

DALHOUSIE Gazette

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The Law Society

The Law Society is to the law student what the Students' Council is to every Dalhousie student. All law students automatically become a member of the society upon completion of registration. The records of the society have not been carefully preserved and consequently it is not possible to determine when it was first organized. A safe guess would be when the first two or more students enrolled here.

The Law Society functions primarily for the organizing of Law School activities in co-ordination with the other faculties on the campus. The details of course are worked out by committees and team managers, to whom not a little praise is due. The activities of the society are directed along three channels, viz: (1) scholastic, (2) athletic, and (3) social functions.

Scholasticly, debating teams are sponsored, while moot courts and mock parliaments are organized by the Society. Every law student who wishes not only to gain experience in thinking while talking, but to acquire the practical experience of preparation and presentation of material can do so by taking part in these activities.

Many law students play a prominent part in varsity athletics, but it is in interfaculty competition that all students who wish to play can do so. The willingness, and not necessarily the ability to play, is the criterion. Teams are regularly entered in rugby, basketball, hockey and volleyball.

Last but not least are the social functions sponsored by the society. The high spots are the Law Ball in the Fall, and the Law Banquet and Dance held on the last day of final examinations. During the term there are usually two, or three, informal dances organized. To those members who have not yet attended any of the social functions, the words of a recent faculty member are most apt. In essence they are that once you have embarked on the cold, heartless path of a practising lawyer, your college days will be remembered not by the rule in Shelley's case, but by those faces across the table which reflect the good times had by all at a Law Ball or Dance.



Forrest Building.—In 1885, when the Law School was told that they could no longer use the City School Board rooms, Dean Weldon pressed for a new site and in return for the Grand Parade property and \$25,000, Dalhousie moved to what is now the Forrest Building. In 1887 the cornerstone was added to the present building, named after Rev. John Forrest, D.D., third President of Dalhousie 1885-1911.

THE NEED

To all too many people the law of our nation is a vague and nebulous creation, in which only the initiate, the legally trained, can find their way with any certainty. The average man is wary of the intricacies of law and uncertain of the rights accorded him. This state of affairs cannot be allowed to continue.

It is up to those of the legal profession to help promote understanding of the law and dispel many common misconceptions of the place of law in the community. There are three reasons why this should be done.

(1) The Common man should know enough about law to protect his interests. Today, with the growth of bureaucracy and government interference with the conduct of everyday affairs it is more important than ever that the rights of the individual should be protected, and the best media through which this could be accomplished are our courts.

(2) The lawyer is not fulfilling his obligations to the community due to suspicion on the part of the public, and ignorance of just what a lawyer can do for the average businessman to save him trouble in advance. Too many people come to a lawyer like they do to a doctor, only when a situation becomes intolerable. They do not realize that a quiet consultation with a lawyer about a step they are contemplating can save them time and money at a later stage.

(3) The procedure of our courts should be speeded up. This will reduce legal costs and people will be less hesitant about initiating an action, which now they must expect to take the better part of a year if they are unfortunate. Modern business just can't put up with the delay, and a business man will often make an adverse settlement instead of gambling upon lengthy litigation which may lose him much more in the end. Furthermore the everyday layman is frustrated by the slowness of our procedure to such an extent that the Compensation cases have been taken from the practitioner.

Today more than ever the legal fraternity must impart knowledge to the layman, and rectify the present faults for the benefit of the nation. Today in our world of ordinance and legislation where every move is covered by a succeeding form to fill out, a general knowledge of the law, and a regard for our legal system is highly desirable. The future of our society depends on a sound jurisprudence, which in turn hinges on interested subjects.

Law Moves to New Building

Next spring when the 1950 class in Law graduate from the Forrest Building, they will be the last to complete their studies in that famous old building. There will be no more stuffy Room 2, and no more hard feelings in the Law Society meetings when some radical suggests air conditioning, and is voted out of order with cries of "What was good enough for my Grandfather is good enough for me". Next year the school will be on Studley and the campus will be centered except for Medical students.

There will be several modifications necessary to accommodate the legal department. The present basement will contain a class room, a small stack, the common room and two washrooms. The second floor will hold only one class room where the present Room 3 is, and Room 4 will be

turned into two offices. The rest of the floor will be divided into faculty studies. The final change and probably the most appealing will be the removal of the present partitions on the third floor, to make the whole floor into a library. New florescent lighting and improved heating will finish the work.

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