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The Dalhousie GAZETTE

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. . . to
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Council elections planned

Provided sufficient enthusiasm can be generated among the politically ambitious, the reactionaries, and other iconoclastic elements on campus, Students' Council elections will be held February 1.

Up for grabs are the presidency, vice-presidency, and memberships from the various sectional interests of faculties and departments.

Those with a bent for public prominence are reminded that nomination papers, bearing the signatures of ten bona fide Dalhousie students must be submitted to Miss Robb in the Business Office by January 25.

Active campaigning is permitted to begin on Saturday, January 26. It will culminate in a Student Forum the following Thursday, at which time all presidential candidates will be given a final opportunity to prejudice public opinion with their spell-binding oratory. This event will take place at 12:30 in Room 21 of the A & A Building.

Students may vote at any polling station. In the interest of those originating in Lower Canada, who tend to run afoul of local statutes if left to practise the democratic instincts ingrained by their native environs — NFCUS cards must be presented for punching at the polls.

The presidency is undoubtedly the most important office on campus. The president's primary function lies in his chairmanship of the Students' Council. The presidency has an important voice on the committee which initially screens the submission of organizational budgets. While he has no constitutional powers in deciding personally on financial matters, it is obvious that he has access to various ways of exerting "moral suasion", and as such he holds considerable sway over Council's financial policy.

Al Robertson current president found it difficult to enumerate the rewards of the job in concrete terms. He felt distinct pleasure at having had the opportunity to work with some of the distinguished citizens who are serving on various University Boards. He felt that a student president obtains invaluable training in the finer arts of diplomacy, smooth coercion, and obtaining a very fresh insight into the working of human nature.

Comment on Pearson

A survey — with comments — by The Gazette News Staff

The Honourable Lester B. Pearson, leader of the Liberal Party in Canada, has advocated the acquisition of nuclear arms for Canadian forces serving in NATO and NORAD. This aroused comment around the country.

The Gazette news staff approached the leaders of campus political groups and asked for an official statement on Mr. Pearson's announcement. Their statements follow below.

The news staff has also given its opinion on these statements by campus political leaders. These editorial comments appear in bold-face type.

LIBERAL

John Meyers, president of the Liberal Party on campus, issued the following statement on Mr. Pearson's recent speech:

"Two days before Mr. Pearson's announcement, the University Liberal Club held a meeting to determine our policy. We found that the majority of our members favour the acquisition of nuclear arms for our forces in NATO and NORAD. We therefore welcome Mr. Pearson's announcement because it provides added backing for the stand which we intend to take in the upcoming election.

"We feel it is unrealistic to further delay acquisition of such arms in the light of our commitment to our allies, and also as purely defensive basis. Right now, we have planes and rockets which are useless without nuclear arms. We are practically defenseless against nuclear attack. The Bormarc stood useless during the Cuba crisis.

"The only security for a country like Canada lies in collective action in a defensive alliance such as NATO. We should either take an active part in it or get out. Right now we are sponging off our allies.

"In examining the arguments against nuclear arms, we decided that the moral argument is rather hypocritical as long as we approve of the US having a nuclear deterrent.

"The argument that Canada should lead other nations in the march to disarmament seems to be based on a grave misconception of Canada's importance. Disarmament will never come until the US and Russia both want it, and can trust each other enough to put it into force. How does our current refusal to accept nuclear

arms help to improve this situation?

"I noticed that Mr. Pearson said that 'defense policy should be non-partisan to the greatest possible extent'. I feel that the nuclear issue should be presented to the House in the form of a resolution which would allow each member to vote as his conscience, not his party, dictates. At any rate, it is time this issue was settled. We can't afford to wait until next December before making a decision."

The Gazette submits that the above statement is a classic example of illogical post-rationalization.

PC

The Progressive Conservative Party on campus was also pleased with Mr. Pearson's announcement. Says President Randy Smith:

"The Dalhousie Conservative Party is in favour of nuclear arms for Canada. It was an election issue last year on campus. We attempted to introduce legislation in Model Parliament which would have given Canada authority to acquire nuclear weapons. The NDP and Liberal parties voted against it. It is nice that Mr. Pearson recognizes the need for nuclear arms after all this time."

In view of the indecision of the recent PC National Convention on the problem of nuclear arms for Canada, The Gazette wonders whether the Conservatives have really made up their minds after all. Action rather than words would solve our dilemma — but perhaps this is too much to ask.

CUCND

"I am rejoicing that Pearson has taken a definite stand in the nuclear arms question," says Mr. David Maxwell, president of the Dalhousie chapter of the Combined Universities Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament.

The Gazette was somewhat surprised at the relative silence of the CUCND last week; indeed there was no unequivocal statement of opposition from Mr. Maxwell.

When asked the reason for such inactivity at a time which would appear most crucial to a ban-the-bomb organization, Mr. Maxwell blamed it on the apathy of the student body to support the organization.

Mr. Maxwell denied that the CUCND has been completely inactive and stated that he was circulating a petition released by the head office of the CUCND asking Mr. Diefenbaker to oppose acquisition of nuclear arms. When asked what effect this would have on

NDP

The campus New Democratic Party was "shocked" by Mr. Pearson's statement on nuclear arms.

A spokesman for the NDP Club said: "The Liberal Party has gone back on its promise to the Canadian electorate and has pledged its support to commitments which it confesses it knows nothing about."

"As for the excuse that the Liberal Party is bound to honour the commitments of the Conservative party — this is just so much tripe. Are we to take it that Mr. Pearson will oppose Conservative measures only until such time as they are put into effect? It is obvious that this is a lame excuse for an understandable reluctance to put the Liberal Party squarely behind nuclear arms for Canada.

"More important, however, than the Liberal support for a policy which is damaging to world peace is the flabbergasting manner in which this step was taken. No reasons were given; no discussion was held.

"The United States has now developed missiles which can be fired within seconds of warning. If there was any reason in the past for Canadian forces possessing a nuclear deterrent, there is none now.

"Major-General Macklin himself says that there is 'no logical military case for these weapons'. Indeed, it would be inviting an attack on Canadian bases and industrial centres. The DEW line is useless now, and nothing is served by setting up missile bases a hundred miles north of Detroit when American weapons can already reach all points of the hemisphere within minutes.

"The NDP believes that the Canadian acquisition of nuclear arms would set a precedent and a pretext for the acquisition by any number of other nations of the same lethal armament.

There is no need for acquiring these weapons and there is every reason against acquiring them. Before the Canadian people take such a step they should know all the facts pro and con; they should not entrust themselves to the blind acceptance of nuclear weapons that Mr. Pearson proposes. Let the people hear the facts; then let them decide."

the Diefenbaker government, Mr. Maxwell said he expected "it will probably cause him to vacillate a little longer".

If the policy of the CUCND is to aid Mr. Diefenbaker in his characteristic indecision, it is perhaps no wonder they have found so little support for their organization on this campus.

CUP AND NFCUS RUN SURVEY ON RCMP METHODS

Ottawa (CUP) Canadian University Press has launched a campaign to determine the truth in recent allegations concerning the methods of RCMP investigations on Canadian University campuses.

National President Roger McAfee has asked editors to find students on their individual campus who have been approached by the RCMP in the past.

CAMPUS SURVEY

"What we're after," McAfee said, "is the types of questions the students were asked and the circumstances surrounding the questioning."

"When all editors have completed their investigations the results will be sent to National office for a complete wrapup."

McAfee said he wants to get the material to Ottawa before the House of Commons reopens Jan. 21. At that time NDP leader Tommy Douglas is scheduled to present proof of what so far has amounted to only charges.

"If our investigations turn up concrete evidence of RCMP activities on campuses that were not in connection with government job security checks, we may be able to get something from the RCMP other than 'No Comment!'"

If all editors cooperate, the National President said, we should be able to get a complete picture of RCMP activities on campuses across the country.

McAfee said his office has been in touch with Douglas' office in Ottawa on the matter.

Meanwhile, the National Federation of Canadian University Students has thrown its weight behind the CUP survey.

National NFCUS president Stewart Goodings has directed local committees to aid campus papers in their drive to find students on the campus who have been approached by the RCMP.

NFCUS, like CUP, is interested in finding out to what extent RCMP investigations have proceeded, if at all, on various campuses.

"No one objects to RCMP questioning when it concerns a job security clearance or criminal investigation.

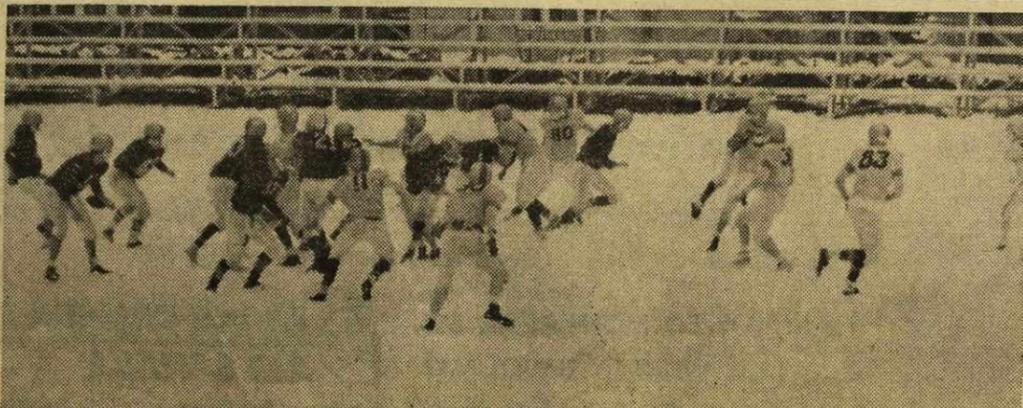
"However, if the questioning goes further than that, into the realm of student political beliefs, it is liable to cause a serious loss of academic freedom. We are unalterably opposed to such a loss.

"At a university students should be free to study and experiment with all political doctrines. The innate curiosity of a university student should be encouraged and protected.

"If students suspect their political moves are being recorded, they could well withdraw themselves from this area, thus weakening one of the great strengths of a university in a democracy — that of academic and intellectual curiosity and freedom."

SNOW BOWL 63!—The Varsity

football team has been working out during the past week for the Varsity-Alumni football game during Winter Carnival. Coach Joe Rutigliano has the boys in top-notch shape with calisthenics in the Gym and scrimmage on snow-covered Studley Field. The photo shows a Varsity practise. The Alumni have not begun scrimmaging, but several of their players have been working out in the Gym. Ted Wickwire is expected to quarterback the Alumni team. The Gazette sports staff has refused to come out on a limb with a prediction before hearing from the weatherman.



(Photo by Purdy)