

# Leaders and Hoodlums at Dal

Last week's segment of Student Government History started two points but did not finish them. One was the controversy over student behavior at the Majestic Theatre, which lasted most of the 1924 winter term. The other was the valuable information about Dalhousie in the 1920's that Mr. A.B. Morton has been kind enough to provide.

In addition to the six 1920's students who became university presidents, several future Deans of the Faculty of Law were enrolled, or already teaching law. These include Vincent C. MacDonald, who also became a member of the Nova Scotia Supreme Court; John Read and Sydney Smith are two others. Finally, Horace Read was both a student and the 1923-24 editor of the GAZETTE. He went on to become one of North America's leading legal scholars and today he is Dean Emeritus of the Faculty of Law.

It has already been mentioned that the present Chairman of the Board of Governors, Donald McInnes, was on the Dalhousie debating team that faced Oxford (and later, McGill). Two other members of the present Board sat on the Students' Council during the mid and late 1920's. They are Murray Ranking and Gerald Godsoe, both of whom excelled in their chosen careers.

The achievements mentioned here are the tip of an iceberg. The iceberg is the fact, now largely forgotten, that the post World War I generation of Nova Scotians was the source of an amazing number of individuals who played a leading role on the national level starting in the 1930's. Working through institutions such as the Bank of Nova Scotia and Royal Securities, Nova Scotians practically took over Bay Street. Two Lieutenant-Governors of Ontario were from Nova Scotia, as were many of those who ran the national war effort during World War II.

The Dalhousie Faculty of Law was one of the institutions which provided training for many of

the Nova Scotians who went on to national greatness.

Getting back to the student government of 1923-24, Mr. Bethune of D.G.D.S. (Dalhousie Glee and Dramatic Society) and Leonard Fraser, the Students' Council President, were involved in a public debate over alleged damage to the Majestic Theatre caused during the opening night of a D.G.D.S. production.

After the theatre's manager announced that he would no longer take Dalhousie business, the Students' Council voted to "ostracize" the Majestic. However, the Council was trying to cool the issue, and voted to delay definitive action until the official "annual spring meeting" which would take place in April.

The GAZETTE echoed this line on February 27 when an editorial suggested that the issue had already been over-publicized, since it was not very important. However, local newspapers had picked it up to the dismay of most Dalhousie students. GAZETTE condemned Mr. Bethune for describing as hoodlums those who, at the worst, had exhibited traditional students thoughtlessness. It stressed that fact that no damage had been proved, and urged that the matter be dropped.

Bethune received much of the blame for the unfavourable publicity aimed at Dalhousie students as a result of the public debate. The most significant factor pointing out his role was the fact that no review of the opening night performance even mentioned the incident that had now dominated the GAZETTE and Council meetings for a month. Mr. Bethune was unrepentant, and he continued to attack the Students' Council for not making strong use of its disciplinary powers against those who would throw beans or flour during a play.

In mid-March the Council authorized a payment

of up to \$75.00 for settlement of the dispute with the Majestic Theatre. It also appointed a committee to look into the long-growing problem of damage to the walls of the buildings on Studley campus. The university was sending an almost constant stream of complaints about this damage, and the Council had punished few offenders.

Following the annual elections the new Council met to choose officials and begin its work. The Council officers were all re-elected for a second term: Leonard W. Fraser, President; Harriet Elliot, Vice-President; and W.C. Chipman, Secretary-Treasurer. Previously, the only double term had been that of N.A.M. MacKenzie as President from 1921 to 1923. The GAZETTE called the triple re-election a tribute to the successful management of the Council under Fraser, Elliot and Chipman. The 1924-25 executive was the first to have two women. Two of the alumni mentioned above received positions at the same time. Gerald Godsoe was appointed to the Finance Committee and A.B. Morton was part of the group responsible for the Student Handbook.

The Council approved payment of \$91.80 in settlement of the Majestic Theatre claims, after receiving legal advice. Appropriately enough, this decision was made on April Fools Day. The Council had previously set damage at \$40.00 and \$75.00.

The last Council meeting was held on May 6. A large number of year-end reports were received. A Dalhousie delegate was chosen for the Imperial Students' Conference being held that summer in London. Plans were made to renew the agreement with the King's students. The Council also decided that it could not afford to buy sweater coats for the graduating members of the various teams. This was a sign that the \$7.00 fee was becoming well-stretched after five years.

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## il vino confuso

by Rick Whitby

This week, the Dalhousie-Gazette would like to make an appeal on behalf of the Dalhousie Society of Illiterates. You may ask, what is an illiterate? Well if you do you're our man or woman (the society is open to all races, creeds, sexes and national persuasions) In fact, in the sense that stupidity is universal, anyone is eligible to join. We count among our members: faculty, students, administration, and certain high ranking politicians. The next question you may wish to ask is what does the society do? Well this is a difficult one to answer. Let us say that in spite of our obvious handicap of not being able to write legibly or coherently we insist that all members be adept at pouring out reams of paperwork. This paperwork of course, must be exceedingly verbose, generally obtuse, completely irrelevant, and must not under any circumstances reveal that the writer knows what he is talking about. Furthermore, he must be able to take a normally clear topic and cover it with snow, twist it like a pretzel and pretend that it was never there. We are proud to list among our accomplishments the Graham Report, the Dalhousie course appraisals, the Chronicle-Herald and the U.S. Constitution. But these are not enough. We will not sit back upon past achievements while there is so much clarity left in the world. Our next project is to undertake a

position paper on the development of Halifax. This paper of course will be impossible to read or understand and will avoid taking a stand on the issues. We hope therefore that we can make ourselves perfectly clear (a phrase coined by one of our greatest members) to the city council.

This will be no easy job, there is much misunderstanding to be spread around on an issue of such far ranging magnitude and many important points to be avoided. For this reason, the

Gazette is appealing to those in the University community to come forth and volunteer their talents to this massive effort.

For those of you that understand the issues, we have a place for you to. Much work can be done cleaning up our offices, or rewriting our Constitution for submission to the Student Council (they understood the first one). The work will never end until we can circumnavigate the globe with red tape, and totally confuse its inhabitants.

## Mass Transit Is Crosswalks ?

by Mary Pat MacKenzie

On Thursday, October 31 the new Halifax City Council held their first regular meeting. There was little of importance on the agenda with the exception of Public Transit. The Council agreed unanimously to adopt a policy statement on Transit in Halifax. The discussion centered almost completely on the need for more crosswalks in various areas of metro Halifax. Apparently this is what most of the Aldermen and women consider the most important aspect of mass transit! Alderman Lawrence spoke on the urgent need for the Halifax Transit buses that are transporting school child-

ren to adopt the Provincial regulations relating to school buses. He pointed out the hazards of packing more children into the buses than they are equipped to hold. This could obviously lead to serious injuries in the event of an accident and Council was promised a report on the situation and recommendations at the next meeting.

With important aspects of future development in Halifax one might well question the effectiveness of the new City Council. Hopefully their level of discussions will improve with time. Crosswalks may well be an important issue but somehow it does lack credibility as such!