

Mt. Allison President

McLean assumes new duties

Dr. Guy McLean, Dalhousie's Vice-President of Academics and Research, has recently been appointed President of Mount Allison University, commencing in the 1980-81 year. The following is an interview with Dr. McLean conducted by Gazette staffer John DeMont.

Gazette: What objectives will you be pursuing at your new appointment at Mount Allison University?

Dr. McLean: Well, I don't expect any new directions to be taken at Mount Allison. My job will be to continue the excellent undergraduate program they have had for the last ten years.

Gazette: What differences do you expect to find, in your duties and otherwise, at Mount A. as compared to Dalhousie?

Dr. McLean: Well, they are two entirely different places. Dalhousie has about 9,000 students, while Mt. Allison is a school of about 1,400 students. Also, Mt. Allison is completely undergraduate, while Dalhousie has a number of faculties, professional as well as graduate school. So size and variety will be one big difference.

Gazette: Where do you think education is headed, in this province and in Canada in general?

Dr. McLean: Well, I think that a University like Mount Allison, which is small, one of the smallest in Canada and almost totally residential, will be very attractive in the future because so many of the universities are becoming very large, like Dalhousie for example. Even in my time here Dalhousie has grown something like 400 per cent. It has become a very large place, slightly anonymous. I would think that the smaller universities are going to become very attractive to students, at

they go on into graduate work, where they can meet people, least as undergrads before, where they can know their professors and know one another.

Gazette: What do you think about unionization among professors and tenure? Do you think this is really being fair to the students?

Dr. McLean: Well, they are really two separate questions, unionization and tenure. People often think they go together, and I suppose they do. Unions look after job security and a lot of people think tenure is job security, but it's not. Tenure looks after arbitrary influence on professors, it's related to academic freedom. Unionization is a trend which I think is probably reversing itself. There are a number of universities who have turned down unionization. Last year in the U.S. there were more universities who turned down unionization than accepted it, this is the first time in a long time that this has happened. I myself think that universities and unions are not particularly appropriate. The professors can have whatever they want of course, but in my opinion too much time is taken up in these formalistic management-union negotiations, which, in my opinion, achieve no more than would have been accomplished in the first place through conversation.

Gazette: With your recent appointment at Mount Allison and President Hicks soon to leave, is there going to be a whole new administration at Dalhousie?

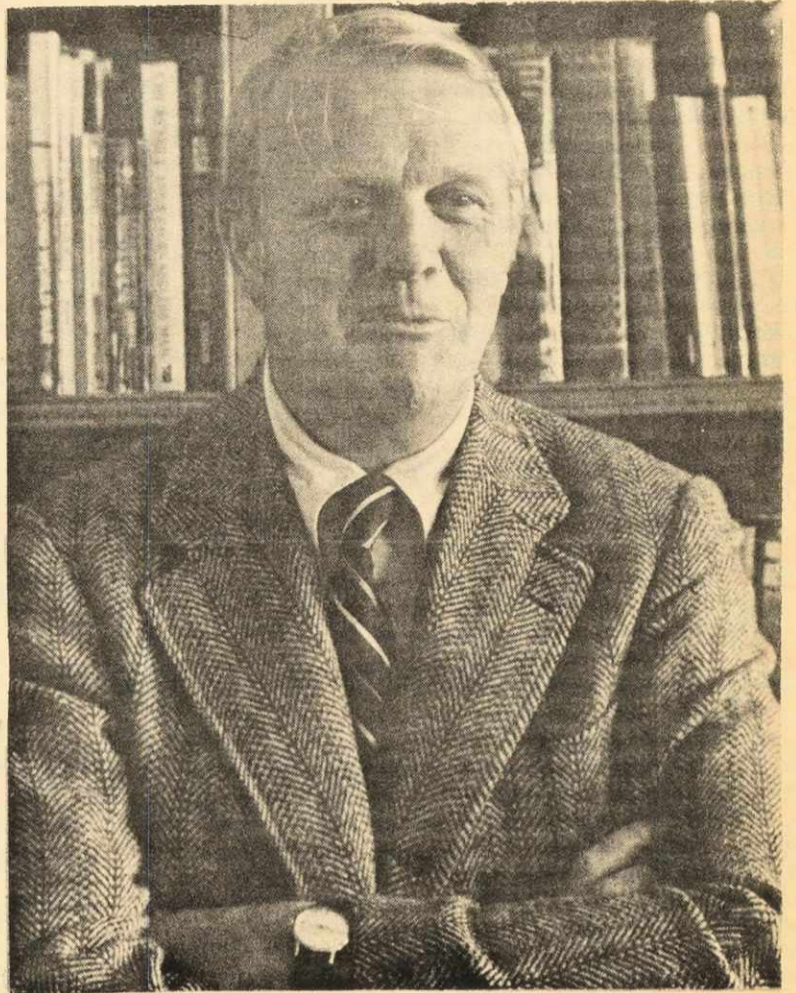
Dr. McLean: Well, there is a rather general shift around. I don't know whether there will be a completely new administration or not, that will depend on who is occupying the positions. I know a number of people who, quite independently, think that this will be their last year.

Gazette: During your stay at Dalhousie is there anything you would have changed, had you the chance?

Dr. McLean: No, not very much. I guess that I would have liked to teach more than I have been. I've been in an administrative position almost the whole time I've been here. In the early years when I had, say, three classes, I used to know many more students than I do now. In the last few years I've had only one class and been out of touch with the students. That, of course, is one of the attractions at Mount Allison, it is a smaller place and one would have more of a chance to get to know both the students and professors.

Gazette: Looking back in ten or fifteen years time what will you remember about Dalhousie?

Dr. McLean: Oh, all the good times—and the people—I'll definitely remember the people, both the students and my colleagues. It's a great pleasure to be in an airport in Vancouver or on a street in Toronto and someone speaks to you and you realize that you had them in a class some years before. Yes, the people, that's what you remember.



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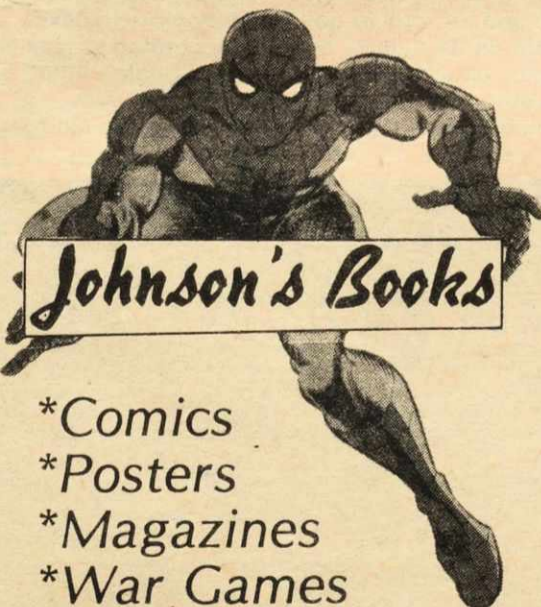
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