

# Tough sophistication & cheap exhibitionism

## Student Government History #64

Late in November 1935 the Council resumed a long standing policy of trying to end its financial support of athletic facilities that were largely controlled by the University authorities. The latest target was the \$100 annual contribution to the costs of operating the gymnasium. The fact that Council use of the gymnasium was costing more than \$100 per year did not change the members' mind.

Council President Taylor was able to report that the two afternoon dailies, the Mail and the Star, had assured him of their future co-operation in covering student affairs at Dalhousie.

The major item before Council was selection of the team that would put out the first yearbook in several years. There was still considerable concern that without proper management the book would once again be an intolerable drain on the Council budget. One of the three schemes had Leonard Kitz, now a leading Halifax land developer and lawyer, as proposed Business Manager. However, the proposed Editor was only willing to say that he would do the job as he had done it at Mount Allison, where the yearbook was successful. The most ambitious application was accepted but on the condition that first they had to get subscriptions in advance that covered half the cost. They would be paid for these efforts, and the results used to see if a yearbook was financially possible.

The renewal of Pharos was the

big news that week. An editorial proclaimed that a year book was on its way, and continued to urge student support. Three weeks later the Editor and Business Manager, Messrs. Arnold and Reardon, reported that \$178 of the potential \$500 in subscriptions had been sold. Due to the time of year there had been difficulties in reaching students, and less than 10 percent of those approached had refused to subscribe. This was impressive enough for Council and they agreed to permit publication of a 1936 Pharos. Arnold and Reardon were to report at each Council meeting on the progress of the book. It seems clear that the Permanent Secretary-Treasurer, Murray Rankin, was able to remind Council of the extreme deficits produced by unguarded yearbook staff.

The first issue of GAZETTE in 1936 covered the biennial NFCUS conference. The national student organization had increased the number of exchange scholarships. It also wished to maintain international liaison and to continue issuing International Student Identification Cards.

On January 24 a different kind of international news took up the front of the newspaper. It was the death of George V. There was a large photograph of him, reprints of the speeches he made at Dalhousie in

1901 and another page of articles and photos about Edward VIII's two visits to Dalhousie in 1915. Special attention was given to the new King's placing of the cornerstone of Shirreff Hall.

The Medicine students attempts to start a journal received considerable attention, perhaps due to their dominance of student politics at Dalhousie in the 1930s. People had begun to forget that anyone but a Medicine student had been President. The newspaper took a look at NFCUS and found its work worthy of much praise. However, the editors regretted that much NFCUS work was not visible to the students.

The Council's first meeting of 1936 was on February 4, and the good news was that the finances of the year book were healthy. The Law Students' Society was fighting one of the causes of that health - the charge for inserting photographs of executives and campus groups. The Board of Governors refused to remit Council's share of the gymnasium operating costs, so the Council decided to demand a statement of the money's use.

The Depression's effect on Council continued to be shown in a hard attitude towards requests for money. Many of these were now rejected, especially those for travel and conferences. In 1929 and 1930 it had been unusual for any money

request to be turned down or even reduced. John Fisher reported that the latest Students' Forum had "very little sane discussion". He asked that he no longer have the responsibility of conducting them. Perhaps he was discouraged with the ability of Forums to lend weight to his arguments in Council.

NFCUS' decision to increase the level of its activity was reflected in its request for an increase in the fee to 6 cents. In 1930 the organization had cut many activities and reduced by half the number of conferences as a response to the shortage of funds many Councils were experiencing. The effects had been disastrous, with poor continuity and visibility for NFCUS reducing the student support for its work. Dalhousie agreed to pay the higher fee. Council also agreed to pay the increased costs resulting from amalgamation of GAZETTE and ALUMNI NEWS.

Student pacifism advanced another step with the February foundation of the Canadian Student Peace Movement. It proposed the holding of a National Peace Hour in March. An editorial upheld the tradition of hand wringing about the fact that Dalhousie suffered from its pre-Depression image of tough sophistication and cheap exhibitionism.

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## students sit

to \$900 per year, and increases in living and other allowances.

The students are occupying the lobby of the building, directly below the offices of the NB Premier Richard Hatfield. Hatfield emerged at 5 o'clock the first day of the occupation, and read a prepared speech in french rejecting the student demands, and claiming that no changes could be made in the aid program until federal legislation is changed in 1977.

The students rejected Hatfield's position and told him they would stay until their demands had been met. The students appointed a negotiating committee of two to meet with Hatfield and Youth Minister J.P. Ouellette. Meetings were held that evening and the following day, but no progress was reported.

In those meetings the government reiterated its position that changes in the program cannot be made until 1977, while students maintain that changes must be made effective September 1976. Negotiations are continuing, and will likely go into the weekend (January 31).

with the student aid system, and has admitted that setting the loan ceiling is a provincial rather than a federal responsibility.

The occupation has achieved almost universal support among U de M students and faculty, and among high school students in the Moncton area. Six buses of high-school students are reportedly en route to join the occupation at the time of writing. And on January 28, the U de M faculty decided to cancel classes "indefinitely" to support the occupation.

There has been little support, however, from the students of the University of New Brunswick. Observers say this is partly due to the conservative politics and history of UNB, as well as the inexperience of the UNB student leadership in alerting students to what is going on.

The students in the lobby are reported to be in high spirits, and are passing the time reading, singing, and discussing. The organization has been described as excellent, with strike centres having been set up, courier service between Moncton and Fredericton operating smoothly, and even film and tape units being present to record events.

Discipline has not been a

problem, since the students have set up their own internal security in the occupation area, and no confrontations with the RCMP or local police are expected.

## Bio conference

by Dave Abriel

The seventh Atlantic Universities Undergraduate Biology Conference (AUUBC) is being held at Dalhousie University this year (Feb. 27, 28, 29), for the first time. The Conference mainly organized by undergraduates is aimed at attracting undergraduate biology students from the Atlantic Provinces, though Graduate Students, Faculty or anyone with an interest in current research in the discipline is more than welcome.

This year there will be fifteen seminars presented by undergraduates from Atlantic Canada on a spectrum of topics from physiology to Ecology, based on the students' research.

A most interesting lecture (Feb. 28, 4:30 p.m.) will be presented by Dr. Ian Sussex, of Yale University, recognized as one of the worlds leading Developmental Biologists, who is this year's special guest speaker.

The Registration Fee is \$11.00.

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