

DALHOUSIE Gazette

AMERICA'S OLDEST COLLEGE PAPER

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Women and Stolen Coats

In increasing number of coats are being taken from about the campus every day. The Students' Council has failed to take any action on this matter, except discuss the problem in a general way.

The situation has reached a point where something simply has to be done for the protection of the property of the student body. In the absence of action from other organizations, the GAZETTE has decided to take action.

The GAZETTE has accepted the services of a volunteer who has expressed his willingness to attempt to track down stolen articles. He will engage the services of a number of assistants in order to expand the activities of his group.

The GAZETTE will act as a clearing house for information and will pass on the facts it receives to the "detective" agency.

Any students who have had their garments stolen from about the campus should write a letter to the GAZETTE giving a description of the stolen article and telling where and when it was taken.

There will a member of the staff in the GAZETTE office between 12:00 and 1:00 every day and the information may be given to them.

We can do nothing without the co-operation of those students who have had their garments stolen. If you fall into that category it is to your advantage to give us any information you may have; it may lead to the recovery of your property.

We do not guarantee any definite results, but we intend to leave no stone unturned.

Women? No women!

Letter to the Editor

To Editor of the Dalhousie Gazette:
Sir:

Please leave Faculty out of your dispute with the President of the Students' Council. Al Smith, who—with the permission of Mr. Zwicker, I am told—took down the proceedings of a recent Students' Forum on his tape recorder, is not a member of the faculty of Dalhousie University. I myself, who am regarded as more or less of a faddist on wire and tape recordings, did not even know that Smith was making this recording.

I would request you, therefore, Mr. Editor, to remove the impression, which might be gathered by some readers of your editorial of November 28, "A Dangerous Precedent", that some member of faculty was endeavouring surreptitiously to spy upon student activities and reveal them to the outside world.

Various officials of Dalhousie student organizations have ex-

pressed to me the desire to have a number of viva voce records of some of the major public events taking place during the year, parts of which they would like to play back over the radio on Munro (Dalhousie) Day. With this in mind, assisted by an expert from the Engineering Department of the university, a student incidentally, we recorded both the laying of the foundation stone of the new rink and also the later formal opening. I am still anxious to assist Mr. Zwicker and the Students' Council in their efforts to interest both student body and the general public in all and sundry projects for our mutual benefit—and for which my recording machines may be of assistance, and regret that my efforts should have been misinterpreted by some to mean that the Faculty cannot mind its own business.

C. H. MERCER,
Associate Professor of Modern Languages,
Dalhousie, University, Halifax
November 30, 1950.

ONE OPINION OF THE C.O.T.C.

IT DEMANDS CONFLICT

TORONTO, Dec. 13, 1950 — (CUP)—Over 600 students from the University of Toronto are members of the University Naval Training Division, the Canadian Officers Training Corps and the Royal Canadian Air Force University Flight. Many members of the university have never been in full sympathy with the aims of these organizations—others have condemned them outright—for their implied purpose of teaching students how to fight and how to kill. With war near, these organizations seem about to fulfil their purpose.

Objections; of course, can be raised to these statements. However, if we trace them from their humble beginnings, we can discern what these organizations are and what they have done. We may also be able to prove a point.

The COTC was formed during the last war and, in spite of the fact that every male undergraduate was obliged to belong to it, it led only a half-life at best. In the winter the part-time soldiers marched up and down a parade square in the Drill Hall and took Bren Guns apart and put them together again. It was necessary for them to attend a number of desultory lectures by enthusiastic officers and has-beens. In the summer they went to an army camp for two weeks and took more Bren Guns apart. Most people thought the COTC slightly ridiculous, and no one paid it much attention except those few whose eyes shone with the glint of glory.

After the last war, however, a rapid reorganization took place and the Navy and Air Force stuck their fingers into the pie. With pay increased to \$153 a month for a possible 16-week summer training period, the militia came into its own.

To the average university student who spends his summer working anyway, this setup looked good. It was possible to net around \$140 a month with careful management. Better still, it was the only summer job which offered the "gentleman's life" and a little prestige, for the pre-war suspicion of the militia was dying, and Canada looked favorably on its young soldiers.

And they are young. First-year students are the ones wanted by the COTC, the UNTD and the RCAF University Flight. These recruits need a summer job which will pay good money and for one reason or another, they cannot

find it in private industry. There is also a lunatic fringe composed of people who join because they know they will like the life. These, of course, grew up at a time when patriotism and duty were dinned into their young ears by a sick world.

Most of them, however, are sucked in, for the vortex offers that greatest adolescent necessity—companionship. The wardroom or mess is made a glamorous place to the recruits; it is a men's club where rank means nothing. The excitement of seeing the country, the thrill of making new friends and the comradeship all add their undeniable attractions. Beside this glamor the summer job in the city seems pale, the factory and mining town an exile. Thus, the student army comes from an uninspired, maladjusted sector of the university which puts prime value on companionship and the man's life. The individuals in this sector require the discipline and customs of an institution forced upon them.

Indoctrination is the secret of all service training. The brutal statement of the recruit's job—that of killing other men—is injected into the drama and glory of war by means of exciting war films of the documentary and newsreel type. Many recruits react strongly against their indoctrination, but its sustained pressure usually swings their minds back to "the right attitude," a phrase implying a robot reaction at all times.

Though some recruits react violently against this thought-discipline and a larger number rationalize an acceptance of it, the great majority, swallowed the barbed bait, and develop through their training a "war acceptance" personality, which is usually coupled with a hero-complex. There are always, of course, a few confused, lost career soldiers who would like to continue the peacetime inertia, and seem to know the meaning of war and death. The heroes, however, do not understand, and are carried along on the crests of heroism, courage and glory.

If these university training schemes are to be continued, we must find a better way of selecting candidates for them. Perhaps

we could divide the aspirants into two infantry companies and equip each side with a full complement of weapons. Then we could find a deserted place and let them start a little war, perhaps through a border incident. The survivors we could train as officers.

These men would not be dangerous.

Month after month I went to college
And crammed my weary brain with knowledge,
I played in sports, wrote for the paper,
At every dance I cut a caper;
And then at last they gave to me
A fancy parchment: my degree!
Though its attainment I enjoyed
Puzzled, I find I'm unemployed.

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