

# 1937:graduate society coalesces

## Student government history # 68

The initial publication, in January 1937, of the Dalhousie Bulletin was successful, so in February the Students' Council approved payment for a duplicating machine, paper supplies and salary. The Bulletin would now be a twice-weekly listing of university events.

The Glee Club had found a person who was interested in organizing an orchestra and a competent conductor. Their plan for instituting an orchestra was approved. A university band had collapsed several years previous when its conductor graduated. The club was less content with Faculty use of the gym, and with Council backing went to Senate to ask that faculty use be restricted. Further Glee Club unrest was caused by their property manager position. Members felt that the \$75.00 salary was too high yet no one had applied for the job.

The renewed exchange among student newspapers was carried on as Canadian University Press. The first CUP article carried in the GAZETTE was a report on the Student Peace Conference's call for a national petition asking that Parliament make clear that only it could declare war for Canada. Demonstrating the kind of social-awareness lacking at Dalhousie in the early 1930s, the newspaper praised the federal housing efforts but felt that more was necessary to really fight unemployment.

A source of much controversy on the campus Pharos's popularity poll, an attempt to increase interest in the yearbook. Most

women students had opposed it, and the yearbook staff finally suspended the poll while protesting that if it was so terrible why did 120 men vote.

At the then-early date of February 20 the newspaper carried a leading article on the opening of Council nominations. Striking up an election theme, the editorial condemned the financial laxness of most Council members. It was asserted that without conservative members and permanent Secretary-Treasurer Murray Rankin the Council would approve all requests for funding.

As the nominations opened Council heard the bad news that the publisher felt he could not finish the yearbook on schedule. The Editor of the Dalhousie Bulletin was given permission to use the Council's duplicating machine for outside work and keep the profits.

Discipline in the gymnasium was becoming a problem, perhaps due to the dual authority over that building of Students' Council and Senate. The Council directed all those who had items stolen in the gym to bring the matter to the city police. The Council then told the Senate Gymnasium Committee that unless all offenders were brought forward, Council would no longer punish those who broke gym rules.

GAZETTE apprehensions about a spendthrift Council was soon confirmed when that body approved the \$100 costs of a hockey playoff although this would create a deficit for the year.

In the first exercise of its right to nominate candidates for President,

the Council stuck to the two faculties that had dominated the Presidency for decades. One candidate was from Medicine, the other from Law. The first appointed member of a Dalhousie Students' Council was Roland Hurst, chosen as the 37-38 Freshmen rep. Both Presidential candidates had gone to Mount Allison for their undergraduate work. During the Depression Mt. A. graduates came to dominate student life at Dalhousie. The current Chief Justice of Nova Scotia, Ian MacKeigan, declined nomination for President.

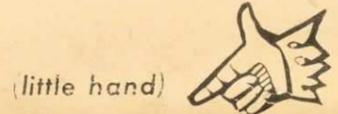
The Council had hoped that by making the 1937-38 appointments in February instead of March it could let people gain needed experience. However, the plan soon failed when Roland Hurst turned down co-Editorship of the newspaper since this would mean his resignation from Council. Henry Reardon was put forward for a third term as Pharos Business Manager, and turned it down. Ed Cohn was the second choice. Leo Landreville was chosen as debating president and on John Fisher's suggestion the Council finally arranged a pre-election forum.

As elections approached the Council rushed through much of its usual March business, finishing appointments and making honour awards. It authorized holding the Peace Movement referendum at Dalhousie. The Graduate students requested Council representation, but Council felt that a prerequisite to representation was formation of a major faculty society. The matter

of forming a graduate students' society and giving them a Council seat was referred to a Student Body Meeting. Remembering past failures to have Senate recognize Pharos fee referenda, Council again authorized a fee vote of the students.

The election results were far from a surprise. The \$2.00 fee increase and world peace were both approved. For at least the fifth consecutive year a Medical student was elected President. Several leading citizens of the province in 1976 were 1937 Council members. Clarence Gosse (Lieutenant-Governor) sat for Medicine while Commerce chose Peter Nicholson (Finance Minister). Graduate society and representation were approved with the President of the Arts & Science Society leading the pro-grad forces.

Students expressed much disgruntlement late in the academic year when Senate decided that for the time being graduate students need only pay the Council fee once per degree. The Senate gave as its reason the graduates' lack of interest in student affairs, grandly ignoring the grads' recent fight for Council representation. The decision was taken long before students were even permitted to attend Senate sessions, much less be consulted. University president Carleton Stanley was no longer prominent on campus, but his brand of paternalism continued.



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