

The Dalhousie GAZETTE

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Why Did the Professors Go?

We have as yet received no reply to the question voiced in our lead editorial last week. We are disappointed, for the importance and urgency of the problem renders an answer to our query imperative. We hope that the appropriate quarters will provide us with something positive to report in the next issue.

Let's Haul Campus Politics Out of the Mud

It probably seems a little early to the advocates of fun-and-games politicking to speak of campus politics now. Indeed, it may seem pointless to speak of it at all. But the fact is, unless something is done now, political life at Dalhousie will remain in the dregs of the political barrel for yet another year.

Politics here is a phenomenon of early March, totally divorced from political reality. It provides a forum for amusing sophistry and the occasional collegiate prank—an entertaining two days preceded by a week of arid pamphlets, two (or perhaps three) speeches, and a gaudy display of hackneyed party slogans hung from the walls. In short, it is a farce.

The major defense of all this activity is that it leads up to model parliament, which is supposed to provide students with a clearer concept of parliamentary government and a public audience for free speech and clear thinking. Certainly there is an audience, but neither they nor the participants of model parliament have furthered their knowledge of government indeed, they have seen the worst of perversions.

For to develop any concept of any kind of government, the problems and issues which face it must first be mastered. It is only then that the institution of Parliament becomes meaningful to those who try to copy it. No issues have been brought forward to fight over in the past years, and without them the bare bones of parliamentary procedure lie sterile in the mud of political name-calling.

It is up to the campus politicians, we submit, to make these issues and to find the major problems facing the Canadian government today. Both pamphlet and speech should then be used to discuss them on campus. The job is not as formidable as it first seems. Party organizations in Ottawa or in the Provinces are always willing to send

material; professors are available for technical assistance. A well organized party could assign various topics for investigation to a large group of party members in order to spread the burden. Certainly it should be possible to look south of the border at the presidential debates and instigate similar discussions here with take assistance, perhaps, of Sodales.

There is no better time than the present to begin the slow erosion of political illiteracy.

Registration Procedures Require More Efficiency

"Today's youngsters," one writer said, "are in a desperate hurry to go nowhere and to do nothing." Although we feel this criticism to be a little extreme, we have some sympathy for it because we believe that even in this automated world patience is a virtue well worth keeping. We are also quick to agree, however, that time wasted for no apparent reason is as much of a crime as a lack of patience. It is with this in mind that we wholeheartedly support the mass of students who voiced strong protest over the way registration was conducted.

During the summer, students were asked to fill out their cards in order to speed up matters at registration time. This most students did, only to find themselves still having to wait in line for two or three hours in order to get into the registrar's office. Once inside, they do only two things. The first is to obtain their registration number, which takes perhaps sixty seconds. The second is to check with the registrar to see that they have selected their courses correctly. This takes anywhere from five minutes to half an hour and is the real source of the bottleneck.

This delay is pointless and ridiculous. Surely it would be possible to train three or four people so that they could help put the students through this routine check much more quickly. It seems beyond reason that in a university of this size there is only one person who has the knowledge and the authority to give the student permission to take the courses he desires and to make sure that he fulfills the necessary requirements for his degree.

The mayhem which resulted last week could easily be eliminated by the innovation of a little efficiency. It would not take any great effort of planning on the part of the administration and it would save a large number of people an awfully boring, tiring wait in line.

The Bill of Rights Controversy



Mr. Caines, whose home is in Corner Brook, Newfoundland, graduated from Dalhousie (Kings) with a Bachelor of Arts degree. His subject "major" was a combination of Political Science and Economics. He is presently a third-year student in Dalhousie's law school.

by GEORGE CAINES

The Bill of Rights guarantees, in Canada, the right of the individual to life, liberty, security and person, the enjoyment of property, and the right not to be deprived thereof except by due process of law; the right to the protection of the law without discrimination of race, national origin, colour, religion, or sex; and finally, it guarantees freedom of religion, speech, assembly, association, and the press, and provides that any other rights in existence at the time of the passing of the Act are not abrogated by it.

It appears that in the present age of increasing government activity and control, a clear, positive statement of the rights of the individual can only work to advantage. The majority of the Bill's detractors claim, however, that it is ineffective since it is an ordinary Act of Parliament and therefore subject, like any other Act, to infringement and repeal by subsequent Acts. The Bill's supporters counter with the argument that the effectiveness of the Bill centers around the provision that no other Act shall be construed to abrogate the Bill of Rights, and that no Act can infringe upon the Bill of Rights without a clear statement of such intention, then being open to full debate in the House of Commons and to the force of public opinion.

At present one can only speculate on the future and effectiveness of the Bill, but it may well be headed for trouble. It seems certain that it will conflict with some pre-existing legislation which derogates from the Bill without specific reference to it; in this event such legislation must, according to the provisions of the Bill of Rights, be construed so as not to infringe it.

It is my hope, however, that the Bill may be useful in cutting down the wide discretionary powers currently granted by certain enactments to administrative boards and officials, who will be forced to take into consideration the rights of individuals more than they have done so in the past. Perhaps it may lead to the day when an immigrant cannot be deported by the Department of Immigration without giving reasons for so doing, and to the day when a minority religious group

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LETTERS

.. thought-provoking ..

Sir: Congratulations on your editorial in last week's edition of the Dalhousie Gazette. It was interesting and thought-provoking to say the least.

R. Leach,
Law I

.. should take steps ..

Sir: Congratulations on your editorial "Why Did the Professors Go?"

Let's hope that the university administration will take immediate steps to clear up this matter, which has been the subject of much discussion in the student body.

Pro Bono Publico

... otherwise ...

Sir: Comment is in order with regards to the picture in the bottom left hand corner of page 3 in last week's Gazette.

Your caption was accurate except: it wasn't a freshman wiener roast; it didn't rain later on in the evening; the wieners didn't go to waste; and it didn't break up the party.

Otherwise; well done.

Tom Scott,
Law III.

Ed's Note: The Gazette stands convicted by lawyer Scott's first-hand evidence. The wiener (?) fans are law students.