a smaller unit than a three thousand person blob if they are going to contribute to and benefit from the extracurricular life of the university.

A case in point is the organization of the Canadian Union of Students. At present it is a sort of Mother, administering kindly discounts to its children. Occasionally communicating the messages which it can sneak secretly onto the back of a dollar bill. Before CUS can serve its real purpose, it has to be able to reach the individual student. And this can only be done by organizing first in small units, and secondly around things that are of concern to the student. Hopefully, what these things are will diversify as the student becomes, through CUS, aware of himself.

And so it is for most organizations. Hankey believes that Campus activities must be made relevant to the student, not to a "little praesidium." The votes he is obviously trying to capture are those of the people who feel that there is something wrong with our present unrealistic and almost mystic system of student government.

Ashworth, on the other hand, is attacking things in a different way. His platform is obviously much simpler. So, unfortunately,

are some of his motives. He prefers to communicate, in true political tradition, in the vernacular of the promise for everyone. His platform is in sharp contrast to Hankey's in that there is no overall philosophy; but his various proposals, while completely without a unity, are none the less quite worthwhile.

The Hankey-Foley and Ashworth-Alexander teams stand in common behind several concepts. Universal accessibility (including first year tuition), open decision making, and increased medical coverage are basic to both parties. And in other things, the candidates usually differ mostly in their proposed methods of implementation.

Consider the problem of student apathy. Hankey would attack this by granting much more autonomy to the residences, by putting more emphasis on faculty organizations, by decentralizing, and by making the council representative of the students. Ashworth, on the other hand, feels he can effect similar ends by making the establishment of a college band one of his priorities.

Or look at the problem of undergraduate exams. Hankey puts the emphasis on getting students in each class to engage in continual discussion with the professor, so that the professor becomes a part of the class, and the whole class together decides when and how exams will be held. Ashworth, on the other hand, believes that the traditional, liberal, control and pressure "from above" attack is more desirable.

Clearly, these are merely differences in implementation. Hankey makes a point of staying away, it seems, from such issues as free parking, residence fees, athletic facilities, student directory, etc. The reason for this is quite clear if one reads his platform. He feels that such things are either obvious, or can and will be taken care of "in passing." He believes that the matter under election is one primarily of ideology, since either side can quite capably "administrate" with little or no difficulty.

This is the first year in many to see an honest campaign and contest for the most important executive positions of the Dalhousie Student Union. It is the first year in many to see non-establishment people challenge the reigns which have chosen so many Presidents and Vice-presidents. It is the first year in many to see two intelligent platforms; and it is also the first time that the outcome of the elections have not been determined even before the polls open. Perhaps now that people are not being insulted when they exercise their franchise, they will take time to consider the platforms and vote.

An opportunity like this one may never come again.

Letters to the Editor

1181 Dalhousie Street
Halifax, N.S.

To The Editor:

The articles about "Dr. Princeton" were disgusting. Dalhousie is very fortunate to have a man who is sincerely interested in the students and doing his utmost to help them, both as a physician and counsellor. It is contemptible that the Gazette has reciprocated with slander and sarcasm.

Karen Colden
Medicine 1

To The Editor:

Re: Narrow-minded Council Members

The radical editorial position usually found in our newspaper was notably absent in Let Them Go To Trade School, found in the Feb. 9 issue. In support of the stand I took against Pres. Young's proposal, let me clarify my position:

Probably the great majority of Dal students feel that "free" tuition, or universal accessibility, is an inevitable and desirable social advance. During the Student Council's debate, however, it became evident that Young's proposal was a bit premature. Present day Nova Scotia has only limited funds to give to the edu-

cation of her people. I believe that this money would, at the present time, be most advantageously spent on the high-school system of the province.

It must be true that many high-school graduates are financially inhibited from going to college. On the other hand, the experiences of two Council members on the high-school visitation committee indicate that finances are not the high school graduates' greatest problem. At one rural high school, a Council member met the students interested in coming to University. The group consisted of 32 girls and 4 boys. Why should there be such a discrepancy in the interests of each sex? The Council Member felt that the difference was purely due to motivation. The boys of the community were not interested. The proper motivation had not been developed in them in high school. Surely motivation is one of the fundamental requirements of to-day's college student, regardless of how his education is financed. Another Council Member recently revealed that a great many students in our high schools do not even know that the government's Student Loan Plan exists. If financial factors are their greatest barrier to college, one would think students would know where possible

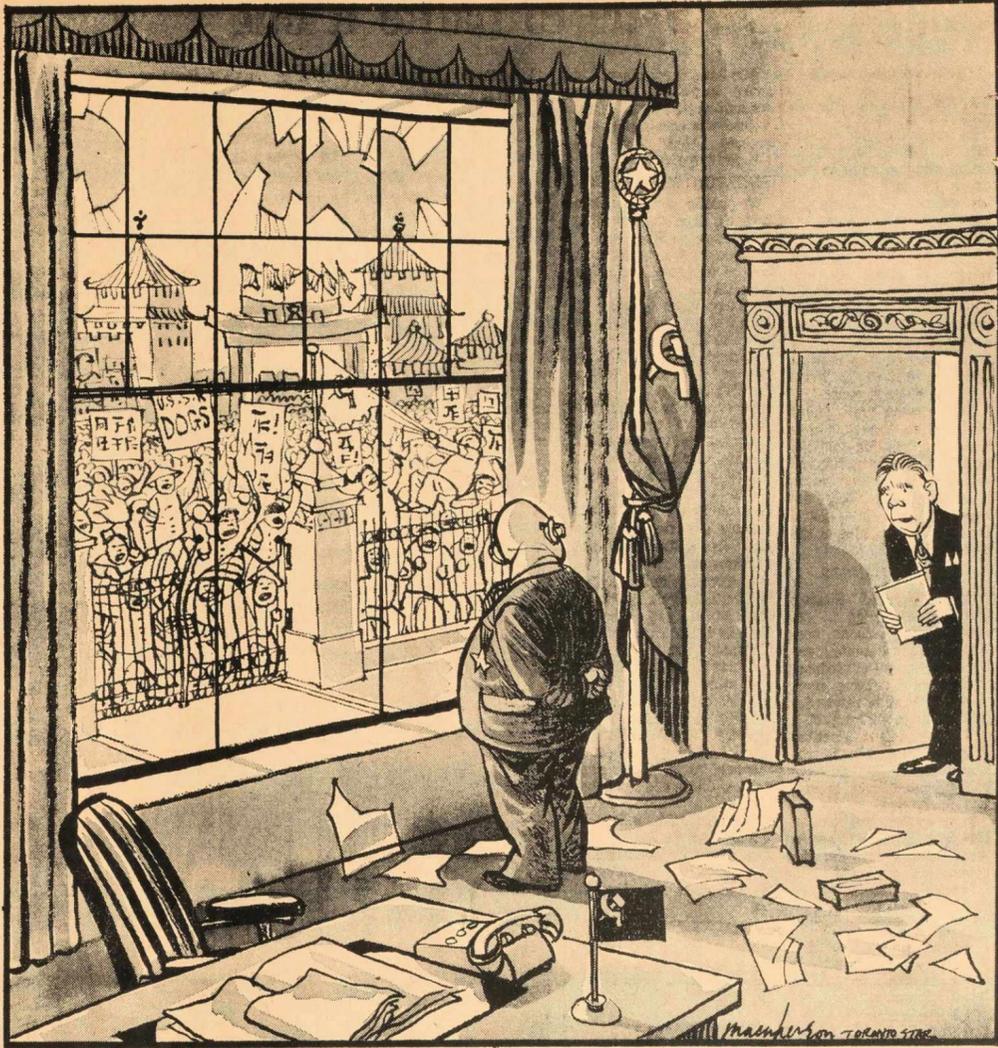
financial sources are open to them. Perhaps current monetary sources are sufficient, but not maximally utilized.

I would be the first to agree that these examples were isolated instances not representative of the population as a whole. The examples seem reasonably probable, however. At a minimum, their existence indicates that Young's proposal deserves further study. For this reason I supported a motion that the proposal be sent to committees for necessary examination. This motion, incredibly, was defeated.

At least one of the candidates in the Presidential campaign for the new Council is interested in universal accessibility. Let us hope that, if he wins, the subject will be brought up again before Council. It is certainly worthy of careful consideration.

In conclusion, I regret to observe the way in which the Gazette un-qualifiedly accepted Pres. Young's proposal. The editorial might have been written by Young himself. A campus newspaper should be able to look at all sides of an issue. Your failure to do so is, in Randall Smith's words, "an exercise in intellectual immaturity."

ROD McNESS (MED 11)



THE COOKS HAVE QUIT, COMRADE AMBASSADOR! SHALL I PHONE OUT FOR SOME CHINESE FOOD?*

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Men's Residence
Dalhousie University
Halifax, N.S.

The Editor
Dalhousie University Gazette
Dalhousie University
Halifax, N.S.

Dear Sir:

With your permission may we offer this reply to Mr. Burslem's recent article in "Perspective." Mr. Burslem:

We read with interest your article in "perspective". You readily discredited the evolutionary theory. We agree that the question of evolution can only be examined with scientific scepticism. Evolutionists are the first to admit the limitations of this theory and do not at present offer it as a final answer. However, won't you agree that this whole question is a scientific, empirical investigation into man's origin, development and fate?

It does not follow that evolution by natural selection "leads to a hopeless, fatalistic philosophy." Nor does it follow or is it logical to assume that evolution into a "higher being - a superman" is hopeless or repugnant. On the contrary, is not this the common goal of both evolution and Christianity? Is not the "omega" the great Christian Theologian, Chardin, refers to; a "superman"?

You put forward the idea that "nothing" is incomprehensible to man's mind. Could it not also be said that the concepts of "God, Hell and Heaven" are equally incomprehensible to man? You seem to assume that these concepts are readily understandable. As you said the Christianity is based upon, "doubtful interpretation of scanty evidence and sometimes upon no evidence at all".

We respect your Christian beliefs; but you must realize that they will always remain beliefs as long as they are excused from a scientific verification. We also respect evolutionary theory with the realization of its limits and also with the knowledge that Christian writers of the past and present have found it compatible with their beliefs.

The crux of the whole matter is this: is it not illogical and inconsistent to denounce one system of thought because at present it cannot be completely scientifically verified and at the same time to adopt another while excusing it from scientific examination?

Respectfully,
Thomas J. Smith,
Medicine 1
Joseph F. Mossey
Medicine 1

To The Editor:

Guys, has your girlfriend ever gone into the ladies washroom and screamed returning some-what pale and colourless? Have you ever turned on the lights in a dark room in the Dalhousie Canteen or heard squishing in unison with your steps as you walked across the floors of your SUB?

Well examine your food before eating it, shake your clothes before leaving the canteen and watch all toilet seats. Why? Because we want to be noticed and to take our rightful place in this noble institution. We protest the apathy

displayed towards us. Although we make up a substantial segment of the Dalhousie population and can be found in almost all warm, dark corners and off course, in the ladies room.

Yours sincerely,
T.M.E. Cockroach

To The Editor:

With every due respect, I strongly dissent from the editorial policy adopted by The Gazette's Editor-in-Chief in today's edition.

The Gazette is the only campus newspaper at Dalhousie, and as the most-widely distributed disseminator of news and editorial comment, will likely be read by a substantial number of the student electorate voting in tomorrow's student council elections.

I believe it is the role of the campus newspaper on this occasion, to inform the student body of the issues raised by the candidates, and to report the qualifications of the students seeking office - particularly the presidency and vice-presidency.

However, I do not believe it is the duty or the privilege of The Gazette in its editorial columns, to guide the students in making their decision as to whom to support on polling day.

Such a policy puts other candidates competing for the same positions at a decided disadvantage. What possible recourse have rival candidates to answer a widely - circulated editorial which in effect tells the student body how they should vote, just 12 hours before the polling booths open?

David Day, Associate Editor.
Editor's Note:

Particular care was taken to ensure that this week's news coverage was not opinionated. However, if the university newspaper cannot comment editorially on the election of the student union's two most important officials, then it is not fulfilling its responsibility to the campus.

February 12th., 1967

Sir:

God help the state of Dal biology if Michael Burslem can get as far as second-year medic, and still confidently state that "the claims of the evolutionist are based upon doubtful interpretation of scanty evidence, and sometimes upon no evidence at all." On the contrary, the accumulation of genetic and paleontological evidence puts the process of evolution beyond all reasonable doubt. As a Christian, I find it far easier to believe that man evolved gradually, than the near-blasphemous alternative that God created him specially, and then put the fossils in the rocks to fool us.

The trouble is that Christians are too reluctant to bring the problem out into the open, preferring a barrage of Biblical quotation to a little careful thought. The creation theory holds that God made man; all the evolution theory supposes is that man was made gradually. Both Christians and atheists have too often assumed that the two are mutually exclusive, but obviously they are not. The stumbling block for both has

been an over-literal interpretation of passages in Genesis which in any case do not stand up to literal interpretation. But these passages can equally well be read as a primitive account of evolution, controlled by God. Genesis, after all, was written for desert tribesmen, and if I was trying to explain evolution to a group of Bedouin, I'd probably do it in much the same way.

The point is that the evolutionary process is theologically neutral; it is no more than the backward extension of our family tree, and as such proves nothing one way or another about the existence of God or the purpose of man. It's something which has happened, and there's no point in pretending otherwise. Christian belief is difficult enough as it is; there's no need to put us through unnecessary hoops of incredulity.

Mr. Burslem's attitude to science is particularly disturbing. He seems to assume that it is the Christian's duty to close his eyes to the natural world; which then, no doubt, gets up and tiptoes quietly away. The scientist prefers to take the natural world for what it is, and looks for God among the things God has created. That, at any rate, is where I stand - and I can do no other.

Yours faithfully,
Dr. R.G.B. Brown

Dear Sir:

The Dalhousie-Kings Circle K Club spent an interesting evening recently at the Halifax School for the Blind. At this time a new program, dependent upon volunteer assistance, was outlined by the directors of the school. There are a great number of totally or partially blind children living at the school, whose experience outside of the school is almost totally limited volunteer initiative. Certainly, the goal of any program with blind children is to provide the children with, as much as possible, the experience of a child without a handicap.

To facilitate this end, the school has asked us to provide volunteer workers to act as "big brothers" to these children, to work regularly with them, and to answer their many questions. Occasional outings, such as to a shopping centre, would be an experience that many have not known. The most important thing is to show them that someone outside of the school does care about them. Your participation in this program need only involve an hour each week.

Although Circle K is a Mens' Service Club on campus, we would welcome female assistance on this project.

Interested? Contact any member of the Dal-Kings Circle K or the Secretary of the Student Union at the office in the Arts Annex.

142 Summer Street,
Halifax,
Saturday 11th Feb. '67

Dear Mr. Editor:

As a University student I find that the material printed in the Dalhousie Gazette each week, by and large most unpleasant.

The Editorial staff seem to take great pleasure in using the power of the printed page to cast slander on any target that pre-

sents itself. The back page of the February 9th issue of the Dalhousie Gazette was in extremely poor taste, the product of a sick mind.

If the future of Canada rested in the hands of University students like those responsible for the production of the Gazette, I would suggest that she enjoy her Centennial because it could be her last.

I advise that the Editorial staff begin to think positively, presenting sane and intelligent answers to some of the problems facing us University students; instead of throwing great quantities of mud into a fan and letting it fly in all directions.

I would hate to think that the philosophy presented in the Dalhousie Gazette is that of the majority of the student body. Are you waiting to see how far you can go before somebody jumps on you?

Sincerely, ready to jump,
Jonathan Halse
Arts II

To The Editor:

A long standing tradition of The Dalhousie Gazette, dating back to its first year of publication, in 1869, has been an annual edition or a page, presenting issues of contemporary interest about the campus and Halifax, in comic relief.

Last week, the back page of the Gazette was intended to perpetuate that tradition.

In my opinion, we failed.

Aside from two stories, ("Exam schedule to be telephoned to students on day before writing" and "RCMP uncovers secret royalist plot"), the page has been criticized in many circles on the campus as a series of ill-conceived, sloppily written stories, that slurred, rather than caricatured, personalities, and were more becoming of sleazy "girlie" magazines, than of a college newspaper.

Some of our readers were amused by the stories, but none thought that the page in any way advanced Dalhousie's image and reputation - even as a campus where students appreciate the significance of sophisticated humour.

If we offended the pride of students or alumni in their alma mater last week, I believe we owe them an apology. It is not important that we reveal or blame the persons who wrote these stories; the senior masthead members of The Gazette - including the under-signed - must assume complete responsibility for the page. My only regret is that they are apparently reluctant to co-sign this letter.

The Gazette ranked third among the top college newspapers in Canada in December. I trust that future additions to The Gazette make us a little more worthy of that regard.

Respectfully,
David Day,
Associate Editor.

MacKinnon calls for System College

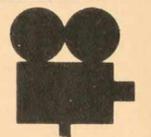
Student apathy arises from lack of communication and lack of identity with small groups on the students' part. So says Dave MacKinnon, President of Residence Council at DMR. He also added "I think the Administration cares but has not enough resources to do anything about it." Even architecture plays its part. Who can identify with a cold, impersonal building?

One vast improvement would be to have Dalhousie adopt a college system similar to University of Toronto. There one has a block unit of men's and women's residences and classrooms for introductory courses in Arts and Science. Students through close contact are forced to communicate. Similarly is operated the Graduate College where top academic people are jammed together; thus, arises communication.

Dal is recognized as a good university in a low income area. But we can initiate effective changes. For example, why not have the faculty and men students' dining halls combined? The students themselves are trying by having proposed a four house residence system with House Committees to provide a wider range of contact and activity. These changes contribute at least as much as academics to one's education.

Political leadership is needed on the student council. Both Young and Crawford are doing terrific jobs at great expense to themselves. But political leaders are needed, to give speeches and leave the bureaucratic work to others.

MacKinnon feels that the Gazette could be improved by more coverage of campus news and less preoccupation with CUS and CUP events.



at the
cinema
NICHOLAS ROGERS

"If they don't get you one way, they'll get you another." is Alfie's parting comment in the final scene of the film, Life for Alfie means one of two alternatives—marriage and obligations or—bachelorhood and freedom. The latter seems the obvious choice for an amoral, appealing Cockney who romps his way through a series of lovers. But it is? Alfie has no doubts at the beginning, but he certainly has at the end. He tasted the joys of parenthood, he saw the guilt of abortion, and he had his own creed thrown back in his face by a trollope who told him how old he was becoming.

There's humour in this film... cheeky humour, roguish passes and slick talking. "If a woman gave me her respect, I wouldn't know what to do with it."... But there's also pathos... the pathos of a man who casually seduces his sick friend's wife and has to murder his own child for the sake of sobriety. And there's also, beneath the breeziness, beneath the Tom Jones antics, the loneliness of a man on the outside looking in. For Alfie is on the outside; when he sees another daddy for his son Malcolm, when he is not part of little Annie's (Jane Asher) thoughts.

So Alfie is not simply the typical rogue. He is playing the rogue's game but he is wrestling with his conscience. He is fighting the love he feels for his child, he is escaping his dilemma by the "objective sex" route, and when experience has pricked open his cool exterior he has reached the point where he must deny his basic philosophy and admit that, for a little happiness, for a little peace of mind, one has to make a few sacrifices and give a little. This is no less than a modern morality play.

Michael Craine gave a superb performance as Alfie. I particularly enjoyed his commentary to the audience, a device which was perfect for projecting Alfie's character. Ruby, the over-purring lush 'in beautiful condition' was convincingly played by Shelley Winters, although she was outshone by the acting of Vivian Merchant (Harold Pinter's wife) as the dowdy wife of Harry, Alfie's mate at the convalescent home, and by Jane Asher, who was the wistful pilgrim to London.

There is nothing terribly unusual about the stylization of this film, but it has a powerful theme. It is moreover one of those rare films that do justice, one might even argue, more than justice to the book. The roguish humour and antics of this film have been exaggerated. It is more than a sensational sex plot. It has humour and pathos, and irony, for Alfie is not escaping from the clutches of possessive women. None of them demand anything more of him than his sensibility allows... he is fighting himself.